

Locals have a board majority

By Keith Kinnaird

7/25/06

Bonner County Daily Bee

(Sidebar for “Panel Dives into water”)

SANDPOINT—Governor Dirk Kempthorne announced his appointees to the Lake Pend Oreille Basin Commission, which will look after water quality and management issues in Pend Oreille and Priest Lakes.

There will be seven voting members and one ex-officio member. Idaho Attorney Lawrence Wasden and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will appoint one voting member each. Montana’s governor will appoint a non-voting member to represent that state’s interests.

Here are the five local appointees:

- Brent Baker—Baker owns Baker Construction and Development in Sandpoint. He has chaired the Bonner County School District and served on the board of Commissioners for the Sagle Fire District.
- Marc Brinkmeyer—Brinkmeyer owns Riley Creek Lumber Company in the Pend Oreille River Community of Laclede. He is also president of the Bonner County Economic Development Corporation.
- Ford Elsaesser (chairman)—Elsaesser is an attorney and senior partner in a Sandpoint law firm. He has spent the last seven years as the Lake Pend Oreille Idaho Club’s counsel in a legal campaign to manage the lake level, which is critical for fish habitat, recreation, and the local economy.
- Craig Hill—Born and raised in Bonner County, Hill owns and manages Hill’s Resort on Priest Lake and is president of the Priest Lake Golf Course, which won praise from the Governor for its efforts to protect wetlands during and expansion project.
- Linda Mitchell—Mitchell and her husband Curtis Pearson own Lake Pend Oreille Cruises, which offers sightseeing and dinner boat rides on the lake.