

Ash, Buckstaff win seats on Flat Creek board

By Ben Graham Jackson Hole Daily | Posted: Thursday, November 5, 2015 4:30 am

An incumbent and a newcomer won election to a board aimed at protecting Flat Creek.

Lance Ash and Sinclair “Sandy” Buckstaff Jr. beat Rich Martin for the two open seats on the Flat Creek Water Improvement District.

Ash placed first with 44 votes, followed by Buckstaff with 39. Martin tallied 8.

The election took place Nov. 3. Only people who own land or live within the district were eligible to vote. A total of 232 ballots were mailed out, and just 48 eligible ballots were returned and counted.

Ash has already served a one-year term on the board, formed last year. He ran because of concerns about managing winter flooding. The phenomenon occurs when ice builds up on the bottom of the shallow waterway, forming dams.

Buckstaff owns land along the creek. He worked as town engineer for the town of Jackson and helped oversee flood mitigation projects on Flat Creek in the 1990s. He ran to contribute his expertise.

The district was created to give landowners and people who live along the creek control over the annual battle to suppress winter flooding. The town of Jackson has helped in the past by sending in heavy machinery to break up ice dams, but such efforts have led to liability worries.

The 180-acre district, which falls under the purview of the Teton Conservation District, can levy taxes and apply for grants.

Buckstaff will fill a seat vacated by Missy Falcey, who did not run in the election.