



Edelweiss Maintenance Commission

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Spring 2016 Newsletter

Come One – Come All!
Edelweiss Annual Meeting – May 28, 21016
Place – The Edelweiss Pool
12:00 - Pot luck lunch (Bratwursts served by EMC)
1:00 PM – Meeting Called to Order

President's Message from John Kirner

A few words about the Edelweiss Board of Directors...

The Edelweiss Board of Directors is a key to the efficiency of the Edelweiss Maintenance Commission. The Board sets the agenda of the community with regard to infrastructure development and maintenance, manages the financial resources of the Edelweiss community, and provides oversight to the General Manager and Operations Manager, who are the paid staff of Edelweiss Maintenance Commission. Members of the Board may also represent Edelweiss before governmental agencies and local elected officials as necessary. Board members serve a critical role with regard to communications with the diverse members of the Edelweiss community. They may respond to questions, receive complaints, and receive suggestions from our members for the improvement of Edelweiss. Board members must coordinate and work well within the Board as well as in the Edelweiss community to be effective.

Serving on the Board is an extremely effective way of gaining an understanding of the many and changing issues facing Edelweiss. Fire safety, taxation, animal control, flooding, wastewater disposal, architectural control, road maintenance, and water supply quality and quantity have been issues in recent years.

Each year three members of the Board face reelection or step down. This year two members of the Board will step down and one member will run for reelection. I hope that a number of you will consider the big responsibility of running for a three-year term on the Board this year. It has been a great Board to work with for the six years I have

served. It has certainly given me a greater awareness of issues facing the community. If you think this might be a challenge that would interest you, please call our general manager, Dick Volckmann, who can help you get started, and who will add your name to the slate of candidates. If you think you would just like some more information, Dick will put you in touch with departing Board members Larry Halford or Jim McDonald, who have both said they would be willing to talk to prospective Board members about their experience. I intend to run for reelection and am willing to discuss the Board experience with interested Edelweiss members.

A strong, knowledgeable, and caring Board is essential to our quality of life in Edelweiss. I want to encourage members of the community who have the desire to serve and believe they have the traits necessary to participate in a busy and challenging assignment to consider running for the Board of Directors this spring.

General Manager's Message from Dick Volckmann

Spring in the Methow....What a perfect time of year. Daytime temperatures in the 70s, nights in the 40s, golden balsamroot brilliant against the vivid green of the new spring growth. All fed by the abundance of water from the nearly melted snow. And, speaking of snow, the east and west roads crews, which are in the process of clearing the North Cascade Highway, are hoping to meet up sometime next week. Of course there will be additional work to do before the road is 'vehicle ready', but despite the heavy snowfall from the winter, Washington Pass may be open by Mother's Day - - - or not!

The Great Spring Melt: Our snowfall this past winter totaled nearly 10 feet – about 6 feet more than the previous winter. And, with a period of warm weather, the snow melted - with a vengeance and all at once! Water cascaded from every part of Edelweiss. It soaked into the thick deposits of glacial debris on which Edelweiss is situated, and then emerged on every hillside (including above my driveway!). Tiny springs bubbled out of the ground at the top of the upper meadow. Streams developed that have not been in existence for years. The vast amounts of water overwhelmed culverts, making rivers out of some roadways. I'm not sure, but I thought I saw someone kayaking down Cassal Creek.

Roads: Anyone who drives into Edelweiss via the main entrance (Highland Road) will see that the pavement is gradually crumbling away on the the right side of the entrance. We have received an estimate from Granite Paving in Omak to repave the entrance road, widening it in places. Our road fund contains about \$20,000, about two thirds of the money needed to complete the job, but the Edelweiss Board feels it is essential that this paving be done. At the last meeting, the Board voted to forego application of lignin during the summer of 2016, thus freeing up about \$10,000.00 which can be added to the road fund.

In addition to the paving, the intense runoff this spring showed the need to replace the aging and undersized culvert under Highland Meadows Road. Cassal Creek completely overwhelmed the culvert and ran down the road, creating a series of longitudinal ditches. Craig was able to divert much of the water back into Cassal Creek, but only by creating some bone-jarring trenches across the road. Much of that inconvenience has been mitigated by now, but it there is still some water running across Highland Meadows road – a sign that the culvert may have become partly obstructed. We'll try to free it up once the water in Cassal Creek is less than waist deep!

Fire Season: Our annual reminder is that every summer brings the threat of fire in the valley. Please be aware that the smallest spark can set off an inferno, so please be especially careful during fire season. Okanogan County will establish a 'no-burn' requirement at some time in the early summer, and we will keep you informed when that happens. In the meantime please respect the 'No Open Fires' signs when they are posted in our community.

Swimming Pool: KrisCo Pool Company has begun work again, now that warm weather has arrived. Last fall the

pool outline was established, the piping was installed and gunnite (concrete shot from a gun) was applied, forming the final shape of the pool. The gunnite was allowed to cure over the winter. Brandenburg construction has now begun preparing the pool surround for the pouring of a concrete deck. As soon as the deck is in place, the pool can be tiled and plastered. Moreover, once we know the exact dimensions of the pool deck, we will be able to order the new aluminum fence. In the meantime, we'll be removing the old wooden fence. As to when the pool will be ready for use, we are not sure. It is hoped that we will be ready for swimming by the middle of June, but don't set your watch by that yet!

Water Issues: The final batch of water meters will be installed this spring and summer with a few homeowners needing new vaults as well. Once these installations are complete, we will have met the Department of Health requirement that all water services should be metered by the end of 2016.

With the recent controversy arising from lead contamination in the water system of Flint, Michigan, some people might be wondering about the safety of the water in Edelweiss. Our water continues to be some of the best and safest in the country. Because all our distribution pipes are PVC there is little chance that our water can pick up lead. Our water is tested for lead every 3 years, the last being in 2013. At that time, as noted in the Consumer Confidence Report of 2013, the water in the main system, was 36% below the maximum permitted, and in the campground system, the water tested 86% below the maximum. In addition our water is tested monthly for total coliform (an indication of possible contamination) and e.coli. The results have been negative for contamination for at least the past 9 years.

Spring Clean-up: Along with our routine activities, Craig and I will be busy with the spring duties, both of us checking the Forest Service fence, which we already know has been affected by fallen trees. Craig will be out filling in potholes in the road and beginning to install the last of the water meters. I'll be applying herbicide to the roadsides and meadows to try and keep the white-top and knapweed in check. And when the time comes, we'll both be busy installing the new pool fence.

In the meantime, we're always available for your questions and/or comments. We hope to see you all at the annual meeting. Remember - - free bratwurst!

Dick Volckmann