



Edelweiss Maintenance Commission

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Spring 2014 Newsletter

Edelweiss Annual Meeting - May 24, 2014

Place: Edelweiss Pool

12:00 - Pot luck lunch (Bratwursts served by EMC)

1:00 - Annual Meeting

President's Message from John Kirner

It's just beginning to be spring as we approach the end of April. It's still pretty cold in the morning, but the flowers and the birds look like spring. Driving up from Carlton the other day it looked like every field had its own deer herd, but I haven't seen any fawns yet.

I think this year's annual meeting will be very important and many of the issues are discussed in Dick's message which follows. The key issues to me are the Water System, and how we will continue to operate to comply with State law as we add more customers. This includes the installation of water meters, as well as needed upgrades over time, to the supply and delivery facilities. Potential changes to the swimming pool are pretty exciting, and we are still early in the planning and design phases of this project.

I would hope to be able to share our progress with you at the meeting. The annual meeting gives everyone the chance to raise questions or make proposals for changes and activities in your community. You are also welcome to raise issues for discussion at any Edelweiss Board Meeting that occurs during the year. Times for these meetings are posted on the EMC website. Remember your concerns, questions and suggestions may drive our future efforts. We hope to see you at the annual meeting.

General Manager's Message from Dick Volckmann

Once again winter is (almost) gone from Edelweiss - just don't think about the small snow flurries we had yesterday morning. The hills are bright with spring flowers, leaves are beginning to appear on the bare branches and down-valley, the serviceberry bushes are in full bloom. This follows the winter that we had all at once. A tiny bit of snow in December, hardly any in January and about seven feet of accumulation in February. Jerry Palm and his

crew were out here almost every day during the month, following each night's snowfall of anywhere between five and ten inches. But now the only snow that's left is the pile that came off our roof, and that has only a few days of life remaining.

Clearing of SR 20 over Washington Pass began in late March. Although the work has been slowed occasionally by late snows and small avalanches, the Department of Transportation estimates that the road will be open by mid-May.. For cool some photos of the work, go to www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/sets/72157642267729715.

Outdoor Burning - As EMC no longer is in the business of chipping, many homeowners will need to dispose of woody debris left over from the winter, or from trimming bushes and trees for the season. What to do with the stuff? Burn it? EMC neither endorses nor restricts burning within the association, and currently outside burning is legal in Okanogan County. But, be aware that you should do so only with extreme caution, and in calm conditions. Always have a hose handy, never leave the fire until it has burned completely, and drench the area long after it is out. Keep in mind that only burning of natural materials, such as branches, brush, etc. is allowed by law. Burning of construction materials is not permitted and can result in a fine by the authorities. You are responsible for any damage done to a neighbor's property if a fire gets out of control. As conditions become dryer, Okanogan County will undoubtedly issue a ban on all outdoor burning. We will watch for such a ban and will keep you informed.

Spring Activities - Craig has been busy on the roads, spreading gravel where needed most, filling potholes and grading out the biggest lumps in the roads. I'll be out in mid-May, happily killing white top and knapweed with a product called 'Chaparral', a broad-leaf herbicide. It is an extremely safe product - so much so that if it is used on

pasture land, cows can safely be allowed to graze on it within 24 hours. We'll start preparing the pool for summer's use in mid-May so that it will be heated and available for the Memorial Day weekend. We'll also be inspecting and repairing the fence line along the Edelweiss/National Forest boundary. We've had few invasions of marauding cows in the past couple of years, and we're determined to keep it that way.

Water Meters - As we have been announcing over the past couple of years, the Washington State Department of Health has ordered that all water services on all public water systems, such as ours, shall be equipped with easily readable water meters by January of 2017. This coming summer we will begin the process by replacing approximately one third of the meters in Edelweiss. One third more will be replaced in 2015 and the remainder in 2016. All services will receive a new meter which can be read remotely. Each meter will be equipped with a transmitter which will relay a signal to a handheld device. This process obviates the need to read the meter in place, often at the bottom of a barely accessible vault. Each meter will have its own code which will identify it as to address, ownership, etc. If your vault is accessible and has a setter with a curb stop (shut-off valve), then all you will need will be a new meter and transmitter. If, however, your vault is inaccessible, or made out of plywood (as some are), or missing altogether, then you will need a new vault plus the meter and transmitter. Each residence will be assessed on an individual basis, and we will inform you as to how, when and how much it will be to have the work done. EMC will strive to keep the costs to a minimum, but some residences will require some excavation as well as the equipment. We will do as much of the installation as possible 'in house' in order to hold down the costs. All costs will be passed on to homeowners at EMC cost. If you are one of homeowners who will be affected this summer, you will receive a notice soon. And please keep in mind that EMC is following the requirements of regulations as administered by the WA State Health Dept. in installing meters and support equipment.

Swimming Pool - Our recent survey showed that a majority of you are in favor of redoing the pool facility. The majority felt that a new pool was a benefit to the community, even if you normally did not use it. Quite a few people let us know that they would be more inclined to use a new pool than the current one. The Board of Directors and the Long Range Planning Committee have been discussing the options available for the design and cost of a new pool, deck, fence, etc. Factors include the shape and size of a new pool, and the various ways of heating it. How big should it be? Should it be long enough to be able to swim laps? How deep should it be?

Should we consider solar heat vs. a heat pump vs. a gas heater? Is it practical to consider a cover? All are being considered, including the most significant one - - how much will it cost, and what will be the financial impact on each individual property owner? It is hoped that we will have some concrete information to deliver to the attendees at the annual meeting.

Roads - Once again this year we have budgeted to have the main roads graded and treated with lignin sulphonate. We only have enough in the budget for one application, and also, as always, we will wait until July to make the application. We realize that it can be dusty in the interim, but we have found that we get the longest 'bang for our buck' if we wait until after June, a typically rainy month, has passed. Rain can dilute the effectiveness of lignin considerably. I know that several of you have asked that we make at least two applications, but we just don't have the money to do it..

Bird Feeders, Garbage and other Attractants - It's that time of year again when we need to start paying attention to what might be a goody bag to night-time buffet seekers. Keep bird feeders out of reach, and keep your garbage locked up in an inaccessible place so that Yogi and Booboo have slim pickin's here in Edelweiss and are encouraged to move out of the area to more inviting picnic spots.

Copper Mine - As reported in the Methow Valley News on April 23rd, a Canadian mining company has proposed to do exploratory drilling on Flagg mountain, above Mazama, to "determine if there are sufficient copper recourses to warrant future mining." The project will be accessed via Goat Creek Road. As this is on U. S. Forest Service land, any questions or comments concerning the exploration can be directed to: District Ranger Michael Liu, Methow Ranger District, 24 West Chewuch Road, Winthrop, WA, 98862. Comments should be submitted no later than May 17th.

In Conclusion - I'd like to welcome the several new property owners to our association, and a 'hail and farewell' to those who have left our community. And as a reminder - Craig and I are here help Edelweiss run as smoothly as possible. We always welcome your views and comments. So, if you if you would like to be heard - speak up! We're listening!

We hope to see you at the annual meeting. In the meantime, enjoy the spring season.

Dick Volckmann
General Manager