

SMWOA Fall/Winter

To the membership,

The Annual Meeting saw an increase in direct participation. This was done by members responding with the ballots which were included with the proxy designations regarding proposed by-law changes. I want to thank everyone who participated whether in person, by proxy, or direct ballot.

The SMWOA picnic was also a great success, in large part to the generosity of the Marcellins as well as those who attended and contributed.

Weeds-First, I want to thank everyone who has made the effort to control noxious weeds on their properties. Invasive, non-native weeds continue to be a big problem. We were unable to engage a contractor earlier this year due to demand. We have completed a fall spray and will spray again in the late spring. This spraying by the Association only addresses weeds on the Association roads. The owners of a majority of the lots in our sub-division have these weeds and have not addressed the problem, maybe not realizing that they have a moral and legal obligation to their neighbors. We have included a letter from the Madison County Weed Board which describes our individual obligations and provides a contact point for resources. If you have a question regarding your property please contact the Board of Directors through the website. The recent excavation of Nugget Ditch did not provide any mitigation of the resulting soil disturbance which encourages the proliferation of these weeds.

Roads-In January we will post a road plan which will include short term efforts and work that will yield long term benefits. The proposed plan will be posted on the website as a specific communication and we encourage your participation.

Staying with the road subject I have to note that a small number of people seem to think that the faster they drive the better the ride. Or something like that. Excessive speed is the second biggest contributor to the degradation of dirt/gravel roads, poor drainage being the first. This excessive and reckless speed is dangerous to people and their pets out for a walk there being a number of blind spots due to hills and turns. We have posted speed limit signs as directed by the membership. Please observe safe speeds and use proper driving etiquette on our Assn roads.

RV storage-We have received several complaints regarding the outdoor storage of recreational vehicles. The covenants indicate there should be no outdoor storage of recreational vehicles and also provide guidelines for occupancy of recreational vehicles. We would like some feedback on this subject and do not plan to press this issue until we have heard from the membership and provided time for members to consider the storage requirements.

Exterior lighting continues to be an issue. If you have exterior lighting please have it pointed down assure that it is not left on for extended periods.

Dogs running loose, chasing livestock, and chasing wildlife also continues to be a problem. This is against the law and has been dealt with by the county citing owners. Please be responsible to your neighbors and your pets.

SMWOA has \$20,826.25 in our accounts, the surplus being from not spending the entire road budget which will be applied to the 2017 road plan.

We are transitioning all communications to the website (smwoa.org). Please use the website to contact us with any questions, concerns, or comments. If you do not have access to electronic comm please advise so that we can use snail mail to include you.

Thank you,

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