

WILDWOOD HIGHLANDER
WINTER 2010-2011

The Wildwood Highlander is a periodic newsletter providing information to property owners in Wildwood Highlands, near Datil, NM. Hard copy is mailed to all owners. Published at least annually in Datil, NM by the Wildwood Highlands Landowners' Association, POB 87, Datil, NM 87821-0087. For further information contact any member of the WHLA Board of Directors (BoD), listed below. Also consult the WHLA website at www.wildwoodhighlands.org

2011 ANNUAL MEETING:

The 2011 WHLA annual meeting will be held on the 3rd Saturday in May, the 21st, starting at 10 AM MDT. Location of the meeting has not yet been determined. As of press time, no bylaws amendments have been proposed. Three BoD slots will be coming open. To encourage greater participation a sample nomination form is printed on the rear of the enclosed 2011 Notice of Assessment (see WHLA Bylaws, Sections 4.4, for details).

WELCOME NEW LANDOWNER:

We welcome John Wisniewski, the new owner of Lot #40, to the Highlands and the Association.

2011 ANNUAL ASSESSMENT:

At its 8 December meeting the BoD determined that the 2011 assessment would remain at its current level, \$63. Your assessment notification letter accompanies this newsletter. Monies are due not later than 31 January 2011.

WELCOME NEW (AND small!) RESIDENT:

It is a great pleasure to welcome Riley Whitecliff Sanders, the 7-pound 11 ounce-at-birth son of Rob Sanders and Amber McIntosh, Lot #93. Riley was born on 23 October 2010. To the best of our knowledge he is the first newborn to reside in the Highlands. Welcome, Riley!

MEMO FROM THE PRESIDENT:

[From BOD President Tom Cook, Lot 7]

The board met four times in 2010. The year started with two heavy snowfalls. We were able to get the snow removed for the first but couldn't get a contractor in time for the second. To cover future snow events the board decided to add a line item to the budget for snow removal. We finalized plans for a welcome kit to be distributed to new (and, on request, existing) landowners. We are working to improve our web site, particularly, to allow more use of PDF documents. Our relationship with Wildwood subdivision has improved and we hope to work closely with them in the future on road improvement. There was a long period this fall where Wildwood Trail and Agua Fria became almost impassable because Wildwood was short on funds. We finally proposed that we have them graded at our expense and they could pay us later. We have proposed a new arrangement with them whereby they will maintain Wildwood Trail and we would maintain Agua Fria. That proposal is under review by their board.

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ROADS MAINTENANCE REPORT:

[From VP Fred Shepherd, Lot 11]

The following year-end road maintenance report is presented for the information of WHLA members:

We were favored with a gentle, but long, monsoon season and our roads are in good shape. This enabled us to do only a minimum amount of routine maintenance in the autumn and instead we used our resources for road improvement. Because of the unusual amounts of snow we had in January we had to have Agua Fria Trail and some side roads graded to remove snow. In the spring all roads which have some regular usage were graded except for Lookout Loop. This road was not graded at a landowner's request. In November we graded the eastern half of Agua Fria Trail and East Rock Spring Loop. We also purchased 100 cubic yards of cracked rock (1 inch minus) improving sections of Agua Fria Trail, East Rock Spring Loop, and Apache Tear Trail. Our budget total for all road work for FY2010 was \$7000. Barring a major snow event in the last few days of 2010 we will be under budget by about \$500.

UPDATE ON SAN AUGUSTIN WATER STEAL:

[From President Tom Cook, Lot 7]

After over three years of waiting, the state engineer's office finally scheduled a hearing November the 9th on the Augustin Plains Ranch (APR) application to drill 37 wells near Datil to consume 54,000 acre-feet (17.6 billion gallons) of water per year. The purpose of the hearing, which was held in Socorro, was to set a schedule for the rest of the process. The attorney for APR proposed a schedule that would set the first actual hearing on October 15, 2013. Our attorney (Bruce Frederick)* suggested a much faster schedule and he also submitted a motion to have a court determine whether or not the application should be rejected on its face because it does not provide sufficient information to enable the State Engineer to determine the "who, what, when, or how" of beneficial usage. The hearing examiner set a briefing schedule, as attorney Frederick requested. He also stated that, after our issues in the motion to reject the application outright are briefed and decided, if there still is a case, the next issue to be briefed will be "feasibility of plan." That schedule will not be established, however, until after the decision on the validity of the application.

* Mr. Frederick represents a large group of protestors of the APR Application. The WHLA is one such member of the group, as are many of our members.

NEW VOLUNTARY ROADS IMPROVEMENT FUND:

At the 2010 annual meeting a WHLA member suggested that we establish a fund dedicated specifically to Highlands roads improvement, the contributions to which would be voluntary. The BoD has established such a fund. Policy is still being developed, but Treasurer Kathy Kanely is ready to accept your donations. Send funds to WHLA, POB 87, Datil NM 87821-0087, clearly earmarked "for RIF". When finalized the policy statement will be posted on the WHLA web site.

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BOD RESOLUTION REGARDING EXTERIOR NIGHT LIGHTING: At its 8 December meeting the BoD adopted a resolution regarding exterior night lighting in the Highlands. It appears below, and has been sent to the Socorro Electric Co-op and other entities:

WILDWOOD HIGHLANDS LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 87

DATIL, NM 87821

December 10, 2010

Resolved: That the Board of Directors of the Wildwood Highlands Landowners' Association, its members in unanimous agreement and in consonance with the spirit and intent of the New Mexico Night Sky Protection Act [NMSA 1978, Chapter 74, Article 12] opposes the installation and/or operation of any form of lighting installed on any Socorro Electric Cooperative, Incorporated power pole located within the boundaries of the Wildwood Highlands Subdivision in Catron County, NM.

A POSSIBLE DOMESTIC WATER SOURCE SOLUTION?

At the 2010 Annual Meeting it was suggested that a community domestic water source (using water transported to a central site) might be feasible. Board member John Kell is studying the issue and hopes to report soon. At least one facility similar to what we envision is in operation near Taos.

NOTES REGARDING THE WHLA WEB SITE:

Our Webmaster, Jonille Shepherd, is busy re-working our web site using new (and much more user friendly!) software. Please be patient; she is also recovering from knee surgery. Also, remember the new "Community News" page, for your use.

POLICY ON MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS:

Our policy is that all "significant" (such as this newsletter) communications will be by surface mail. Electronic mail will still be used for "less important" and time-sensitive matters. Please keep the secretary [jfs(at)gilanet.com] apprised of your physical, snail, and email addresses. Currently, both we and Catron County have lost contact with one member.

BoD MEMBERS & CONTACT INFORMATION:

President: Tom Cook 575-772-5350 tomcook(at)gilanet.com

Vice-President: Fred Shepherd 575-772-5603 shepherd(at)gilanet.com

Treasurer: Kathy Kanely 575-772-5599 KathyK226(at)gilanet.com

Secretary: John Schaefer 575-772-5776 jfs(at)gilanet.com

At-Large: John Kell 575-772-5929 johnkell(at)shaw.ca