

***The Wildwood Highlander*** is a periodic newsletter providing information to property owners in Wildwood Highlands, near Datil, New Mexico. It is published in Datil, NM by the Wildwood Highlands Landowners' Association (WHLA), Post Office Box 87, Datil NM 87821-0087. For further information, please contact any member of the WHLA Board of Directors, listed below. Alternately, you may visit the WHLA website on the Internet: [www.wildwoodhighlands.org](http://www.wildwoodhighlands.org).

## **2021 Annual General Meeting**

The 2021 WHLA annual general meeting was held on May 15th, 2021 at the Datil Well Group Campground. Twenty-eight (28) members presented ballots. Highlights of the meeting were:

- The 2021 WHLA budget includes \$6,541 for road improvements and \$3,170 for road maintenance.
- Rob Sanders, Kathy Kanely, and Kimberly Eliopoulos were elected as Directors of the Association.

Full details are in the meeting minutes, posted on the website. Landowners are encouraged to put their names forward to serve as WHLA directors. A sample nomination form is available on the website.

## **Board of Directors**

At the meeting of the Board of Directors on May 15th, 2021, the following officers were elected for the next year:

• President:	Rob Sanders
• Vice-President:	Tracy Gandy
• Treasurer:	Kathy Kanely
• Secretary:	Kimberly Eliopoulos
• At-Large:	John Kell

Minutes from the meetings of the Board of Directors are posted on the website.

In 2021, meetings were held on May 15th and December 31st.

## **2022 Assessment Amount**

At the December 31st, 2021, meeting of the Board of Directors, the annual assessment for 2022 was set at \$79.00 per lot, as per Section 4.11.3 of the WHLA Bylaws. Payment is due by January 31st, 2022.



Photo Credit: Kathy Kanely

## 2021 Financials

Major items from the WHLA's 2021 Year End Financial Statement are shown in the table below. The complete report is available on the website.

Income	Budget	Actual
Lot Assessments	\$7,125.00	\$7,125.00
Late Fees, Settlements, Liens, Other	\$328.00	\$973.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$7,453.00</b>	<b>\$8,098.00</b>
Expenses	Budget	Actual
Road maintenance	\$3,170.63	\$3,450.00
Road Improvement	\$6,541.25	\$7,000.00
Emergency Road funding (snow removal, flood repair)	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Administration, Insurance	\$1,445.00	\$1,096.02
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,156.88</b>	<b>\$11,546.02</b>
Margin	Budget	Actual
	<b>-\$4,703.88</b>	<b>-\$3,448.02</b>

## Water Matters - Elephant Butte Reservoir

Elephant Butte Reservoir, the largest in New Mexico, is impounded by Elephant Butte Dam on the Rio Grande River, just north-east of Truth or Consequences. The dam provides power and irrigation water to New Mexico and Texas. Although the reservoir is a long way from capacity (2,065,010 acre-feet of water), the water levels have improved somewhat over the past year:

		Mean Water Level	Reservoir Storage	Surface Area
Date	Percent Full	(ft)	(acre-ft)	(acres)
2022-01-20	9.4%	4,311.08	185,749	7,316
2021-12-20	8.0%	4,307.27	159,064	6,683
2021-10-20	8.9%	4,309.77	176,300	7,107
2021-07-20	6.7%	4,302.90	131,469	5,925
2021-01-20	7.3%	4,305.06	144,704	6,314
2020-12-31	6.2%		127,253	



Photo Credit: Chuck Baker

## Wildwood Highlands Weather Review (January to December 2021) by Chuck Baker

Here's the collected data for 2021 at my location (Lot 3, Wildwood Highlands) compared to the 20-year averages from 1999 through 2018:

	2021	1999 - 2018
• Average Monthly High Temp	65.8 F	66.4 F
• Average Monthly Low Temp	40.6 F	40.0 F
• Total Precipitation (includes melted snow)	12.52"	12.53"
• Total Snow	15.5"	19.3"

Looking at the above figures, it would appear that 2021 temperatures were about average and precipitation was exactly average even though snowfall was below average. However, many individual months were not average at all, especially with precipitation values.

July 2021 set a new record for most rain recorded in a month with 5.81". The traditional 3-month monsoon period of July, August, and September had an accumulation of 10.65", well above the normal 6" of rain typically recorded. That means we had 85% of our 2021 precipitation occur in those three months, with the rest falling sporadically in the other nine months. Although we had a lot of wildflowers and greenery during the summer, the rest of the year was quite dry. The months of March, April, and May had a combined total of 0.27", with October, November, and December only adding an additional 0.09". All those green grasses and shrubs from the summer are now brown and dried and could become fuel for springtime wildfires in 2022, so please be careful if you ignite any outdoor fires in the coming months.

A few cold spells in the Spring and Fall, along with a wetter summer, helped keep average temperatures near normal, otherwise there would probably have been higher average temperatures for the year. The lack of moisture and warmer temperatures over the last several years appear to be impacting some of the Pinyon Pines on my two lots. There are a lot more of these trees dying now than I have previously seen since I started living here in 1999. The Junipers, which are better adapted to heat and drought, don't seem to be affected as much. For those who might have a few Ponderosa Pine trees on their lots, which are normally found at a higher and wetter elevation than ours, you should be aware that they could also succumb to the increasingly warmer and drier climate affecting not only Wildwood Highlands but the entire Southwest.



Photo Credit: John Kell

## COVID-19 Snapshot

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the national public health agency of the United States, under the US Department of Health and Human Services. Its main goal is the protection of public health and safety through the control and prevention of disease. Current, the CDC is monitoring two COVID-19 Variants of Concern (VOC), nick-named after two letters of the Greek alphabet: ***Delta*** and ***Omicron***. In New Mexico in the week of December 6, 2021, ***Delta*** represented approximately 99% of sequenced test samples. However, a rapid increase since then in the proportion of ***Omicron*** compared to other variants has led CDC predictive modeling to forecast that by mid-January 2022, ***Omicron*** will represent 99.5% of US positive cases.

The pandemic continues to take a disproportionate toll among those who are not fully vaccinated. Here's a summary from the New Mexico COVID-19 Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Case Data Report published in early 2022:

Time Frame	Status	Hospitalizations		Deaths	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Last 12 months	Not Fully Vaccinated	9309	82.9%	2140	89.1%
	Fully Vaccinated	1914	17.1%	261	10.9%
Last 4 weeks	Not Fully Vaccinated	1266	80.7%	198	93.8%
	Fully Vaccinated	302	19.3%	13	6.2%

## Editor's Note

The ***Highlander*** encourages feedback from its readers, wherever they may be. Opinions, observations, concerns, reminiscences, and photographs are all welcome.

Please feel free to email me at:  
[johndawsonkell@gmail.com](mailto:johndawsonkell@gmail.com)

Note: The ***Highlander*** reserves the right to edit submissions for brevity and clarity.



Original Image: Chuck Baker. Photoshop Filters: John Kell