

Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting

Wednesday, May 9, 2018 2:00-4:00pm; Maidu Summit Consortium Office, Chester, CA
Call to Order Approval of agenda and January meeting minutes

Agenda- A Lake Level update was added to the agenda under “Water quality sampling,” then the agenda was otherwise approved. Bridie asked that the March minutes show that Sierra Institute (SI) paid for the \$1290 buoy installation, but that this total was then subtracted from LAWG funds when they were transferred to SI on June 8 2015, showing that LAWG did actually pay for the buoy. Charlie also corrected that Mountain Meadows Conservancy has \$15,000 in matching funds, not \$10,000.

Guests/Individual announcements: Stacy Fisher was there from the Chester Progressive. Ricky Proust and Ben Cunningham (Chairman of the Board) was in attendance representing the Maidu Summit Consortium as Lorena was unable to attend. There was an announcement that the US Forest Service had a recent meeting about putting money into culverts and roads on the Lassen National Forest that have drainage issues. They will be soliciting suggestions on problem areas at some point and this will be a good time for LAWG to make suggestions on major runoff areas. Another announcement that HWY 89 is expected to be open by the end of the month, and the letter of support for the Land Trust went out on time (this update was sent via email after the meeting).

Financials: Courtney provided updates including that all funding that was allocated to SI in the original proposal had been expended. Time spent on watershed coordination and proposal development would now be taken out of the donation. Some funding from the Rose Foundation has been expended (see below).

LACC updates: Aaron gave a presentation to the Board of Directors in April, pointing out the benefits and need for community support for water quality. LAWG should be receiving the \$3/lot donation this year, as these fees were collected in 2017 and already incorporated into the 2017 budget. It is unclear if the Board will approve these fees for 2018 given that the community and priorities of LACC are changing. There are also issues with residents feeling like these responsibilities should fall on PG&E. The financial picture for Almanor West seems about the same, with this year’s donation likely but next year’s unsure.

Lake Level: Aaron attended a PG&E lake level meeting with Sherrie Thrall, Bob Lambert, and Jeff Greening. Due to moderate-to-high precipitation levels and a lot of water being held back from Oroville, lake levels will be very high this year (see image below), however high energy demands downstream could always necessitate more draw down. Current levels are 2.5-3% above normal.

Water sampling updates: Scott was unable to attend but Courtney read off his email updates. Gina confirmed that she received the information from the April/May sampling. The lake is well oxygenated, still very cold (colder than last year by 1-2 degrees) and hasn’t stratified yet. There is a lot of healthy zooplankton which will provide a good food source for fish. There is not a lot of blue-green algae, but numbers tend to grow later in the summer so more will be known then.

Water Quality Outreach update: Courtney worked with Gina to develop language summarizing the 2017 report, which is accessible from the LAWG webpage. For more outreach, Courtney will send information to Staci on the 2017 report, and a quick paragraph on current conditions at the lake with each sampling. LAWG members asked about easier access to online materials, and Courtney raised the potential of buying a LAWG specific domain that would bring users to the SI webpage.

Rose Foundation: Courtney has been working with the AP Environmental Science class at Chester High School to incorporate water quality data into their classroom. Scott gave a presentation to the class and then took them out to sample to North Fork Feather River the next day. Students will later analyze this data and draw conclusions about trends. The group agreed this is in line with their goal of engaging youth. It was also suggested to have the students write a report to the paper on what they find.

Wastewater/Storm water assistance: Courtney sent an application in to the Campbell Foundation to support expanded water quality monitoring to include coliform and additional locations, which unfortunately was unfunded. She also reached out to the State Water Resources Control Board about their non-point source pollution problem. It seems a similar LAWG project may be eligible under the Timber Regulation Forest Restoration Fund based on initial review of the application. A follow up with the Water Quality Subcommittee will be planned. Charlie suggested potentially pairing with the South Lassen Group to make the grant more competitive. Courtney also suggested maybe partnering with the Maidu Summit Consortium to develop storm water gardens along the lakeshore with culturally sensitive plants. While welcomed, the group pointed out that we'd have to work with PG&E as most of these storm water gardens would be on their land.

Maidu Summit Consortium- Ricky and Ben had just returned from a meeting with MSC members and a forester at Humbug Valley- one of three parcels of land recently approved to be returned to the Maidu from PG&E. At Humbug, MSC has already begun work to restore the area and looks forward to doing more plantings, fire control, and landscape management now that the transfer has been approved. MSC is also seeking to have 4 more parcels in the Almanor area returned.

Ricky spoke about some of the specific work they are doing and how it has been very well received by major local stakeholders. He said groups like PG&E and the USFS are interested in hearing the Maidu opinions about management, which is a far cry from how suggestions from his ancestors were received. Ben spoke about some of the work MSC has been doing with UC Davis to grow culturally sensitive plants for restoration in Humbug. The annual Friends of Humbug gathering will take place on July 21, and MSC looks forward to sharing out some of the work planned and implemented for Humbug Valley at that point.

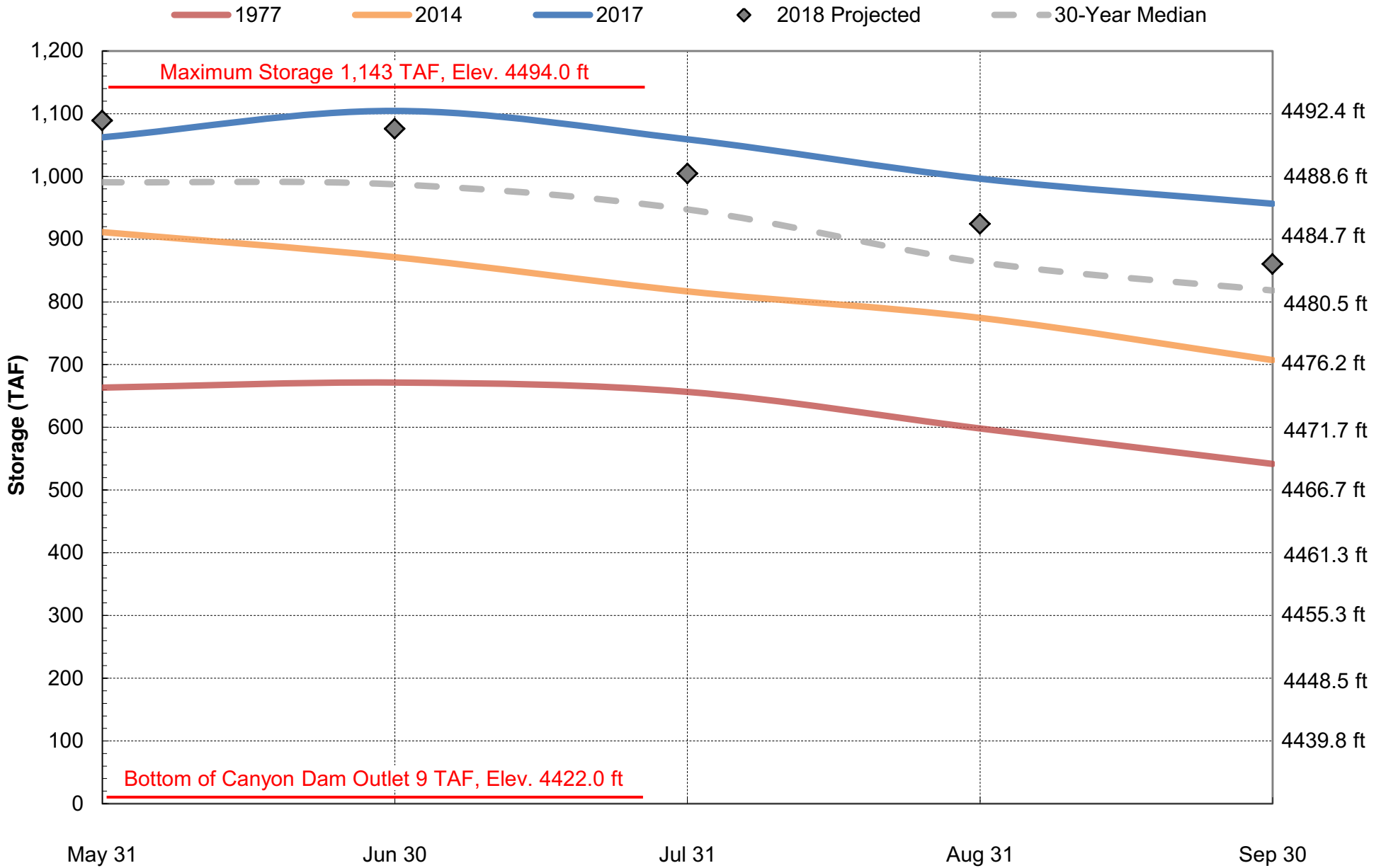
Mountain Meadows Conservancy: MMC hosted a Friends of Mountain Meadows meeting on May 2. While PG&E wasn't present, it was announced they will donate \$2,500 to buy young bass to restock the lake. Public members have taken initiative to raise funds to match this donation so more fish may be stocked.

Water Trails/Recreation Updates: Peggy and Charlie spoke about the incredible work of the trails committee of late, including getting 68 students out onto the new Colin's Pine trail from 4th and 6th graders to high school. They are also working on submitting a proposal to develop a trail from 1st Ave to Highway 89, with a lot of the most challenging parts falling into place because of other simultaneous efforts. They hope to make two trailheads, a parking area, bird watching platforms, a disc golf area, kiosks, and place to camp. They want to make sure there is a lot of information available about Maidu culture, and spoke with Ben about putting the new Maidu cultural center on the map of the trail as well.

There are a lot of water trails maps available for restocking this summer, but Peggy needs help in getting the work done.

Homework: Courtney will look in to the price of purchasing and linking a domain. She will also reach out to Staci about upcoming paper opportunities and send maps to Charlie re: the non-point source pollution eligibility. Aaron will call both homeowners groups to confirm their donations for 2018 (with 2017 funds).

Lake Almanor - Historical & Projected



Projection subject to change due to actual weather, runoff, and operating conditions

PG&E Water Management
May 2018