

Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting

Wednesday, October 9, 2019 1:00pm

Location: Maidu Summit Consortium

289 Main Street Stover Creek Center # 7, Chester, CA

Attendees

Peggy Fulder

Bridie Johnston

Jacqui Cordova

Lorena Gorbet

Charlie Plopper

Dov Weinman

Gina Johnston

Approval of Agenda and Minutes from August

The meeting called to order at 1:08pm. Bridie moved to accept the agenda and minutes from August. Charlie seconded.

Financials

Dov shared that Betsy Schromell (Greenville) donated \$1000 for indigenous plant restoration and propagation. The Sierra Institute will hold the money for the shoreline garden project that LAWG members will continue to plan in collaboration with the Maidu Summit Consortium.

Member Updates and Announcements

Guest Rachelle Labosky of Sage Creek Insurance was invited to discuss issues of rising insurance costs within the county – especially in areas designated as part of the Wildland-Urban-Interface. Using an ISO Rating Map to determine the ratings of each individual house, insurance companies have dropped residents from their current insurance. Even if the rating map is updated, properties with considerable fuels and brush are unlikely to continue being insured. Many residents are turning to the California Fair Plan because they lack alternatives.

Dov provided a brief review of SLWG Meeting – the SLWG Memorandum of Understanding will be circulated so individuals and entities can become signatories and group members.

Plumas Audubon Society and Audubon California are in negotiations with PG&E with regards to the extremely low grebe count at Lake Almanor and the disruptive alterations in the lake's water levels. PG&E has placed considerable stress on grebes by changing the water level during egg incubation. Dov will follow up with Executive Director Lindsay Wood to see if LAWG can support and add value to Plumas Audubon's ongoing activities and work.

Lorena shared about the success of the Tásmam Koyóm Celebration – about 300 people attended from many different organizations and partners including PG&E, the Stewardship Council, Feather River Land Trust, the Tribal Liaison to the Governor Christina Snider, and many local Maidu friends and family.

Peggy shared that she was asked to write a letter of support to the Plumas County Transportation Commission.

Moorea gave the group a recap of the Great Sierra River Cleanup. Originally, she asked for trucks to transport garbage – Bridie responded with her truck but there weren't many bags of trash cleaned from the small group at Lake Almanor. The Lake Almanor West Homeowners Association regularly cleans trash and group members suggested it might be beneficial to connect MSC members with the Homeowners Association to coordinate future cleanups. Members also mentioned that targeting residential areas in the future, such as doing a cleanup in Chester or Westwood, might further engage communities members.

Charlie shared that they've almost completed conceptual plans for recreation trails in the entire basin, including the area of Westwood. In the future it will be possible to begin in Canyon Dam and ride your bike all the way to Susanville. They're beginning to circulate the conceptual plans in order to solicit feedback from community members.

Lake Almanor Physical Data

Gina shared the physical data collected last collected on September 19th and mentioned that the Lake Stations had just started to turn over because of cooling temperatures. LA1 near the dam was still thermally stratified and will remain that way through the winter unless it freezes over. Phil Datner of the Almanor Fishing Association supported Scott McReynolds in lake sampling. Members requested that Scott attempt to document sampling work with photographs and pair with a short write-up to showcase how the Almanor Fishing Association has supported LAWG's efforts on the lake.

Other Business

Peggy wrote a letter for the reapplication of funds for Main Street renovation in Chester. After they finalize the document it may take two years to complete project plans. She encouraged other LAWG members to think about their visions for Main Street. Charlie attended one of the Coffee Talks where community members discussed a type of plaza and attendees expressed excitement of this concept being integrated into future planning.

Dov provided updates on the Shoreline Gardens project. Following the field tour of the Maidu parcels, LAWG members are hoping to take a field trip to visit Tahoe area demonstration gardens either at the end of October or the first week of November. Members hope to visit two or three gardens and review source documents for budgets, planning, and implementation. Dov will contact Megan Suarez-Brand, the Community Education Specialist with the Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe Program (UC Cooperative Extension of the Central Sierra).