

Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 1:00-3:00pm
Zoom Meeting

Attendees

Gina Johnston
Aaron Seandel
Peggy Fulder
Lorena Gorbet
Bridie Johnston

Charlie Plopper
Sherrie Thrall
Moorea Stout
Dov Weinman

Approval of Agenda and July Minutes

Peggy called the meeting to order just after 1:00pm. Gina motioned to approve the agenda and Bridie seconded. LAWG members approved the agenda. Bridie suggested on change to the meeting minutes from July and then motioned to approve the minutes. Aaron seconded the motion and the group approved the meeting minutes from July.

Financials

There were no changes to the group's financials. Group members discussed donations from the Lake Almanor Country Club – and after Peggy reached out to Steve Fleming it's apparent that they're waiting for the 2019 Water Quality Report in order to release the previously committed funds (\$4,400). Moorea suggested that she begin to absorb the contacts and connections (such as the LACC) that LAWG members have made of the years so that she can continue to build on her development and engagement work.

Member Updates and Announcements

Susan mentioned that LAWG/Sierra Institute would be on the West Almanor Country Club agenda the week of August 24th. Bridie has supplied Susan with a writeup and the group will need to decide who attends and presents at the meeting. Susan will communicate with Dov and Moorea to see if Sierra Institute should have a presence there.

Dov will continue to try and engage volunteers for Seed Collecting at Rock Creek. The work day will be coordinated by Leslie Mink from Plumas Corporation.

Charlie shared that paperwork has been submitted for the due diligence on the Trails Program. Charlie walked with Carlos Espana and Terry Collins along the trail, and he mentioned that they still have timber operations being implemented on either side of the trail. They face the challenge of making the trail safe to members of the public, but they've also discovered some older Collins-made road and Charlie emphasized that he thinks they'll make it work. The conceptual plan for trails for the whole region is in its final draft and they're reviewing it this week.

Charlie also mentioned some excellent news for you today regarding grebes at Lake Almanor! The 401 water quality certificate for reservoir operations at Almanor now includes language that supports grebe management. This language specifically directs PG&E to consult with Plumas Audubon Society in developing the plan.

Language found in the certificate is included below:

CONDITION 20. Grebes Management

No later than two years following license issuance, the Licensee shall submit a Grebes Management Plan to the Deputy Director for review and approval. The Grebes Management Plan shall be developed in consultation with the CDFW, USFWS, Plumas Audubon Society, and State Water Board staff. The goal of the Grebes Management Plan shall be to identify any adverse Project impacts on Grebe nesting and propose any reasonable measures to avoid or reduce identified adverse impacts. The Licensee shall include with the Grebes Management Plan: documentation of consultation with CDFW, USFWS, and Forest Service; comments and recommendations made in connection with the plan; and a description of how the plan incorporates or addresses the comments and recommendations.

Charlie also shared a potential funding opportunity through the Rose Foundation's California Watershed Protection Fund. The Rose Foundation is willing to fund projects that support efforts working toward water quality and environmental justice. Charlie suggested that LAWG's work to identify native plant barriers, to monitor water quality in Lake Almanor and tributaries, and to implement shoreline native plant gardens with the Maidu Summit Consortium. LAWG members felt that it could be a great opportunity to put native gardens in a handful of places to see how it might impact nutrients, sediment, and/or turbidity. Gina will write up a short summary that includes details on the water quality monitoring component and Charlie will send Dov a few sentences summarizing the project. Dov will develop the Letter of Intent for the Rose Foundation, which is due Friday, August 14th.

Other Business

Dov mentioned that the Sierra institute has hired a GrizzlyCorps Member (AmeriCorps) who will help with natural resource-based education and citizen science programming. They will be able to support water quality monitoring work with the South Lassen Watersheds Group and LAWG. Dov will be coordinating with Gina, Scott McReynolds, and other LAWG members to get an understanding for what supplies and equipment might be needed.

Peggy will follow up on bridge construction happening over Goodrich Creek and whether or not sediment might be flowing into the creek and Mountain Meadows. More information is needed.

Dov facilitated a short conversation about the 2020 Lake Almanor Management Plan. LAWG members reviewed some highlighted issues within Goal 1 and Dov asked group members to review Goals 2 and 3 (the last ten pages of the Plan) so they can formally adopt the revised version.