

Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 1:00pm

Location: Maidu Summit Consortium

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

Attendees

Peggy Fulder

Carl Felts

Charlie Plopper

Gina Johnston

Bridie Johnston

Aaron Seandel

Jacque Cordova

Dov Weinman

Alisha Wilson - Maidu Summit Consortium

Lindsay Wood - Plumas Audubon Society

Approval of Agenda and Minutes from October

The meeting was called to order just after 1:00pm. Peggy introduced guests Alisha Wilson (Maidu Summit Consortium) and Lindsay Wood (Plumas Audubon Society). Bridie asked to amend the agenda so the group could discuss facilitators in the next calendar year. Jacqui motioned to approve the minutes and agenda. Bridie seconded.

Financials

There was no change within the last month.

Member Updates and Announcements

Bridie and Peggy attended the Friends of Mountain Meadows meeting on November 6th and shared information about PG&E's handling of water outflows and its implications for wildlife. Organizations have attempted to negotiate with PG&E and have questioned PG&E's water management, but so far have not received many specific answers. PG&E and Fish and Wildlife haven't been in discussions this year and it doesn't appear that PG&E has plans for structural improvements.

Peggy shared some great collaborative work between Point Blue Conservation Science and Sierra Pacific Industries at Goodrich Creek, where they are engaging students with science and restoration through the Students and Teachers Restoration A Watershed (STRAW) program.

<https://naaee.org/eeepro/groups/global-ee/case-study/students-and-teachers-restoring>

Aaron mentioned he will be spending winter with his family and won't be available until later next spring. The group discussed who will be accountable and responsible to carry on work with water quality reports. Gina will be tasked with leading the watershed subcommittee.

Charlie Plopper presented the Almanor Recreation and Park District's draft master plan for a trail from the bottom of Lake Almanor to Chester. They continue to have good, positive interactions with the economic development center at Chico State and will move forward with soliciting donations.

Lindsay Wood shared some of the background for Plumas Audubon Society's grebe project, including the ending of their current research funding and the uncertainty of the program's continuation. She described grebe population trends and emphasized that 2018-2019 was clearly a low for peak juvenile population and essentially a complete colony abandonment at the lake. While PG&E has cited various contractual constraints for their water outflows, the Department of Water Resources found they can actually stabilize water levels - the difference appears to be water management. Lindsay has coordinated directly with PG&E biologists but found they have limited input in decision-making. She's attempting to coordinate more closely with their hydrologists, and Plumas Audubon Society is submitting a letter to the state water resources control board. Lindsay asked LAWG members to either show their support by signing that letter or by writing their own letter of support. Jacqui made a motion to both sign Plumas Audubon Society's letter as well as craft a letter of support from LAWG citing the Lake Almanor Management Plan. Bridie seconded and the motion was approved. Charlie will also follow up with regards to the Park District. Group members then discussed options for bringing back the grebe festival. The Chamber of Commerce established a calendar of activities throughout the year so it's important to settle on a date for any grebe-related celebration or symposium. June appeared to be a good option. Lindsay shared some parameters that Plumas Audubon Society worked within previously, and acknowledged that they'll need to secure additional sources of funding.

Dov made contact with Alison Toy, the Tahoe City Demonstration Garden Manager, but most LAWG members were unavailable for a field tour. The group decided to push the tour until spring and project partners will meet in the interim to begin organizing and planning.

Dov provided updates from the South Lassen Watersheds Group meeting on October 29th. Project partners presented on California Climate Investment projects at West Shore and Robbers Creek and the group held a discussion on their new planning area being called the West Lassen Headwaters Project.

Gina shared that tomorrow will be the last sampling for Almanor Stream data. Scott will wrap up the season's physical data with the support of Phil Datner, and Gina will send out the physical data before taking a closer look at plankton data. While Gina works on the report, LAWG members must decide who will receive finished reports. Gina mentioned this was also a discussion last spring – Dov will look into spring minutes and LAWG members will see if the recipient list needs evaluating. Dov will also provide a summary to the SLWG.

Group members agreed to maintain monthly meetings for the time being. It was also suggested that a meeting be scheduled at the beginning of the year to specifically address updates to the Lake Almanor Management Plan. Carl made a motion for Peggy and Bridie to continue as co-chairs for the 2020 calendar. The group unanimously agreed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th.