

Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting

Wednesday, May 12th, 2021 1:00-2:30pm
Zoom

Attendees

Peggy Fulder
Gina Johnston
Sophie Castleton
Sherrie Thrall
Aaron Seandel

Susan Padilla
Carl Felts
Kevin Price
Phil Datner

Approval of Agenda and April Minutes & General Announcements

April minutes will be changed so it is 'Benner creek' under the MSC update. Gina motions to approve agenda and amended minutes, Aaron seconds; they are approved.

Sierra Institute has hired a new Watershed Coordinator, her name is Bella Bledsoe. She is starting May 19th and will coordinate the June LAWG meeting.

Financials

There were no changes in income in April. Under expenses, salaries/benefits were up \$345.26. The listed balance would be \$17,701.02 with a pledged amount of \$1,000.00 for the Maidu planting and an unchanged pledged balance for SI of \$739.64 leaving a working balance in the account of **\$15,961.38** (This is prior to Gina's 2021 testing proposal).

There was an email chain about Scott Devereux sending LAWG \$2000 on behalf of the Lake Almanor Country Club (LACC); this was not shown in the April budget numbers. Sophie will ask Moorea and Amy about it and relay the info to Peggy.

Member Updates and Announcements

Water Quality Monitoring (Kevin, Gina)

- Kevin and Scott went out April 15th – they collected data from both tributary sites and lake sites. The upside is that the lake hasn't thermally stratified yet. It probably will be by the next sampling in July. Kevin is available for the July monitoring and can continue the plankton sampling. Scott has ordered replacement parts/caps for loggers. Gina does the analysis of the plankton and will get the physical data out as it's collected.

- Kevin is still working on the monitoring manual. He is going up to the lake on May 18th with Phil to inventory the equipment transferred to LAWG from Scott and plan for future monitoring. There are 3 more runs this year planned.
- Lake Almanor Water Quality Proposal for 2021 (Decision item): Susan moves to approve the funding for Gina to complete the 2021 report, Lorena seconds, and the motion is approved.
- 2014 – 2020 Dissolved Oxygen and Water Temp. Data (Scott): shows how many days at LA1 the bottom of the lake was devoid of oxygen. Gina will take this data and incorporate it into the next report.

Outreach & Engagement

- Successful Water Quality Day with Chester HS: Kevin went out with 11 students May 7th; Dallas the science teacher is interested in doing more.

Lake Almanor West Association (Susan)

- Hwy 89 Community Cleanup on May 21 or 22. The parties in charge have changed so Susan needs to catch up with them. Susan will call Moorea next week and report to the group as it happens.
- Aaron asked Susan if the West Assoc. is still helping financially. Next board meeting is in June or July and Susan will ask Moorea to present, as it went well last time.

FERC Relicensing update

- Susan updated the group on the recent Town Hall meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to try and get the community involved in writing to FERC and tell them what the community wants to see in the license. They brought up the Feb.2 letter that LAWG signed (as an exhibit).
- Sherrie updated the group: Last spring, the State Water Board was in the process of issuing their EIR for the Clean Water Act certification. FERC stepped in; so many years have passed that PG&E applied to FERC for a waiver which was granted. This action removed the Water Board's authority to issue their water certification and along with that their requirements for their certification. It is thought that a license will be issued in late summer/early fall. They are leaning toward upholding the terms of the settlement agreement. Sherrie is planning on writing a formal letter to FERC; she is in the process of reviewing info from PG&E.
- Link to the meeting recording: <https://fb.watch/5t9HlEd0Y/>. Sherrie thinks the public can carry weight with FERC right now and could have an impact on FERC's decision making process. Sherrie wants support for the settlement

agreement, and doesn't think taking more water than what's being taken now is acceptable (detrimental effects on streams/water quality).

- Wendy Dirken (save lake Almanor non-profit) is an excellent contact for this. Can also find more info of the Project 2105 website, under the licensing sub-category.
- Sherrie commented on the EIR – supporting option 3 versus 1 and 2; attached a long comment letter. None of PG&E's \$5 mil obligation to save habitat has been done.

MSC Update

- Yellow creek campground will open May 28th.
- MSC needs volunteers on properties – if anyone is interested contact the MSC office. There is a volunteer opportunity May 22-23 planting oak seedlings.
- The Friends of Humbug gathering has been postponed. MSC is planning a celebration for Sept. 25; MSC anticipates getting the deed to the final property on East Shore. Yellow Creek campground will have vendors/demonstrations.
- Mountain meadows reservoir & Hamilton branch powerhouse purchasing deadline May 21 – MSC will get a proposal in. Check Facebook or maidusummit.org for updates.
- The Maidu office is now available if LAWG wants to have in-person meetings. i

Action Items

- Peggy and Bridie will find Feb. 2 FERC letter from LAWG and Bridie and Gina will update it. Sophie will then send it to the group for comment. Peggy will contact Wendy for a sample letter. Send Sophie up-to-date info to share with group.
- Group to decide if the next LAWG meeting will be in-person at the Maidu center. Group in attendance was in support of a hybrid in-person meeting with a Zoom option.
- Private meeting with PG&E - May 20th 11am. Sherrie would like a rep from LAWG. Peggy will contact Bridie; Gina will go if Bridie can't.

Next Meeting: June 9th