

Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting
Wednesday, March 8th, 2023, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Attendees

Bella Bledsoe
Bridie Johnston
Gina Johnston
Lorena Gorbet
Peggy Fulder
Susan Padilla
Tom Tisch

Call to Order

The agenda and minutes were approved.

Financials

LAWG received a \$2,000 anonymous donation that will be added to the income. There was no change in expenses. LAWG still has allocations of \$1000.00 for the Maidu plant project, \$4025.00 for the 2022 Water Quality Testing, and a remaining Sierra Institute Testing balance of \$2671.49. There is a working balance of \$14,076.59.

Member Updates and Announcements

Water Quality Monitoring

- Bridie caught one more mistake in the 2022 WQ Monitoring Report. Gina is going to correct one word and then send a final copy to Bella.
- Gina met with Che because he does not know how to calibrate the water quality testing equipment. This was a major problem at the beginning of last year's sampling; the calibration was not done correctly, and it threw off the sampling results. Gina is going to go through the calibration herself to ensure it is done correctly. There may also be some batteries or calibration solutions that she may have to order. This will likely be around \$200 worth of materials. Once Gina gets the instruments operating, Che will go out with Gina and learn the monitoring process. He will also do the streams. He will assist Gina with Lake sampling. Gina will try and contact Rob about the boat when things thaw out.
- Susan asked if Gina could project the dates, so people can plan for joining sampling.
- Gina said the first sampling is typically in May, and then again in July, September, and November. We can set some specific dates once we get our first date set. We can project dates forward.

Westwood Chamber of Commerce Funding Application

- Gina wrote a funding proposal to the Westwood Chamber of Commerce. They generally seemed favorable about the proposal but had some questions. The proposal is currently on hold; Peggy and Gina are going to fill out the formal application. It is easy.
- The purpose of funding is to begin testing Mountain Meadows Reservoir and determine the algae that are present, so LAWG can determine if there are any hazardous species in the reservoir.
- Peggy is going to work on the formal proposal.

- Tom commented that they should try and add a sentence in the proposal that this work is in addition to what LAWG does already in Lake Almanor
- Gina is hoping to be able to sample by the dam in the reservoir so that the water is deep enough. She will confirm a spot to sample once the snow melts.

Lake Almanor West Association (Susan)

- Jonathan is going to speak on June 27th. Susan is hoping Gina can come along also. The board meetings are at the golf club. Susan thinks Jonathan will speak sometime between 9 am and 10 am, but she will confirm soon. Susan cannot be present at the meeting because she will be in LA. Susan also asked if there are any brochures we can bring along for the meeting.
- Bella said we have a one-pager that we made last year; she will recirculate it to the group. Group members can make further edits if they want.

Maidu Summit Consortium (Lorena)

- MSC still can't get into Humbug Valley because there is too much snow. Lorena went to a meeting for tribal members in Red Bluff about the National Monument.
- Friends of Plumas Wilderness is going to start having meetings with the public-- in Greenville, Chester, and Oroville. The proposed monument is about a 300,000-acre area. Tribes are still a bit unsure; many tribal folks are looking to add more cultural sites to the monument area, so they would gain protection as well. We want them to include what we care about protecting.
- Friends of Plumas Wilderness is more open to working with non-federally recognized tribes, including tribal organizations. The Monument project is getting more support from tribes because they are actually listening to us now and making changes. Apparently, the Monument proposal to the Federal Government needs to be tribally led and has to improve the tribes. Greenville Rancheria has given a letter of support. Mooretown and Berry Creek do not want to be involved.
- The Forest Service would have to write the management plan for the Monument together with the tribes. But, the FS is not supportive. They say they have no capacity to write the plan. They would have to take people off other projects to do this, and it would slow down their work. SPI is also against the Monument. Butte County is not in support. Plumas County has not formally taken a stance yet. What if it takes FS people away from West Shore or the West Lassen Headwaters Project? That would be really frustrating.
- Friends of Plumas Wilderness is full of environmental groups; it is made up of lots of people from the old Quincy Library Group. They think this is an opportunity while Biden is still in office.
- Bridie asked, if FoPW does not get tribal support, will they drop the proposal? Lorena answered no, I do not think so. I think they will go with the supporters they have.
- I think some tribes are still not trusting that FoPW will not just add further regulations onto our lands and cultural sites; we do not trust the government. There has been a long history of mistrust. We do not want them to just exert more power and control over our lands.

Others?

- Bridie wrote to Kevin Kiley, the Congressional Representative for Plumas County, and Tom McGowan, Plumas County District Supervisor. She heard nothing back from either.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: April 12th