



## Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting Wednesday, May 10th, 2023, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

### Attendees

Anna Glenn  
Charlie Plopper  
Gina Johnston  
Jacquie Cordova

Lorena Gorbet  
Peggy Fulder  
Susan Padilla  
Tom Tisch

### Call to Order, Approval of Agenda, and April Minutes

The April minutes and May minutes were approved.

### Financials (Peggy)

There were no changes in income or expenses. LAWG still has allocations of \$1000.00 for the Maidu plant project and a remaining Sierra Institute testing balance of \$2625.64. We have allocated \$4,125.00 to our 2023 water quality testing and \$999.82 for testing equipment. There is a working balance of \$8,951 and a stated balance of \$17,702.23.

### Member Updates and Announcements

#### **Water Quality Monitoring**

- Gina commented that after many weather and equipment delays, we were finally able to go out yesterday for water quality testing. Che and Gina went out and collected their first dataset. Moving forward, it should be much easier to schedule, pending Captain Rob's availability. Captain Rob posted a picture of yesterday's trip to the Almanor Town Chatter.
- The next water quality monitoring trips are tentatively planned for mid-July, early September, and the last week of October, all pending Captain Rob's availability. Previously, we have done our final data collection in November, but this year we want to avoid any chance of a conflict due to snow.
- Tom asked for a quick anecdotal report from the sampling. Gina responded that the water coming from Hamilton Branch is quite muddy. They were also able to tell that at LA3 in the Western Basin, there was already a lot of algae and plankton. All this runoff is bringing a lot of nutrients into the lake. The lake level is rising. Gina is expecting a lot of growth in terms of plankton this year. She thinks it will be a great year for fish, maybe not for swimming. We still have quite a bit of snow to melt.
- Gina asked anyone who is interested in joining monitoring efforts in July to let us know. She will give us a date for the trip once she has confirmed with Captain Rob.

#### **Great Sierra River Cleanup - Location hosted by Sierra Institute in Indian Valley (Anna)**

- Sierra Institute participated in the cleanup last year in Westwood with the support of LAWG. Anna gauged the interest of Sierra Institute staff to see if we would have enough support to host a cleanup in Indian Valley. We had more than enough staff members volunteer to help out, so Sierra Institute signed up to host a cleanup.

#### **LAWG Maidu Summit Consortium (Lorena)**

- Nothing new to report. The Logging Jamboree is still happening on June 3rd in Chester at the Chester Park, advertised on the Maidu Summit Consortium website.
- The consortium is recruiting for a new Executive Director. If you know of anyone, let us know.

- Peggy asked what the logging jamboree consists of. Lorena responded, saying there will be chainsaws and ax throwing, live music, vendors, and just a fun day in the park. It is a free event.

### **Others?**

- Jacquie reported on Westwood being a Firewise Community. They are putting out assessments to residents on how to reduce fire risk. They are waiting on a grant. 10% of the town has made a request, and they have a goal of 20% in the next few months. The group also has a Facebook page.
- Charlie reported on the Hamilton Branch East Shore Firewise Community. They will be holding an event in early June. They have a Facebook page now.
- Peggy asked if the Firewise designation has brought insurance costs down. Charlie responded that they received the highest possible ratings last year, and the Firewise designation contributed to that.
- Charlie emphasized the amount of work the community has put into fire safety, stating that they raked enough biomass last year to fill 10x10 cubic yards.
- Peggy shared that Mountain Meadows Conservancy is looking for a new Project Coordinator.
- Charlie talked about all the trails that have been built from logging roads because of LAWG. It changed the economy of the area. It's exciting that they may be getting enough funds to convert the Collins rail line into a trail. They still need a deed to certify Almanor Recreation and Park District as the owner in order to receive funding from SNC to build a trail. Hopefully, it's not too late to receive this funding. Collins Pine is having their board meeting today and tomorrow, so it may be getting approved.
- Peggy asked when the rails started being pulled out.
- Charlie estimates that it's been about 20 years. All of Collins' old rail lines in Pennsylvania have been converted to trails.
- Charlie is hoping that LAWG will be a partner in planning the trail. Almost 12 miles of trail through the forest and around the lake. It looks like we may be able to surface it so people can ride bikes. Not asphalt, so there are no concerns about destruction from tree roots and animals.
- Peggy asked if it would be paved, then. Charlie responded that it's a special type of aggregate that you put on a flat surface, followed by a meshwork, and another layer of aggregate. It's solid, environmentally friendly, and can withstand a heavy load. Snow melts down into it. It's less expensive than asphalt and has less upkeep. One of Turner's sites has the materials to make this aggregate.
- One of the concerns of this rail trail and other rail trails is that they are over 100 years old, so they have the protections of a federal historic site, making it quite difficult to get approval to remove the rails.

### **Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** June 14th