

Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting
Wednesday, March 3, 2020 1:00-3:00pm
Zoom

Attendees:

Peggy Fulder
Charlie Plopper
Thomas Tisch
Gina Johnston
Bridie Johnston

Lorena Gorbet
Kevin Price
Moorea Stout
Dov Weinman

Call to order, Approval of Agenda and January minutes

Peggy called the meeting to order at 1:09. Gina motioned to approve the agenda and meeting minutes.

Financials

Budget reminder for the group: \$1000 dedicated to the Maidu, additional money dedicated to the plankton net, there is \$739 left in Sierra Institute budgeting. There is a balance of \$16,597.00.

There was a question about the advocate fund versus the tribute fund – is that money dedicated to something specifically? The advocate fund is just the name we gave to the membership program, so it's just general funding that can be used however the group decides.

LAWG Newsletter

Moorea (SI) is currently the main person creating the LAWG newsletter. She emphasized that it's an important effort of the group to maintain awareness and outreach. It's also an important method of sharing the work. It's about to get trickier: Moorea will be cutting back her hours for Sierra Institute. Hoping that one or a few of you will be willing to assist her a little more actively. If anyone has any questions please call Moorea. Moorea has handled the March newsletter, but would appreciate help with the summer issue. Moorea will send out some guidelines so that LAWG members can come into the next meeting with ideas, concepts, or even drafts. Peggy asked if we might include the Mountain Meadows. Moorea responded that the content needs to be decided by LAWG Board members.

Gina wrote a summary for the 2020 report – she can bring that down to fit Moorea’s size requirements and she can also look around for images.

Member Updates and Announcements

- **Water Quality Monitoring Report**

Gina – if there are any comments on this report from January please send them to Gina so that she can finalize the report and bill Sierra Institute. Have not heard from Scott with regards to what will happen this year. Should we go ahead with sampling this year? Gina got a report about precipitation, this is shaping up to be a dry year, and we’re down to 60% of normal precipitation. Two years in a row like that means our Water Quality will be heavily impacted. Gina is worried about these impacts and hopes that we can keep the sampling program going.

Bridie – is it possible to give this a conditional to go ahead and invoice SI by Monday if nobody comes out with objections? Gina will include a cover note about the plankton net and include that with her invoice to Sierra Institute.

Moorea – Susan Briner put together several meetings in 2019 that included individuals and entities from all sectors. 65 people showed up in person and came out with the idea of having an active community foundation, a 501c3 non-profit that accepts tax deductible donations from individuals or grants from foundations, etc. and then use that money to improve local quality of life (economic development, health care, education, etc.). Moorea was happy to accept an opportunity with their Steering Committee, and they’ve recently hired an Executive Director, who will be their first paid staff member.

Kevin (SI) has been talking with Scott – he’s trying to follow through on getting permission from DWR to donate the equipment. He’s ready to go ahead with testing in this spring but he needs to finalize a date.

Outreach and Engagement

- **Water Quality Monitoring Protocols**

Kevin has continued to work on water quality monitoring protocols. Kevin developed a water quality training day on May 7th (May 14th as a backup). Kevin shared the itinerary that he will implement with the chemistry students, where they will look at dissolved oxygen, pH, etc.

Kevin looked at the items they wanted in order to support that training day – he included the budget items and cost, which totaled \$343.00. Bridie said this was well within LAWG’s mission and thought it would be great to support. Charlie agrees and believes that more students will be interested. Bridie suggests we support this project in the neighborhood of \$350. Charlie moves, Gina seconds, and the motion is approved. Kevin hopes to use this as an opportunity to build a larger, ongoing monitoring program.

- **Shoreline Gardens Project (EEF Proposal)**

Lorena – what they had funded previously was more towards the desert or towards the coast. Lorena was a bit concerned that they didn’t have the deed to the wetlands parcel but they’ll be signing papers for that next week.

- **Conceptual Trails Plan**

They’ve already had the link. They now have three grant applications due (one in May and two in November) that can fit at least part of the Conceptual Trails Plan. There is ongoing discussion of opportunities for trails around Mountain Meadows Reservoir. Bridie commented that it’s a terrific website with very impressive maps. What are the proposed transit service connections? Charlie noted that they hope to tie those into transportation (bus) lines, but need to get the permission to do it. Gina asked when they’ll have ownership. Charlie responded that it’s turning out to be a little bit tricky.

- **Lake Almanor West Association**

Susan is not present (no updates)

- Mike Wilhoit

Subcommittee Members and Meetings

Dov proposed the concept of subcommittees to handle specific topics like Shoreline Gardens or Water Quality Monitoring. There is not much traction for this step at the moment.

Adjourn: Next meeting is April 14th.

Action Items: Dov to send out an email to LAWG members to see how many copies of the Lake Almanor Management Plan we should print. LAWG members and SI should also continue to compile a list of the entities to which they want to send hard copies to.