

## **Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting** **August 14th, 2019 Maidu Summit Consortium, Chester, CA**

### Attendees

Peggy Fulder  
Ron Lunder  
Aaron Seandel  
Gina Johnston  
Bridie Johnston

Carl Felts  
Charlie Plopper  
Jacqui Cordova  
Moorea Stout  
Dov Weinman

### Approval of Agenda and Minutes from July:

The meeting was called to order just after 1:00pm. Bridie asked for a summary of the three objectives from the Lake Almanor Management Plan that were reviewed in the July meeting. The month was modified on July's minutes. Aaron made a motion to approve the corrected minutes; Carl seconded. No modifications were made to the agenda and it was approved.

### Financials:

Group members noted a discrepancy on the financials; after the meeting Dov followed up with Amy Hafsrud at Sierra Institute and they corrected the mistake. Updated financial information was provided to LAWG members the day after the meeting. Dov was asked to provide digital copies of financial information prior to each month's meeting.

### Member Updates:

Ron spoke with members about the headwaters of Goodrich Creek and the potential effects on water quality at Lake Almanor from unrestricted cattle. He shared drone photos from near Duck Lake as well as his correspondence with the Forest Service about their approach to unrestricted cattle grazing. He mentioned that the South Lassen Watersheds Group has supported the Goodrich Creek and Robbers Creek projects. In addition to these projects, he emphasized the importance of looking at the bigger picture when considering conservation easements that exclude cattle from creek areas. Ron will update LAWG members on the project's progression and suggested that group members write a letter of support. Aaron felt that LAWG could support this type of project due to its similar mission and goals.

Carl asked the group about an airplane that has recently been illegally landing on the lake. Group members plan to follow up with Sherrie Thrall.

Peggy shared that the Shoreline Gardens project is still pushing through.

Aaron mentioned receiving letters about PG&E helicopters inspecting telephone lines and wanted to make sure other members were also getting these letters.

Charlie mentioned they've distributed 1086 Water Trails Maps. They can now print nearly 1000 more, and 200 maps were recently rediscovered. He mentioned they've received drawings for the trails at Walker Lake and they are also moving toward final conceptual plans for the Collins Pine Rail Trail. There's potential for \$70,000 of funding for CEQA and other necessary processes; lawyers are currently discussing specific wording. He also shared that CalTrans is prepared to

develop the bike trail to connect to the current Lake Almanor Recreation Trail and integrate educational infrastructure.

Carl will be helping the Plumas Audubon Society with their grebe count on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Water Quality Monitoring:

Gina shared that the eastern basin is thermally stratified and that oxygen levels have dropped to typical July values. The data from Hamilton branch shows as much as six degrees drop in temperature (from springs feeding it) so it serves as an excellent cold-water refuge for fish. Gina also explained there were a lot of blue-green algae at LA2. Though not quite at bloom conditions, the wind blows algae into shorelines and there could be higher concentrations of blue-green algae than desired. Aaron asked how they might find out what's going in certain recreation areas or private locations where there is no access for sampling. Gina emphasized the difficulty in knowing reoccurring levels of blue-green algae are in those areas because algae tends to be a bit transient.

Aaron asked members if they'd received feedback from the algal bloom article published in the paper. He borrowed some elements from the State Waterboard and included quotations from Aaron to further inform residents and visitors. Aaron plans to provide the Lake Almanor Country Club with the same information to warn recreationists and swimmers in the shallow pool area at Rec 1. Group members suggested similar approaches to other recreation areas or boat launches.

Dov mentioned that John Crotty and the Almanor Fishing Association is supporting Keith Bouma-Gregson from the Freshwater Harmful Algal Bloom Program for the State Waterboards for a day of sampling on the lake on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Members asked Dov to resend the research link for the satellite data in order to read up on Keith's work around the state.

#### Advocate Program Process

Moorea gave group members new advocate updates. Aaron will get Moorea their phone numbers in order to thank them. Moorea asked group members to provide names and addresses of family, friends, or potential advocates; she will draft advocate letters in the names of board members.

#### Watershed and Woodlands Participation

On Friday August 30<sup>th</sup>, LAWG is all set to have a table at the Town Talk/Mixer at the museum in Chester from 5:00-7:00pm. The group will designate funds for materials so Jacqui can make a sign; she will provide her own easel. Moorea will provide ABWAC brochures and other booth materials while Charlie and Peggy will focus on maps and project information. Jacqui and Peggy will discuss options for bringing a table and everyone is responsible for their own chair.

Moorea also shared information about both the Wildfire on the Watershed and Sustainable Forestry Tour and asked group members for input on locations for promotional flyers in Chester.

#### LAWG Guidelines and Protocols Approval

Dov provided the updated LAWG Guidelines and Protocols for board members to review at their own convenience. The item will be included for approval in the next agenda.

Updating the Lake Management Plan Cont.

Charlie discussed objective 14 (health issues as a result of smoke accumulation from fire) in the Lake Management Plan and emphasized the increased importance of informing and educating community members and visitors. Aaron proposed that it may be necessary to prioritize items within the plan. Charlie will follow-up and distribute a one-page information sheet.

The next meeting is schedule for Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.