



Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting Wednesday, October 13th, 2021, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Attendees

Bella Bledsoe
Charlie Plopper
Jacquie Cordova
Kristina McBurney Maahs
Lorena Gorbet
Moorea Stout
Peggy Fulder
Susan Padilla

Approval of Agenda and September Minutes & General Announcements

There is a motion to approve the agenda and the September minutes; the agenda and minutes are approved.

Financials

Bella read the financial report that Bridie wrote because Bridie was unable to attend the meeting.

Income increased by \$2085.00, which was the receipt of the West Almanor Community Club annual donation. Expenses increased by \$290.72 - reflecting \$47.04 in travel miles, \$201.98 in a dissolved logger battery fix, and \$41.70 in a 2% administrative SI fee. The stated account balance is \$20,789.89. Allocated monies include \$1000.00 for the Maidu Plant Project, \$4040.00 for the 2021 water testing, and \$739.64 remaining for Sierra Institute coordination. This leaves a working account balance of \$15,010.25.

Member Updates and Announcements

Water Quality Monitoring

- Update on Request for Support from Cal OES: Bella will write to Gina to get an update on the letter because Gina could not attend the meeting.
- September Water Quality Monitoring/New Loggers: Bella updated the group on Virginia's behalf that all monitoring sites have been visited. The NFFR2 site (below the Almanor Dam) was visited on October 5th after PG&E granted access. PG&E is using the land above the river as a staging area. Virginia now has a contact person to coordinate with for future data grabs if they still have a security guard posted at the road entrance come November. The rest of the lake and stream sites were collected on September 22nd and 23rd, and the collection went smoothly.
- Our pH and EC calibration fluid have expired, and we should order more before data grabs in November. In addition, we are running low on DI water and should refill soon (though we have enough to get through November). Virginia found a [set of pH buffers/storage fluid online for \\$20.99](#) and is still looking for EC calibration fluid at the right price.
- Bella will follow up with Gina to ask where LAWG has previously sourced these materials and if there is a preference on brand or price range.
- The group made a motion to financially support the new equipment.

- Sierra Institute Staff: There is \$739.64 remaining for Sierra Institute coordination. Bella asked if this money can be used to support Virginia's water quality monitoring efforts in November. The group approved this.
- Kristina also asked if LAWG is willing to monitor over the winter, given the fire. Other LAWG members agree with Kristina that water quality monitoring should continue over the winter, if possible.
- Cultivating More Volunteers: Kristina added that local people are looking to help with post-fire work. She is happy to put out a call on the Chester/ Lake Almanor Information page.
- Susan is willing to learn how to do water quality monitoring. She is also willing to try and recruit new volunteers.
- Kristina is willing to help get new volunteers as well. Moorea and Bella will help get Kristina the info she needs to develop a post for the group. Moorea recommended creating a post on the Lake Almanor Watershed Facebook page and then having Kristina share the post on the page she facilitates.
- Bella added that Virginia could help train people on the November data collection run.
- Sharing our Results through Public Outreach: The group further discussed the importance of sharing water quality monitoring results with the public. This could be through Facebook posts or newsletters. Right now, no one knows that water quality monitoring is a community effort.
- Jacquie added that anything Kristina is willing to post is excellent.
- Kristina also added the importance of distilling the water quality monitoring reports into an article for newsletters. This article could be circulated by LAW, the Peninsula, and homeowners association groups. We could ask for funds and volunteers.
- Susan also mentioned the importance of including pictures in these announcements or articles. The group will try to get photos during November data collection.
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Notice of Funding: Charlie proposed doing water testing during the winter. He thinks that funding could allow the group to test the water for three or four years while also planting native plant barriers along the water's edge. We could test the water, put plants in, and then test afterward to show an improvement in water quality. The Feather River Land Trust (FRLT) has all the conservation easements around the lake. We could collaborate with the FRLT and use the money to grow plants in a nursery for planting. This work would also include the Maidu.
- Kristina asked if we had a simple map that shows the creeks and rivers that flow into Lake Almanor.
- Peggy said that the Water Trails Map shows many of the creeks that run into the lake.
- The group will think about how to make this kind of project work. Partners may include the Feather River Land Trust, Sierra Institute, MSC, and the Native Plant Society.
- The group will also explore what other funding outlets might be able to help with water quality monitoring, growing native plants, and planting native plant barriers along the lake.

Healing and Recovery Circle

- Peggy mentioned that she is in contact with Cal Fire, and specifically a person named Ryan Christensen. Cal Fire mentioned that they are willing to send a Forester or Public Information Officer to attend a community healing meeting. The meeting would focus on where we go from here and how we should best help each other. It would help residents focus on where to put their energy after the fire. Peggy is interested in helping to create a healing space focused on action. She asked if anyone in the group wanted to be involved.
- Jacquie commented that she might like to be included.

- Kristina added that our community is currently connected by tragedy or trauma. She suggested that a meeting with Cal Fire focused on Firesafe efforts may be separate from a meeting focused on trauma and healing.

Lake Almanor West Association

- Susan mentioned that LAW got recognition for Firesafe practices. LAW is willing to help teach others around the lake and basin some of the things they did to prepare their community. They are open to talking with other groups, neighborhoods, and communities about what worked for them.

MSC Update

- Lorena updated the group that Maidu lands got pretty burned. Their main focus right now is fire recovery and building capacity for cultural resource monitors. They are also working with the Forest Service on dozer line repair.
- Humbug Valley was completely burned through. On the south side of the Prattville parcel, there was a backburn operation. The Benner Creek area burned; Mud Creek did not burn too much. The only parcel that did not burn is on the East Shore. The Maidu are getting the deed to that parcel next month. It is the last parcel they need to get the deed to from PG&E.
- MSC has 300 oak tree seedlings ready to plant, but the ground is still too hot. They will try to get them into the ground this fall, so the oaks get the winter rain. The West Shore parcel burned all the way down to the water.
- Lorena also added that they cannot find a mill to take trees. Collins and SPI lost so much timber that they are not taking trees from anyone else's land. Collins lost over 50% of their timber to the fire.
- MSC is also pursuing funds for emergency fencing. Since the fencing was burned, cattle are getting into Big Springs and other sensitive water systems.
- Lorena mentioned that many Maidu families lost their homes. The Roundhouse Council building burned down, and so did the Greenville Rancheria.

Lake Almanor Watershed Management Plan

- Bella will bring hard copies of the Management Plans to MSC for everyone to pick up. She will let everyone know when they are ready.

Action Items:

- Bella will write to Gina to get an update on the Cal OES letter because Gina could not attend the meeting.
- Bella will follow up with Gina to ask where LAWG has previously sourced pH and EC calibration fluid and if there is a preference on brand or price range.
- Moorea and Bella will help get Kristina the info she needs to develop a post for the group about WQ monitoring.
- Charlie will do more research on the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Notice of Funding.
- Bella will bring hard copies of the Management Plans to MSC for everyone to pick up. She will let everyone know when they are ready.

Adjourn:

Next Meeting: November 10th