

Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting

Wednesday, December 8th, 2021, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Attendees

Bella Bledsoe
Bridie Johnston
Gina Johnston
Jacquie Cordova
Moorea Stout
Peggy Fulder
Susan Padilla
Tom Tisch

Approval of Agenda and November Minutes & General Announcements

There is a motion to approve the agenda and the November minutes. Bridie requested to add an update on the algal bloom in Lake Almanor to the agenda. The agenda and minutes are approved, as amended.

Financials (Bridie)

There have been no changes to the financials since the November meeting. There were no changes in income. The total balance is \$20,372.41. Allocated monies include \$1,000.00 for the Maidu Plant Project, \$4,040.00 for 2021 Water Quality Testing, and \$325.16 for Sierra Institute coordination. The working balance is \$15,007.25.

Member Updates and Announcements

Water Quality Monitoring

- Gina gave a short update on the algal bloom in Lake Almanor.
- Virginia and Phil went out to sample the Lake on November 8th. When they went to LA3, there was a bunch of algae. Gina got the samples from Phil on November 11th and saw significant algae in the samples.
- Shortly after, Gina went to Rec2, and she saw boats launching at Rec2. At least one of the boats she saw launching had a dog getting in the water. Once Gina looked at the sample, she found two types of blue-green algae. Gina contacted Scott McReynolds, Scott Devereux, and Susan Riney to let them know about the blue-green algal bloom that is going on, so they could inform the public.
- Gina said that dogs should not go into the water, or they should be rinsed off if they do. One of the blue-green algae in the sample produces toxins harmful to dogs. Gina wanted to get the word out to boat owners to keep their animals out of the water.
- Scott asked Gina to upload the information into the State's harmful algal bloom website.
- Gina told the group that the State has satellite imagery for lakes, and the State maps these harmful blooms. The State knew the bloom was taking place, but based on Gina's report, they sent people to the West Shore to do sampling. Unfortunately, the bloom was not on the West Shore, but rather it was being blown into the Peninsula, so the samples did not pick up anything.
- At that point, Gina contacted Karen Atkins, an environmental scientist with the harmful algal bloom program. Karen told Gina about a website where you can get daily pictures of a bloom. Gina has been using that website to track the bloom.

- Gina mentioned that blooms like this occur every fall. This bloom looks a bit bigger than last year, though. That may be due to the big rain that took place in October.
- Bella will circulate the State website that Gina has been using to track the bloom, as well as several links about harmful algal blooms.
- Susan mentioned that she is proud of all this work. She added that Gina should send this type of information to Sonja Anderson directly in the future. Sonja can post it at the mailboxes.
- Gina added that Scott Devereux put a homemade sign down at the boat ramp, recommending that people keep dogs out of the water.
- Susan will send Sonja's contact information to Gina.
- Gina said that she thinks the bloom will likely be gone by January.
- Tom told the group that he had heard about the algal bloom through the Lake Almanor Country Club (LACC). He figured the information came from Gina. But LACC made no mention that LAWG was the source of all this information.
- Tom suggested that Gina write a short article in the Plumas News to update the community.
- Gina will work on getting a short article out to Plumas News. Potentially Sierra Institute can also share this article on their social media.
- There is no new news on financial support from Cal OES or DWR.

Fundraising Meeting Update

- Bella gave a short DropBox tutorial to the group and told group members to contact her if they run into any issues getting into the DropBox folder.
- Bella told the group about Phil Datner's most recent article and graphs for the Plumas News and let everyone know that she would send it out after the meeting for them to review.
- Bella also mentioned that she is going through the LAWG page on the website to ensure it is up to date. If any group members have comments on the website language, please contact Bella with those requested modifications.
- Gina will work on updating the Water Quality Monitoring paragraph on the website.
- Tom asked if there is value in putting up a short paragraph about LAWG's involvement with the FERC relicensing process, and the group concluded that some language about that would be good.
- The group also decided that there is no need to create a Fundraising Subcommittee of LAWG. The group is already small enough.

FERC Relicensing Update

- Sherrie was not present to provide an update.

Lake Almanor West Association (Susan)

- Susan said there is nothing new to report.
- She would like to get on the LACC board meeting agenda sometime in the Spring. She thinks there is a chance getting on the agenda will help raise money for water quality monitoring.

MSC Update (Lorena)

- Lorena was not present to provide an update.

Others?

- Peggy mentioned a fact she had heard from Jonathan recently. Peggy relayed that Jonathan had been in discussion with DWR, and DWR has been watching the hydrograph and seeing it shift. Water flows are extended later into the year in the Feather River Watershed. Peggy described the importance of not looking at the outcomes from a single project because it is hard to see watershed-wide impacts. But

seeing a shift in the hydrograph shows that these watershed projects that have been happening over the last 20 years are making an impact.

- Moorea gave an update to the group. She is now the chair of the Housing Committee as part of the Dixie Fire collaborative.
- There is going to be a community meeting in Greenville next Thursday at 5:30 pm, focused on housing and the rebuild.

Lake Almanor Watershed Management Plan

- Peggy asked the group if they wanted to share any additional projects/priorities that they think are important for LAWG to prioritize.
- Bella highlighted a few that she thought were already in line with what the group is doing and could be expanded upon.
 - 1) Develop family-oriented educational outdoor activities.
 - 2) Host a booth and/or provide information about Lake Almanor, water quality, wildlife, forest restoration, and other relevant topics at community events, including games and educational items for children.
 - 3) Support the Almanor Basin Fire Safe Council and Firesafe Communities in advancing the Community Fire Plan and opportunities for partnership.
 - 4) Attend the meetings of other groups and agencies working locally on watershed issues to exchange information about projects and work and discuss partnership opportunities.
- Bridie added that Gina's efforts to write updates in the Plumas News is a form of outreach to the community that LAWG is expanding on.
- Peggy also described that LAWG has an important product; it is data. We just need to find ways to communicate this data to the public.

Action Items

- Bella will circulate the State website that Gina has been using to track the bloom, as well as several links about harmful algal blooms.
- Susan will send Sonja's contact information to Gina.
- Gina will work on getting a short article out to Plumas News. Sierra Institute can also share this article on their social media once it has been published.
- Bella will send Phil Datner's most recent article and graphs for the Plumas News to the group for their review.
- Gina will work on updating the Water Quality Monitoring paragraph on the website.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: January 12th