



Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting Wednesday, February 9th, 2021, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Attendees

Bella Bledsoe
Bridie Johnston
Charlie Plopper
Gina Johnston
Jacie Cordova
Kevin Trutna

Moorea Stout
Peggy Fulder
Sherrie Thrall
Susan Padilla
Tom Tisch

Approval of Agenda and January Minutes

There is a motion to approve the agenda and the January minutes. The agenda and minutes are approved.

LAWG members did introductions for Kevin Trutna, the President of Feather River College, who joined the meeting for the first time.

Financials

The total balance is \$22,488.07. There were two recent donations to LAWG, a \$10 and a \$50 donation. These came from the most recent social media post that the group developed. There was a 2% admin fee on those donations, bringing the total addition to \$57.66. Allocated monies include \$1,000.00 for the Maidu Plant Project, \$4,040.00 for Water Quality Testing, and \$325.16 for Sierra Institute coordination. There were no changes in expenses. The working balance is \$17,122.91.

Member Updates and Announcements

Water Quality Monitoring

- Gina asked group members if anyone had corrections or suggestions for the 2021 Water Quality Report. She hopes to collect any final feedback so she can finalize the report and get it on the Sierra Institute website.
- Bella will get hard copies of the report out in the mail; the group wants to send hard copies to LACC, Lake Almanor West, the Almanor Foundation, the Almanor Fishing Association, Foxwood, Bailey Creek, and maybe the local library.
- The group also wondered about writing a summary or article about the report for the Chester Progressive, Plumas News, and the Town Chatter. Gina said she would work on an article highlighting why this program is so important.
- Bridie thanked Gina for the approachable report. The report is readable for a diverse audience, not just scientists. Gina said she included pictures of algae and zooplankton in the Appendix to make the report more approachable.
- Sherrie said that Plumas County is currently not doing any water testing in Lake Almanor. Part of the settlement agreement for 2105 calls for Plumas County and PG&E to contribute \$20k per year each to water quality testing in the area. That is one reason the settlement could be so beneficial. The state of California is starting to take an interest in toxic algae in state reservoirs and lakes.

- Gina mentioned that this interest in toxic algae by the State is part of the reason LAWG registered the most recent harmful algal bloom. Now the State has our information.
- Bella mentioned a recent article that she sent out to the group from Scott, about the importance of local organizations and tribes performing water quality monitoring and testing. DWR cannot monitor every lake or reservoir, and the article described that DWR relies on citizen monitoring to some degree.
- Gina said she would make sure Scott has a copy of the 2021 report; perhaps DWR will be able to develop funding for LAWG's monitoring program in the future.
- The group then discussed the new LAWG computer and voted to purchase HOBOWare, a case, and the spill warranty.
- Bella asked Kevin if any students at FRC may be interested in monitoring. Kevin suggested reaching out to Dana Flett, the Environmental Studies faculty and department coordinator, and Carolyn Shipp, who oversees internships at FRC.

Become A Coalition Member on the LACC Motion?

- The group agreed that they would like to become a coalition member on the LACC motion; LAWG wants to continue to be a good partner to the Country Club. Bella will send Jeffrey Janus LAWG's logo and a description of LAWG.

Plumas County Planning & Building Services: Tracey Ferguson

- Bella informed the group that Tracey Ferguson, the Plumas County Planning Director, is interested in speaking with the group.
- Sherrie said that Tracey might want to talk with the group about the relicensing of Cresta Dam; as part of that relicensing, there are a few issues that could impact Lake Almanor. Tracey may want to talk to LAWG about some of those issues. Sherrie thinks one of those issues may be a proposed oxygenation system that impacts the Lake's viewshed, the traffic, and/or air quality.
- Bella will try to coordinate with Tracey to talk to the group during the March meeting.

Fundraising/Donations

- The group discussed the yearly LACC donation. LACC did not donate in 2020. Aaron Seandel and Moorea both worked hard to convince them to donate. However, LACC felt there were other priorities they needed to spend the money on, so the Board did not donate in 2020.
- LACC collects a certain fee from homeowners each year. However, this fee goes directly to the Country Club, and the Club decides where to donate that money. Fees per lot do not go directly to specific causes. Susan added that Lake Almanor West also manages their homeowner's dues that way. However, that is why she has Moorea or others speak to the Board about the water quality monitoring program. That helps cement Lake Almanor West's donation to LAWG.
- Tom will think about approaching LACC about continuing/ increasing their donation to LAWG.
- Bella asked LAWG to review their page on the Sierra Institute website; she thinks there are some needed language changes, especially regarding water quality monitoring.
- Bella will also send out Thank You cards to the two recent donors to LAWG--Karen Grimmer and Karly Drake Lusby.

Lake Almanor West Association (Susan)

- Susan does not have anything new to report.

Maidu Summit Consortium (Lorena)

- Lorena is not present to provide an update.

Almanor Foundation (Moorea)

- Moorea updated LAWG that there was \$100k donated to the Foundation's Wildfire Relief Fund by Collins Pine. The Tahoe Truckee Foundation also donated \$40k.



- The Almanor Foundation is also receiving its 501c3 status.
- The Almanor Foundation will be transitioning away from emergency response to working on addressing more long-term needs. A lot of this work is done through the Funders Roundtable, which includes many of the big donors for the area, including Common Good, Sierra Institute, Plumas Bank, the North Valley Community Foundation, and United Way. The Funders Roundtable eliminates competition or duplicating efforts.
- Charlie provided an update on a recent grant ARPD submitted to do environmental analysis between the Chester airport and the Lake. The proposal would help clean that area up and begin developing a design to make it into a park that provides access to the Lake.

Action Items

- Bella will get hard copies of the WQ report out in the mail.
- Gina will write an article summarizing the 2021 WQ report.
- Gina said she would make sure Scott has a copy of the 2021 report.
- Bella will send Jeffrey Janus LAWG's logo and a description of LAWG.
- Bella will send out Thank You cards to the two recent donors to LAWG--Karen Grimmer and Karly Drake Lusby.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: March 9th