

Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting
Wednesday, January 12th, 2022, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Attendees

Bella Bledsoe
Brian Meiers
Bridie Johnston
Charlie Plopper
Gina Johnston
Jacqie Cordova

Mary Davidge
Moorea Stout
Peggy Fulder
Phil Datner
Susan Padilla
Tom Tisch

Approval of Agenda and December Minutes

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

Financials

The total balance is \$22,430.41. There were two recent donations to LAWG, a \$2,000 and \$100 donation. There was a 2% admin fee on those donations. 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. The working balance is \$17,065.25.

In the future, Bella will also send the financials report to Charlie, and any other LAWG member who would like a copy.

Member Updates and Announcements

LACC Meeting Concerning FERC Relicensing

- Peggy and Gina provided the group with an update about the LACC meeting focused on FERC relicensing.
- LACC has contacted an attorney, Sharon White. During the LACC meeting, Sharon gave an overview of the FERC relicensing issue and a background on the current Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals case.
- LACC plans to hire Sharon to write a letter to FERC. Various other parties on the call planned to join forces with LACC and be cosigners on the letter. These parties also agreed to share some of the financial responsibility (a total of \$15,000) of hiring Sharon. LAWG opted out of contributing funds, mostly because LAWG has already written letters to FERC and the group does not have much to give financially.
- Gina and Peggy also learned that the timeline for the FERC relicensing process is long; it might not be until the end of 2022, or even later, before FERC reaches a relicensing decision.

Water Quality Monitoring

- Bella brought up the computer LAWG is hoping to buy for water quality monitoring.

- The group does not want to buy the cheapest computer and wants to ensure the new computer has plenty of storage, so it is adequate for years to come.
- The group votes to purchase a computer that both Gina and Virginia deem workable for water quality monitoring needs.
- Bella will follow up with Gina and Virginia on another round of computer options.
- The group also discussed expanding water quality monitoring to new locations, such as Butt Lake or Mountain Meadows Reservoir.
- Phil is concerned about adding more monitoring, given that LAWG has such a small crew of people to do the sampling. Gina is also not sure what would be accomplished by adding more sites. Gina feels like if LAWG expands monitoring efforts, it should be in Lake Almanor. LAWG is barely doing an adequate job right now. Butt Lake would be hard to get a boat into and to get volunteers out to.
- Tom added that he understood; he just wanted to raise the subject with the group.
- Gina added that it is conceivable to come up with something for Mountain Meadows Reservoir, especially given that boating is allowed there. She thinks LAWG could train volunteers to do Secchi disc readings, that measure water transparency. LAWG could help residents in that area build their own program by involving the community in making simple measurements, especially during the summer.
- Susan likes the idea and thinks LAWG should put together a little outline or timeline to try and get this effort started. In early spring, LAWG could do an exploratory training session with volunteers.

Fundraising Meeting Update

- Bella asked LAWG to review the website language and ensure it is accurate, current, and fits their needs. The LAWG website URL is: <https://sierrainstitute.us/program/lake-almanor-watershed-group/>
- Bella also thanked the group for providing input on the Social Media post she drafted. She plans to post it to Facebook on the 13th.

Lake Almanor West Association (Susan)

- Susan does not have any updates from the Lake Almanor West Association.

Maidu Summit Consortium (Lorena)

- Lorena was not present at the meeting.

Almanor Recreation and Park District (Charlie)

- Charlie updated the group that the Almanor Recreation and Park District (ARPD) is bringing in money to expand year-round recreation. ARPD found funding for a trail along the rest of highway 89, and Collins Pine is donating the entire rail line to the public. ARPD is also particularly interested in hiring local contractors to help build out recreation, which will help the economy.
- ARPD also sponsors youth programs, including athletics like soccer and Little League. They are also bringing annual events back, like biking, races, and river cleanups.

- ARPD has two board of director positions available right now, and Charlie is working on promoting board members to help ARPD. It is a lot of work, but ARPD's work is important for the community. Charlie asked LAWG members to help spread the word.

Almanor Foundation (Moorea)

- Moorea updated the group that the Almanor Foundation is still grantmaking for wildfire relief efforts. However, they are moving away from immediate relief efforts. Immediate relief efforts are still a priority; for example, firewood and heating sources are a particular challenge. Yet, the Almanor Foundation is moving towards long-term recovery efforts, such as internet, housing, reconstruction, and economic development.
- A town hall meeting is coming up next Monday (the 17th), co-hosted by the Chamber. The focus of the meeting is the town plaza. Right now, the Almanor Foundation is focusing on realistic goals, and Moorea currently thinks those will be developing the town plaza and making broadband internet widely accessible. She thinks both of those improvements could be catalysts for future opportunities.

Other Partner Updates

- Mary Davidge added that Warner Valley residents are working on creating a community group, similar to LAWG, called Friends of Warner Valley (FOWV). She is particularly interested in thinking about how to make towns and communities more fire resilient. Friends of Warner Valley will be thinking about how they bring back communities and how to manage the land and watershed differently.
- FOWV is trying to figure out what to advocate for now. There are so many options: water quality, what to do with dead timber, etc. FOWV is working on planning and trying to build community with neighbors and find the best way forward.
- Moorea also mentioned the Plumas Underburn Co-op. The co-op helps private landowners with prescribed burning. Moorea said that she is personally hoping to do prescribed burning on her property.
- Many of the co-op participants are retired from the Forest Service or Cal Fire. There are classes you can take through the co-op. It takes a lot of bodies to safely do underburning on private land. Moorea explained that she cannot pay eight people to come and burn her property. The co-op offers a way for neighbors and landowners to help one another. Maybe a few co-op members will come to her property this week, and therefore she will help them out the next week. There are a lot of benefits of the co-op, and it provides expertise, equipment, and safety.

2022 LAWG Goals

- LAWG discussed trying to incorporate wildfire planning and recovery into the group; specifically by attending meetings with local Firewise Committees or fire-focused community groups.

Action Items

- Bella will follow up with Gina and Virginia on another round of computer options.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: February 9th