



Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting **Wednesday, April 13th, 2022, 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

Attendees

Bella Bledsoe
Bridie Johnston
Charlie Plopper
Gina Johnston
Jacquie Cordova
Moorea Stout

Peggy Fulder
Phil Datner
Susan Padilla
Tom Tisch
Virginia Pritchard

Approval of Agenda and March Minutes

There is a motion to approve the agenda and the March minutes. The agenda is approved. Bridie requests a change to the March minutes; water quality monitoring that the Plumas County Environmental Health Department previously did was paid for by the Citizen Committee. Bridie also asked for Gina's exact 2022 water quality monitoring proposal dollar amount (\$4,025) to be recorded in the minutes. The minutes are approved, with the suggested modifications.

Financials

The total balance is \$17,741.56. There were no changes in income. Expenses were up because LAWG purchased a computer warranty (\$127.05) and computer case (\$76.09). Allocated monies still include \$1,000.00 for the Maidu Plant Project, \$4025 for Gina's 2022 water quality work, and \$278.76 for Sierra Institute coordination. The working balance is \$12,427.8. If LAWG chooses to accept Sierra Institute's proposal and fund Virginia's staff time (\$4,076.80) for 2022 water quality monitoring fieldwork, the projected working balance will be \$8,361.

Member Updates and Announcements

Almanor Foundation

- The Almanor Foundation got an additional \$150k from Collins Pine for the Wildfire Recovery Fund.
- The Phase Zero Planning Project has been a huge success. The Phase Zero Planning Project for Greenville was initiated, and they had an on-sight visit. The site visit included walking tours, speakers, mini-meetings, and much more. Post-fire planning is usually funded through emergency services, such as FEMA. In this case, the Funders Roundtable paid for the Phase Zero Planning Project so the community could get started visioning their future as quickly as possible. Further, the county was previously struggling to understand its role in the recovery process, and the Phase Zero effort was also designed to help with that.
- The Dixie Fire Collaborative has been trying to work with the county since September, and it has been a challenge. The county is at very low capacity. They are wildly understaffed and have close to 40 positions open. Everyone is working hard, but there is a huge capacity gap. However, the county is trying to coordinate better, and Moorea is really pleased with the progress.
- The Almanor Foundation is also partnering with the Maidu Summit Consortium to apply for a Vibrant Tourism Grant through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

- The PGE settlement will likely affect things going forward as well. There are a lot of questions about how the settlement money will affect real people and real situations. The DA is speaking this Saturday at the Greenville Community Meeting to help clarify this.
- Moorea also added that LAWG should consider reaching out to the County about funding the water quality monitoring program. The county had a pot of money devoted to the pandemic, that is going to be repurposed. This might allow for a funding option for LAWG.

Water Quality Monitoring

- The group voted that Sierra Institute can make bulk purchases for water quality monitoring supplies without LAWG needing to vote, under \$150. When this happens, Sierra Institute will provide LAWG with an itemized report at the next meeting to explain the purchases.
- Susan reiterated the importance of having long-term funding for water quality monitoring. Bridie commented that if 2105 goes through, there will be about \$20k from PG&E devoted to water quality monitoring and another \$20k from Plumas County. That would help the work greatly.
- Tom Tisch is working on cultivating more support from LACC. Susan wants to ensure we keep WACC engaged and supporting the water quality monitoring program. Given that we are losing Sherrie Thrall, LAWG members also hope to network with the new candidates and talk to them about the health of the lake.
- The group agreed to accept Sierra Institute's proposal to fund field staff time to help with water quality monitoring (\$4,076.80).
- The group also discussed harmful algal blooms, and how to provide public information about blooms, if they should arise.
- LAWG wants to develop a protocol for what to do if a bloom happens. Who should the group tell?
- Tom mentioned that the County Health Department could be a good avenue. They have systems to get information out quickly when needed.
- Charlie mentioned that in the past when the Health Department has circulated information about a hazard to the public, they have asked for a blurb about the toxicity and specifically who is at risk, and then they distributed that information to everyone. The write-up they need is rather detailed, describing the toxicity.
- Jacquie asked if getting information out about blooms could be controversial and might send the message to folks not to come here, ultimately harming tourism.
- Gina answered that blooms are going to be happening everywhere. We need to be clear and make people aware, and they will still come to enjoy the area.
- Phil also articulated that there is a difference between a bloom and a harmful algal bloom. We have to measure to know if the bloom is harmful or not.

Phil's LAWG Membership

- Phil is officially becoming a LAWG member.
- He wants to do April monitoring during the last week of April. Susan and Peggy are interested in joining the lake monitoring trip and learning more about the monitoring effort.

Fundraising/Donations

- Tom developed a budget for LACC. He is going to continue moving ahead and trying to talk to Kristy Cox and get together with her. Tom is going to try and bring Kristy along and ask her to help LAWG make the case to the LACC board. The board budget guidance meeting is in June; Tom is hoping to put an item forward to be part of their standard budget.

Great Sierra River Cleanup

- LAWG is going to participate in the Great Sierra River Cleanup in September. Bella asked where the group wants to host the clean-up, and how LAWG wants to do outreach.
- Jacquie said she is willing to hang posters and wants to participate.
- LAWG members suggested the Olson Barn area as an idea for a spot to clean up.

Supervisor's Report

- Sherrie is not present to provide an update.

Lake Almanor West Association

- Susan is going to get a copy of the board meeting calendar and then contact Bella. Bella is going to check with Jonathan about speaking to the WACC board at the upcoming meeting.

Maidu Summit Consortium

- Lorena is not present to provide an update.

Action Items

- Susan is going to get a copy of the WACC board meeting calendar and then contact Bella. Bella is going to check with Jonathan about speaking to the WACC board at the upcoming meeting.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: May 11th