

**Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 8th, 2022, 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**Attendees**

Bella Bledsoe  
Bridie Johnston  
Charlie Plopper  
Gina Johnston

Lorena Gorbet  
Peggy Fulder  
Phil Datner  
Susan Padilla

**Approval of Agenda and May Minutes**

Gina requested that Bella add April sampling results to the agenda under the water quality monitoring section. Additionally, there is a slight typo in the May minutes; “2105” was incorrectly entered and needs to be fixed. Both the agenda and the minutes are approved, with the suggested modifications.

**Financials**

There were no changes in income for May. May expenses totaled \$296.80; this included \$42.22 for salaries/benefits and \$254.58 in water quality monitoring supplies. The stated balance is \$17,052.21. Allocated monies still include \$1,000.00 for the Maidu Plant Project, \$4025 for Gina’s 2022 water quality work, and \$3,642.03 remaining for Sierra Institute field staff. The working balance is \$8,385.18.

**Member Updates and Announcements**

**FERC Relicensing**

- LAWG members did not have any new information to share on the California v. FERC case challenging FERC’s 401 waiver determinations in the Yuba, NID, and Merced relicensing. Oral arguments happened on May 12th in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.
- Phil will follow up with Jeffrey Janus to get an update on the verdict of this case.

**Water Quality Monitoring**

- The group discussed the April water quality monitoring results. Gina mentioned that the oxygen data for April was inaccurate and not usable. She wonders if the oxygen probe had not been properly calibrated in preparation for sampling. Gina followed up with Virginia to ask via email but has not heard back from Virginia yet.
- Bella will talk to Virginia and follow up with Gina and other LAWG members.
- Gina mentioned that calibrating the oxygen probe can take hours and be tricky. If it had not been calibrated since November, it is possible that a bubble developed inside the chamber. This could throw all the readings off. Gina mentioned that if Virginia did not know how to calibrate the probe, there were probably information videos online or written instructions.
- Gina also discussed the Dixie Fire Water Quality Monitoring results (September through March), produced by the Central Valley Water Board. Those results showed a lot of soil erosion, resulting in high bacterial counts. Gina mentioned that some of the other elements of soil, such as aluminum and iron, were also high. That is all to be expected when there is more soil in the waterways.

**Tracey Ferguson Check-In: Recent Meeting**

- Bella, Peggy, and Phil met with three people, Chris Schuts and David Steindorf, and Tracey Ferguson, the Plumas County Planning Director. Chris represented salmonid restoration efforts and Dave

represented outdoor recreation/white water rafting. Chris is the director of a sportfishing organization. David is a director with American Whitewater.

- Chris and David did not mention more water release from Lake Almanor during the meeting.
- Chris and David shared water temperature data from the Rock Creek/Cresta area with Phil. Phil said this is PG&E data, and he is not totally sure if it is public data. However, after looking at the data, Phil said that there had been many days that were too warm for trout in Rock Creek/Cresta stretch of the river.
- Bella, Peggy, and Phil mentioned that this meeting was just an introduction to LAWG. Chris and David were interested in learning more about what LAWG does and cares about.
- Chris and David also started a brief conversation about an oxygenation facility and shared that they are interested in learning whether an oxygenation facility could help the Lake.
- Lorena mentioned attending a meeting about the Rock Creek/ Cresta area back in the 90s. The meeting was about the settlement agreement, which required that the temperature be lower in that stretch of the river. Lorena mentioned that in-stream modifications are very important, such as planting vegetation (Cottonwoods) to keep the river shaded. However, Lorena added it was never a cold water river. Fish used to be able to go up the tributaries to get to the cold water, but the fish did not used to stay in the river during the summer. The tributaries have been affected by roads and railroads now.
- Gina said an oxygenation facility would allow them to make a case to release more cold water from the Lake. She agrees with Lorena that in-stream modifications are critical and that if they have a lot of money to spend, it should be on stream restoration projects. If they have so much money, they should be doing in-stream restoration.
- Phil mentioned that he made a few graphs with the PG&E temperature data. He was interested in looking at how many days the river was over 20 degrees Celsius; Phil mentioned there was one year when there were over 90 days when the river was over 20 degrees. Currently, PG&E keeps this temperature data close to its chest, but if Phil learns that this data is public and can share it, he will.
- Ultimately, Chris and David did not want anything from LAWG; they were just letting LAWG know they are looking into an oxygenation system.

### **Fundraising/Donations**

- Susan mentioned that the WACC board meeting is coming up on June 23rd. She has a nice write-up about Jonathan, and she said any LAWG members are welcome to come.

### **Great Sierra River Cleanup**

- The river clean-up event is scheduled for Saturday, September 17th. The group agreed to meet at Westwood Visitors Center, at 3rd and Ash Street. It is the building by the railroad tracks in Westwood.

### **Supervisor's Report**

- Sherrie is not present.

### **Lake Almanor West Association**

- Susan has nothing additional to share.

### **Maidu Summit Consortium**

- Lorena has nothing to report, given that she could not attend the last MSC board meeting.

### **Almanor Foundation**

- Moorea is not present.

### **Others?**

- Charlie reported that things are progressing nicely with recreation trails in the Chester/Almanor area. A few funding opportunities are in the works, and things are looking positive for those opportunities. He should know more soon.

**Action Items**

- Phil will follow up with Jeffrey Janus to get an update on the verdict of the California v. FERC case challenging FERC's 401 waiver determinations in the Yuba, NID, and Merced relicensing.
- Bella will talk to Virginia about the oxygen probe and figure out if she needs help calibrating it.

**Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** July 13th