



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

Attendees

Bella Bledsoe	Lorena Gorbet
Charlie Plopper	Peggy Fulder
Gina Johnston	Phil Datner
Jacque Cordova	Susan Padilla
Kristina McBurney Maahs	Tom Tisch

Approval of Agenda and June Minutes

The group approved both the agenda and the June minutes.

Financials

There were no changes in income for June. June expenses totaled \$505.77; this included \$321.19 for salaries/benefits and \$80.44 for computer parts. The stated balance is \$16,546.44. 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 \$7,879.41.

Member Updates and Announcements

Water Quality Monitoring

- July Monitoring Updates: The lake sampling day is scheduled for Tuesday, July 19th.
- Equipment Updates: Phil said he thinks the oxygen probe is ok now. Virginia brought the probe up to him, and he played with it a bit. Virginia replaced the membranes in the probe. Phil took some readings, including in a controlled water bath. Phil believes the probes are working. Phil said he will make sure to calibrate the probe next time, but he thinks the readings are accurate now. The software calibration helped, and Virginia did a good job on the membrane replacement.
- Susan asked if these equipment maintenance needs are written down anywhere.
- Phil said that he went to the Sierra Institute website, and sure enough, Kevin had mentioned the needed equipment maintenance in his manual from last year.
- Gina mentioned that it takes some time to get it right. It helps to have a bit of training. Because we do this every few months and then have six months off, things get lost. It is not unusual to have little blips.
- HABs testing in Lake Almanor: Gina mentioned that the State Water Board is doing regular testing in the Lake three times a year--around Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. They are sending Gina their results. The results before Memorial Day and Independence Day show nondetectable levels for toxins and blue green algae. The Water Board is also posting the results online. This early in the season, and there is usually not any toxic algae.
- Phil said he looks at the State's satellite imagery. Phil said that maybe if a bloom comes up, the State will come to test the bloom. LAWG can put warning signs up if we see something in the imagery.
- Virginia's Announcement: Virginia is taking a job in Oregon and moving closer to her family. Che, a new Sierra Institute apprentice, will take on the water quality monitoring for SI.
- Jacque mentioned that she went to a Feather River Land Trust fundraising event. A few people showed interest in participating in our work. The FRLT has a similar mission.

- Tom added that the Land Trust is not responsible for dealing with water quality in any way. That said, the Land Trust's interests are to ensure resources are preserved, and the watershed is protected and preserved. There is clear alignment between what we are doing, but they are not at all engaged in the details of water quality.

Fundraising/Donations

- WACC Board Meeting: Jonathan came and spoke to the WACC board. The WACC board remains committed to supporting LAWG, and Susan thinks we should continue trying to get others to support LAWG, like LACC and Prattville. Bella will send the 2021 water quality monitoring report to Sonja as a follow-up item. WACC contributed to the FERC lawsuit work, so they are a bit short on money, but they are still willing to donate to WQ monitoring.
- Tom updated the group that Kristy Cox is no longer the chair at LACC. Doug Coffman is the new president. Tom hopes to follow up with Doug and talk to him about WQ monitoring.
- The group briefly discussed promotional materials. Bella will draft a 2-pager about LAWG that can be used as a handout at events and board meetings.

Great Sierra River Cleanup

- [Registration Form](#)
- Kristina mentioned that we should add some more language to the registration form, specifically talking about what folks need to bring to the clean-up and a bit more detail about what the event looks like.
- Kristina also mentioned she is interested in hosting an additional clean-up site in Chester.

Grebe Festival: August 6th

- The Grebe Festival is from 9 am - 3 pm on the 6th. Folks are going to go out in kayaks and look at the breeding sites. The Festival is also an opportunity for organizations in the basin to provide information about their work. Charlie hopes to bring some information about LAWG to the gathering. This is a good opportunity to educate folks. The event is at Olsen Barn.

Supervisor's Report (Sherrie)

- Sherrie was not present.

Maidu Summit Consortium (Lorena)

- At the last MSC Board Meeting, the board approved 650 acres that need timber removal. MSC is raising funds to do the restoration and timber removal. The meadow in Humbug is doing well; the analog dams all held during the fire and made the meadow marshy. MSC is hoping to give some of the timber that needs to be removed to mills. If they cannot take timber to the mills, they are looking at other biomass utilization options, like firewood or posts. They are sure they will have no problem getting rid of the Cedar and Doug Fir, but they have so much Pine.
- MSC plans to host a gathering in Humbug Valley, on August 27th, as a celebration of finally getting all the deeds.

Others?

- Moorea is no longer working with the Almanor Foundation.
- Charlie asked LAWG to submit a letter of support for a planning grant to SNC for trails and recreation. The group approved a motion to submit a letter of support.

Action Items

- Bella will send the 2021 water quality monitoring report to Sonja.
- Bella will draft an informational 2-pager for LAWG.



- Bella will add some language and more detail to the Great Sierra River Clean Up registration form.
- Bella will help LAWG put together a letter of support for Charlie's SNC recreation proposal.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: August 10th