

**Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 11th, 2022, 1:00 - 2:30 pm**

**Attendees**

Bella Bledsoe  
Bridie Johnston  
Charlie Plopper  
Gina Johnston  
Jacquie Cordova

Peggy Fulder  
Phil Datner  
Sherrie Thrall  
Susan Padilla  
Tom Tisch

**Approval of Agenda and April Minutes**

There is a motion to approve the agenda and the April minutes. The agenda is accepted, with an added update from Charlie Plopper on the PG&E meeting he attended. A LAWG member highlighted an error in the April minutes; there was a comment about 2105 that Bridie made, not Gina. The minutes are approved, with the suggested modification.

**Financials**

Amy was unable to provide updated financials this month due to a family emergency. Therefore, a more comprehensive update will be provided in June. However, Bride was able to report that there were no changes in income. Expenses were up by \$392.55 for Salary & Benefits because LAWG paid for Virginia's staff time to do April water quality monitoring.

**Member Updates and Announcements**

**FERC: Motion to Intervene**

- The Motion to Intervene was accepted. Sherrie explained that if FERC moves forward with 2105, then LACC and other groups are in a position to intervene.
- Bridie added that there are three other groups that are running into similar conditions and problems with their FERC relicensing process. If those three groups win against the state, our area will have a similar type of situation. Our region could benefit if those other trials win; those cases are supposed to be heard tomorrow (May 12th).

**Water Quality Monitoring**

- Peggy and Susan joined Phil and Virginia for April water quality monitoring on the lake. Peggy joined Virginia on the stream sampling trip also. Susan really appreciated going out and learning more about what LAWG does and what water quality monitoring actually looks like in the field. Phil was really pleased that Susan and Peggy joined as well.
- Virginia provided a written update to the group that Bella read off. "The first sampling session for the 2022 water quality monitoring season is complete. Special thanks go out to Peggy, Susan, Phil, and Captain Rob for their help in collecting data. All measurements went smoothly except for one readout error and one logger stuck under stream bed substrate. Hopefully, that logger can be freed when flows are lower, and it is not snowing. The computer purchased by LAWG was immensely helpful in calibrating, reading out, and launching the DO loggers stationed in the lake. I am excited we will be able to include this information once again in the annual report. As a heads-up, I will have to purchase more pH calibration fluid before the next sampling run, and will inform the group if it exceeds \$150.

Thank you for the help this past run and I hope to see more LAWG members on the boat or streamside in July!”

### **Chat with Tracey Ferguson: Planning Director**

- Sherrie said that the Ecological Resources Committee (ERC) is looking at mitigation efforts that could help protect the Rock Creek-Cresta area. Water release from Lake Almanor is one of those strategies. However, Plumas County does not want more water to be released from the lake, while many paddlers and sport fishers want to see the County support water release. The ERC is suggesting an oxygenation facility to help mitigate some of the issues that could come with more water from Lake Almanor. The goal would be to increase the layer of water that has appropriate oxygenation, allowing for more cold water release from the Lake, and possibly mitigate the impact to fish in the lake.
- Sherrie is very opposed to this idea, and an oxygenation facility would require an environmental impact report. She thinks the facility could have many other adverse effects, and may not even fix the main issues. The group thinks that Lake Almanor should not be impacted or possibly ruined to deal with issues downstream.
- Gina feels the side effects of oxygenation facilities have not been properly explored.
- Tom is reluctant to have LAWG begin engaging in conversations about oxygenation facilities. He thinks we should let the litigation play out and not let ourselves get drawn into a discussion at this time. Beginning discussion about the oxygenation facility implies we are already thinking about how to accommodate downstream needs. LAWG is reluctant to enter into arguments or negotiations.

### **Dixie Fire Water Quality Monitoring Results**

- From the March Dixie Fire Water Quality Monitoring results, produced by the Central Valley Water Board, things are looking good. However, Gina does not know how much these results tell us, given that the Dixie Fire happened so long ago. We have already had our main rain and snow events, and we had a mostly dry January and February. It is not surprising that no negative results were picked up in the March sampling. The question is to find out whether the Central Valley Water Board did this type of sampling for the fall and early winter months.
- Gina thinks that the snow is melting much faster than usual right now. There are no trees to shade the ground, so the snow that is falling is melting much faster and running into the lakes and streams more quickly. Gina noted that our electrical conductivity is higher, in recent monitoring. We are picking up higher amounts of dissolved salts, coming from the streams feeding into the lake. She cannot tell what exactly is dissolved because we are not doing chemical analysis, but there is extra run off because the soil is not as stable.

### **Mountain Meadows Project**

- Friends of Mountain Meadows meets four times per year. There is currently a negotiation with a buyer taking place, for the Mountain Meadows Reservoir area. The Feather River Land Trust currently holds the easement.
- They want to continue public access and duck hunting in the area. No subdivisions will be allowed, but they are not sure if the new buyers will want to run the hydro facility.
- The Mountain Meadows Conservancy is applying for grant a from SNC to build a hiking trail at the north shore of the Mountain Meadows Reservoir.
- The facilities should be updated some time this summer, with a new toilet, new benches, picnic areas, a trail, and informational signs. The signs will discuss the role of the State Water Project and will discuss the Maidu.

### **Fundraising/Donations**

- Jonathan has agreed to speak at the WACC Board Meeting on June 23rd.
- Tom provided an update on LACC. Tom wrote to Kristy Cox to talk. Kristy forwarded his request along to Scott Deverox, and Tom has not heard from Scott yet.

### **Great Sierra River Cleanup**

- LAWG is going to keep looking out for the right spot to do the clean-up.

### **Supervisor's Report**

- Both Sherrie and Charlie Plopper attended the yearly meeting with PG&E hydro folks. Lake Almanor is in better shape than last year, but we are still in a critically dry condition. Bucks Lake is actually in a good position. PG&E is not going to remove water until the end of the season, so we are going to have a fair amount of water in the lake until August or September.
- Sherrie shared that there was no discussion of holding off on water removal for Grebes breeding.

### **Lake Almanor West Association**

- Jonathan has agreed to speak at the WACC Board Meeting on June 23rd.

### **Maidu Summit Consortium**

- No one was present from MSC.

### **Almanor Foundation**

- No one was present from the Almanor Foundation.

### **Adjourn**

Next Meeting: June 8th