



Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting
Wednesday, August 10th, 2022, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Attendees

Bella Bledsoe
Bridie Johnston
Gina Johnston
Jacquie Cordova

Lorena Gorbet
Phil Datner
Susan Padilla
Tom Tisch

Approval of Agenda and July Minutes

The group approved both the agenda and the July minutes.

Financials

There was a \$135 donation from a LAWG member and a donation of \$2,085.00 from the West Almanor Community Club - totaling \$2,220.00. July expenses totaled \$467.81; this included \$420.91 for salaries/benefits and \$46.90 for equipment/materials. The stated balance is \$18,256.93. Allocated monies still include \$1,000.00 for the Maidu Plant Project, \$4025 for Gina's 2022 water quality work, and +/- \$3,225.00 remaining for Sierra Institute field staff. The working balance is \$10,006.93.

Member Updates and Announcements

FERC: Jeffrey Janus's Email

- The results of the similar FERC lawsuits described in Jeffrey Janus's recent email were not what LAWG was hoping for. If the similar lawsuits had gone favorably, we could have tagged along with their lawsuit philosophy. However, the judge threw out the suit, and the State still has jurisdiction. If the ruling had gone the other way, it might have been a slam dunk for our issue, but now the outcome remains up in the air.
- Tom said that LAWG should follow Jeffrey's lead. FERC cannot ignore the State Water Board, but they are not obligated to follow the Water Board's advice either. Let's wait and see what other partners want to do and follow their lead in moving forward.

Water Quality Monitoring

- Gina said that monitoring site LA1 is already showing very low oxygen levels. Below about 12 meters, the oxygen levels are already about 4 ppm. That level of oxygen is dramatically low for this early in July (when the samples were taken). Gina is surprised the oxygen levels are already so low. Fisher folk are already catching fish around Hamilton Branch, which also usually occurs later in the season. Our fish are already showing signs of stress this season. August and September are going to be tough months. We cannot afford to send cool, oxygenated water downstream; we already do not have enough.
- Tom asked Gina what the trends over time are showing. Gina responded that if we look back at 2014 and 2015, which were drought years, we had the same situation. It's just that this drought has gone on for three years-- 2020, 2021, and 2022. The longer the drought persists, the longer those bad lake conditions last. Conditions usually recover in the winter, but if we do not get the cold, oxygenated water coming into the lake in the spring, our summers just get worse. The spring water inputs are really critical, and we did not have much water input this spring.
- FERC has to understand that models that applied in 2000 are no longer applicable in 2022. Further, FERC is on record saying the Lake should not release any more cold water. PG&E does not even think

it's a good idea. It is confusing why the State Water Board is so adamant about including it as an alternative.

Fundraising/Donations

- Susan is going to send more comments on the 2-pager, and Bella is going to incorporate Tom's feedback as well.

Grebe Festival: August 6th

- Jacquie said she went to the Grebe Festival, and she thought the setup was beautiful.
- There were between 50 and 100 people present when Jacquie was there. There was music and pizza at the Oldson Barn. The event was not that well publicized, but there was still decent attendance.
- Plumas Audubon Society has a plan to create nesting sites that float if PG&E lowers the water in the lake. This should help nesting sites to survive, regardless of the lake level.

Great Sierra River Cleanup

- LAWG is still waiting to get its supplies from the Sierra Nevada Alliance for the event.

Supervisor's Report

- Sherrie is not present, but Bridie filled the group in on the Almanor Lakeside Ranch. She read something about it on Chester Chatter. The project was approved a long time ago and did not get done. The Ranch property sold, and the new owners are going to try and push the project through. It is a proposed mixed-use project located on approximately 1,397 acres on the Lake Almanor Peninsula. The project has been approved for 1,674 residential units, 100K SQFT. of commercial space, a 150-room hotel, and an 18-hole golf course.

Lake Almanor West Association

- We received our annual donation from WACC. Bella is going to make sure Sonja has a copy of the 2021 water quality report and LAWG's management plan. Bella is also going to send a Thank You card to WACC.
- Tom commented that the LACC mystery is unfolding. In April, Tom wrote to Kristy Cox about water quality monitoring and LAWG; she referred Tom to Scott Devereaux. Tom was hoping to get LACC's regular budget for the full \$3 per lot. Tom never got a response from Scott. Kristy is now gone, and the new LACC president is Doug Coffman. Then recently, Scott resigned. Tom wrote to Doug and is waiting to hear back.
- Gina added that we are beginning to see some blue-greens in the lake. She is going to contact Doug about that; maybe that will begin a relationship. Blue-green algae could impact water quality, swimming, and so forth. Gina will try and circulate the information to others around the lake as well, including Sonja.

Maidu Summit Consortium

- Lorena does not have any updates. MSC sold some of their burned timber to SPI. MSC will have some pine left; they may use it as firewood or chip it. MSC sold the firs and cedars.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: September 14th