

Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting
Wednesday, January 11th, 2023, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Attendees

Bella Bledsoe	Lorena Gorbet
Bridie Johnston	Peggy Fulder
Charlie Plopper	Ron Lunder
Che Rubalcava-Cunan	Susan Padilla
Gina Johnston	Tom Tisch

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda, and December Minutes

The agenda and minutes were approved.

Financials

There was no change in income or expenses in December. LAWG still has allocations of \$1000.00 for the Maidu plant project, \$4025.00 for the 2022 Water Quality Testing, and a remaining Sierra Institute Testing balance of \$2671.49. There is a working balance of \$12,076.59.

Member Updates and Announcements

Goodrich Springs

- Ron Lunder is interested in promoting a land swap between Collins Pine and the Forest Service. This would help protect Goodrich Springs, which is a source of drinking water for 27 million people.
- Ron also thought maybe he could pitch it to DWR as an acquisition. DWR might be interested in protecting and maintaining these springs because they are an important water source. If the FS owned the land, perhaps we could keep cattle out of the spring.
- Ron is trying to get some support for the idea from entities like the Feather River Land Trust, SNC, or the Sierra Institute. Ron would like to see the spring fenced off from cattle. Collins could end up with the timberlands, and the FS could end up with the wetlands.
- Ron comments that if anyone has comments or questions, or wants to help, to reach out by email. ron.lunder@gmail.com
- Susan thinks it is a great idea. She proposed contacting the Almanor Foundation. They might be able to provide some resources and expertise. Susan also commented that there might be value in putting a subcommittee together for this.
- Lorena commented that maybe a land swap is not needed; maybe Collins would be willing to fence off the meadow and springs, if they could get some financial support to do it.
- Ron wants to see the land in public ownership and protected from cattle. He thinks the Forest is doing projects like this, and would be a good entity to carry the work forward.
- Bella will circulate Ron's project information to the group after the meeting.
- Lorena commented that Trout Unlimited fenced off Big springs (FS land) and helped fence off Yellow Creek (PG&E owned). Maybe we just need to help find support to fence these areas. If we push them to do the fencing, they will probably be open to it.

Water Quality Monitoring

- Gina hopes to have a draft of the 2022 WQ Report in a week. Maybe by the end of January, we can have a final version.

- The group thinks the report should go to LACC, Lake Almanor West, the library, and maybe our new Representative, Kevin Kiley-District 3.
- Tom wondered if we should do a postcard-level report that goes to all the residents in the area. This would just include a short summary. That could be useful to send around and get water quality info in front of residents.
- Gina mentioned that she does a summary page at the front of the report. She is happy to circulate it to some of the country clubs and homeowners associations around the Lake.
- Susan commented that Gina and Jonathan should try and get on the LACC board meeting agenda. That duo would be really compelling.
- Tom added that LACC has totally reorganized itself. They have hired a company to manage the property. They are shifting from one way of doing business to another.
- Gina commented that a presentation to the LACC board would be good to help increase the level of funding for water quality monitoring. Without a presentation, LAWG is dependent on the president of the board's goodwill. LAWG needs to educate the board about what we are doing.
- Bridie added that extra copies of the report could go to Hamilton Branch, Foxwood, and even Baily Creek.

Phil's Departure

- Phil is taking a step back. He does not want to be in charge of anything or have water quality monitoring on his shoulders. He is ready to do something else with his time. He wants to keep sharing data and his graphs.
- The group wants to make sure Phil knows that he does not have to do anything to participate in meetings if he wants.

Friends of Plumas Wilderness: National Monument

- Lorena commented that in the meeting she attended about the topic, FoPW said they want to do this type of work because they feel the FS is not managing the land well. Under a National Monument, the land would have its own management plan.
- FoPW thinks local organizations and tribes could get together and manage the land better than the FS is doing. However, Lorena feels that most tribes oppose the National Monument. FoPW only wants to work with federally recognized tribes. This is not an inclusive process, so there is opposition.
- Lorena feels she asked a lot of questions at the meeting, but they had very few answers. She thinks that given that Biden is in office, FoPW thinks it's a good time to get a National Monument designation. She thinks tribes are concerned about there being a designation without a management plan. We want to know what the plan is going to look like beforehand, not after. We aren't recognized, so we are going to have no say. FoPW is continuing to give management of lands away to people who are not from here.
- Bridie said that a lot of the groups she contacted don't even know about this idea. She is worried that locals have not been consulted properly.
- Lorena said to check the FoPW site for other meetings; they are going to have more.
- Charlie feels they have not appropriately contacted people either. Lorena identified a lot of important issues.

Westwood Chamber of Commerce Funding Application

- Peggy will try and figure out what is going on with this funding process.

Lake Almanor West Association

- Susan would like a copy of Gina's report, to take to the board president. She wants to ask to be on the agenda for June. She hopes Gina and Jonathan can do a joint presentation.

Maidu Summit Consortium

- There is no news. Logging is on hold at Humbug Valley because the road is not plowed.

Others?

- Gina and Charlie commented that changes in Walker Lake are affecting our water quality. We should be monitoring that also. Monitoring upstream of the Lake is critical.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: February 8th