

Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting
Wednesday, February 8th, 2023, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Attendees

Bella Bledsoe
Bridie Johnston
Gina Johnston

Peggy Fulder
Susan Padilla
Tom Tisch

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda, and January Minutes

The agenda and minutes were approved. Bridie commented that the working balance in the January minutes should read 59 cents rather than 57 cents.

Financials

Amy is out of town and was not able to provide an updated financial report. However, LAWG did receive a \$2,000 anonymous donation that will be added to the income. There was no change in expenses. 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 an estimated working balance of \$14,076.59.

Member Updates and Announcements

Water Quality Monitoring

- Bridie provided some comments on the 2022 report to Gina. Gina did not get any further comments from the group. To address Bridie's comment, she is going to write a bit more in the conclusion, specifically about the range of water quality metrics that are considered the "ideal" range of conditions.
- Gina said that next year, she will include that in the body of the text, but this year she is going to keep it in the conclusion.
- Gina added that the ideal range of conditions varies by the specific organism (e.g., brown trout). For example, the temperature and oxygen that are ideal for brown trout may not be best for another species.
- Peggy asked Gina, what conditions create more blue-green algae?
- Gina answered that blue-green algae are actually cyanobacteria that are able to photosynthesize. When the bacteria photosynthesize, they take up carbon dioxide and give off oxygen. However, when they start to die, they use up a lot of the oxygen in the water. Decomposition uses up oxygen. That limits the total amount of oxygen, especially at the bottom of the Lake.
- Susan commented that Gina's explanation is very clear. Maybe LAWG can try to get that in the newspaper or create a handout with pictures.
- Tom asked if other Lakes have a report similar to what Gina produces.
- Gina said that Clear Lake may have a report and Oroville as well. She is not sure about the amount of data they collect for those lakes, but she can check with Scott to see.
- Tom added that maybe we can reference those other reports; that will indicate we are not lone rangers to be concerned about this stuff.
- Gina commented that our measuring is more than what is being done at Oroville. We are doing more than most places in the North State.
- Gina added that she is trying to strike a balance by serving more than one audience with this report--both scientists and non-scientists. It is challenging to do both.

- Susan asked, what does Lake Tahoe do?
- Gina commented that Tahoe has over ten agencies involved in a year-round sampling effort. The agencies apply for funding every year or every three years, depending on the agency. They have a lot of capacity.
- Peggy said that when she reads this report, she often wonders, what can I do to make a better contribution to this lake? What can I personally do?
- Gina said that many of the human causes include land use, logging, septic tanks, etc. Gina thinks she could help pull together a pamphlet or something to describe how citizens can participate in protecting the lake.
- Tom commented that perhaps it would be good to encourage proper maintenance of septic systems.
- Gina added that this is particularly important for those living really close to the Lake. Those houses probably have the biggest impact.

Friends of Plumas Wilderness: National Monument

- Bridie said she would really like to see what Plumas County has to say about it. What do the supervisors think?
- Tom said he reached out to a friend that is well-connected, and he did not know anything about it. Whatever they are doing, they are not doing enough outreach.
- Bridie is worried about the federal government making the designation and then making the management plan. She is worried this could lead to management actions that local people do not want, maybe even the thermal curtain.
- Peggy added that maybe the group should hear directly from Darla, the FoPW lead. She used to teach at Feather River College and was involved in Plumas Audubon.

Westwood Chamber of Commerce Funding Application

- The Chamber is having a meeting on Monday. Peggy is attending. She thinks we should ask for \$2k to bring testing to Mountain Meadows Reservoir.
- Gina added that she is not sure \$2k will be enough if the group wants to do a chemical analysis. However, Gina said chemical analysis is not really possible if we cannot get a boat in the reservoir. Gina said that she and Peggy will talk before the Monday meeting. We can figure out what is reasonable to ask for.

Goodrich Springs

- The group has no comments at this time, but group members want to continue to talk about this idea.

Updates from Tracey Ferguson

- Tracey sent out a community meetings flyer for the 2021 Wildfires Long-Term Recovery Plan process. There will be a meeting in Chester.
- Also, Plumas County is looking for a member of the public from the Almanor Basin to sit on the Upper Feather River (UFR) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Regional Water Management Group (RWMG). This person should be knowledgeable about water resources and watershed issues within the UFR.
- This is a link to the website with prior meeting info – typically, the group meets quarterly, and the next meeting will be in March 2023 - http://featherriver.org/rwmg_meetings/. If you are interested, please let Tracey or Bella know.

Lake Almanor West Association

- Susan left a message for Sonia. She asked about having Gina and Jonathan at either the May or June meeting.



Maidu Summit Consortium

- Lorena is not present.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: March 8th