

Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting
Wednesday, August 9th, 2023, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Attendees

Bella Bledsoe
Bridie Johnston
Charlie Plopper
Gina Johnston
Jacquie Cordova
Peggy Fulder
Rich Breuer
Susan Padilla

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda, and July Minutes

It is Rich Breuer's first meeting with LAWG; LAWG members did an initial round of introductions for Rich. Rich has a house on the Peninsula. His family has been coming to this area for a long time. He lives in Roseville, CA. He worked at DWR and the state water board. Rich went through the group's data history and hopes to help contribute in any way.

The agenda and minutes are approved.

Financials

There are no changes in the income. Expenses are up \$248.99 for Salaries/Benefits and \$83.19 for SI Travel Miles. The stated balance is \$16,032.44. There are still allocated monies for the Maidu Plant Project (\$1,000.00), 2023 Water Quality Testing (\$4,125.00), and SI testing support (\$1813.53). The working balance is \$9,093.91.

Member Updates and Announcements

Water Quality Monitoring

- Gina updated the group that they collected samples in mid-July. Oxygen had disappeared from LA1 and LA2 below about 8 or 10 meters. Gina was surprised; the oxygen loss was earlier than expected, given that this was such a wet year. She guesses that there was a lot of runoff because of soil disturbance from the fire. Gina thinks the organic material has used up more oxygen in the lower reaches of the reservoir.
- Bridie asked how the oxygen gets replenished.
- Gina: It will not be replenished till the fall when the Lake water turns over. If we have a windy fall, the lake will mix and bring oxygen to the bottom. If we have a wet fall, some of that organic material will work its way downstream. What we are seeing is part of the consequences of the Dixie Fire disturbance. It makes sense that we would have all this material washed into the reservoir, and it will take a while for vegetation to restabilize the soil.

- Gina has not seen much in the way of algae yet. It has been a cool spring and not a super hot summer. So far, a mild season for algae.
- The fish have moved to the springs near Hamilton Branch, looking for cooler temperatures and oxygen. They are stressed and looking to find the right temps and oxygen that they need.
- Susan: Do we know where the Shoreline Gardens project is at? I think we should work on building that as a pilot project and sharing that with others.
- Gina agreed that gardens in certain places would help stabilize soil and limit erosion. This is a shoreline that changes seasonally. There are areas that would survive with the right plantings.
- Bella: Maybe we can see where FRLT may be able to plant on PGE lands. I know they have acquired an easement for PGE lands around the lake.
- Gina: There are some places where trees need to be taken out. The removal of those trees will impact the erosion of the land. That is where stabilization is probably more important. I am not sure if those lands match up with Maidu parcels or FRLT easement lands.
- Rich asked if water temperatures were colder than normal.
- Gina: The water is a degree or so colder. Gina asked Scott if he had observed that in Oroville. Scott does not have any sensors at depth. He thought temperatures might be cooler but only has sensors at the surface.
- Rich: Did anyone support any post-fire stream monitoring? I am specifically wondering about flame retardant monitoring.
- Gina commented that right after the Dixie Fire, we had an enormous algal bloom. She hypothesized that a bloom could have resulted from the use of retardant. It occurred within a week or so of the application and lasted for weeks following. The bloom was through November.
- DWR transferred its focus to monitoring streams around Greenville following the fire. The timing was late winter, so they missed some of the initial pulses of sediment after the fire.
- After Labor Day, Gina is going to do the next monitoring. Gina is going to check with Rob about a boat.

Email Updates Sent Out

- Bridie appreciates the DWR content, and Susan also hopes to continue hearing more about FERC updates.

Lake Almanor West Association

- There is an upcoming board meeting on Monday, August 28th, at 9 a.m.
- Bella is going to mail brochures to Susan. She will also put together 2-4 pictures mounted on foam board. Susan will pick those items up from the SI offices.
- Bridie asked if LACC's donation is coming this year.
- Gina does not know. She will follow up with folks from LACC.
- Rich suggested the group get on the next LACC board meeting agenda.

Regional Trails Update

- Charlie said that folks are developing a coalition between multiple organizations to work on the trails project. Individual organizations do not have the expertise to manage this regional trails project alone. Combined, though, we can come up with the capacity. We are working on tying towns together through trails. We are looking at picnic areas and exercise stops along the trails. Plumas Audubon is thinking about bird-watching sites. Think about what you would like to see along trails.
- Charlie mentioned that volunteer time would be helpful in this effort. Bridie asked what kind of volunteering is needed. Charlie responded that he would look into that.

Others?

- Jacquie updated the group on the Grebe festival. We saw lots of Grebes. They are nesting by Chester meadows. It's like the Everglades. They are nesting in this lagoon-like area, in the willow bushes and trees.
- Jacquie commented that it is the most Grebes she has ever seen. They are encouraging PGE to keep the water levels high. When water goes down, the new nesting boxes will float, which will help the Grebes a lot. However, there are not enough boxes for the whole population.
- Peggy and Ron have been cleaning the toilets and supplying toilet paper to the Ole Dam site. There is lots of trash getting to that trash can.
- Charlie also added that on the 19th of August, there is a grand opening for a children's play park around the Rec Center. The opening starts at 11 am. This is right next to the Little League field.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: September 13th