

Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting
Wednesday, July 12th, 2023, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Attendees

Bella Bledsoe
Peggy Fulder
Susan Padilla
Bridie Johnston
Lorena Gorbet

Jacquie Cordova
Tom Tisch
Charlie Plopper
Mari Galloway
Charity Martinez

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda, and June Minutes

There is a motion to approve the agenda and the June minutes. The agenda and minutes are approved.

Financials

There are no changes in income or expenses. The stated balance is \$16,364.62. There are still allocated monies for the Maidu Plant Project (\$1,000.00), 2023 Water Quality Testing (\$4,125.00), and SI testing support (\$2,145.71). The working balance is \$9,093.91.

Member Updates and Announcements

Water Quality Monitoring

- Peggy shared that Gina was having trouble finding a boat for July. Can we agree to pay for gas? The group agreed, yes. Peggy will let Gina know that she can offer that.
- Susan hopes we can do a July media post showing the water quality monitoring, such as photos and a written post. Bridie commented that it will be hard to get the news out with Plumas News closing. At least the Chester Chatter is still available.

Kevin Price's Online Map Project

- Kevin's online map is embedded on the Sierra Institute website now. Are there any other adjustments the group wants to see? LAWG members are going to go look and let Bella know.

Roadkill Reporting/Wildlife Connectivity

- Mari shared with the group that wildlife needs to roam. Wildlands Network is hoping to enhance wildlife movement and reduce collisions. Mari is looking at where enhancements can be made to help increase connectivity. They are putting out cameras and trying to understand which of the culverts and bridges are not designed for movement. Wildlands Network is hoping to upgrade infrastructure and make it more usable for movement. They are also hoping to identify where movement is happening; those locations could be best for an overpass or underpass.
- Many agencies are interested in managing roadkill and making sure animals are not getting hit. Roads are creating genetic isolation. Some animals are not even

approaching roadways. CDFW has identified a set of priority barriers; these are barriers that need to be addressed to enhance wildlife movement.

- Mari commented that people have said they see a lot of roadkill on Highway 36, especially deer. However, when we look at the data, this area does not show up as a hotspot. Why is that? Perhaps there is just not enough information about this area. Wildlands Network is attempting to record this, but there are not a lot of folks recording. They are also trying to get Cal Trans' maintenance crews to report more roadkill sightings.
- We need to have data to show this area is problematic.
- Mari showed the group how to add a data point to the online database. The site asks for the species, observation date and time, travel frequency, and animal condition.
- Bridie said she thinks there is less roadkill because of all the burned areas. There is no foliage on either side of the road. Also, should we record county roads too? Or just state roads?
- Mari answered that counties have less capacity to address these issues than Cal Trans. It would still be good to highlight. But it can be harder to address those issues. The CDFW priority barriers just focus on state roads.
- Peggy, can we also report live deer? Mari answered yes, absolutely.
- <https://www.wildlifecrossing.net/california/>
- <https://roadecology.ucdavis.edu/hotspots/map>
- Tom asked if there is any Cal Trans data. Mari answered that maintenance crews have not been reporting much, which is a shame. They are trying to improve that, but we want to supplement that data collection with citizen science.
- Susan said she used to work in LA. It is hard to get participation from citizens and certain agencies. Food always helps. Maybe you can provide a food coupon if they report. Mari responded that Mono County has been successful in getting road crews to collect data; that county provides pizza parties to celebrate participation from folks. It must really work.
- Peggy added that a while ago, the Tehama Deer herd was declining. That may explain why we do not see as much roadkill; there are fewer deer, just given drought and limited food.
- Mari also said there is a planting day on October 28th and 29th. The group is meeting at Hallelujah Junction.
- Tom asked, where does Wildlands Network get financial support? Mari responded primarily foundations.

Lake Almanor West Association

- LAWG is now on the WACC board agenda on August 22nd. Susan is hoping to have Gina and Peggy there. Susan will also be able to be there.

Maidu Summit Consortium

- There is not much to report. MSC is cutting burned trees and doing some replanting. There is a Maidu, a ten-person crew working for the Summit. MSC is still trying to get the campground open. J&C is cutting trees in the campground now.

- Peggy asked if Lorena has any comment on the money sitting for Shoreline Gardens. Lorena: We want to start back up again on that project.

Others?

- Bridie asked, is DWR monitoring how the salmon study will impact the Lake and the streams? Specifically the water quality. There may not be any impact at all, but is anyone going to be keeping track? Bridie will reach out to Scott to ask.
- Tom commented that Rich Breuer is a new member of LACC. He is newly retired from DWR and was focused on water quality in his work. He might be interested in joining LAWG. Tom and Peggy are going to invite him to join us.
- Tom also thinks LAWG should write a letter to the President of LACC to make sure they give their annual donation.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: August 9th