



Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting
Wednesday, September 13th, 2023, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Attendees

Bella Bledsoe
Bridie Johnston
Gina Johnston
Lorena Gorbet
Rich Breuer
Tom McCubbins

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda, and August Minutes

The agenda and minutes are approved.

Financials

Amy is out of town, so we do not have updated financials, but LAWG did get the donation from WACC. The check came in today, 9/13. Bridie repeated July's financials for the group's benefit. 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 has already done the September sampling. She had a chance to go out on Saturday and got the Lake sampling done. She is going to do the streams next week.

Hamilton Branch & Mountain Meadows Reservoir

- Bridie's husband went out to Mountain Meadows Reservoir. It was very green and weedy. Hamilton Branch is also running greenish.
- Gina commented that in the western basin of the lake, there is quite a bit of algae starting to show up as well. This is the time of year when we start to see more algae. There were also quite a few cattle in the creek above Walker Reservoir and in Goodrich Creek. There is fertilizer coming into that creek. Water levels are down, and water is warm. Not surprised that algae is starting to show.
- Gina said the last sampling will happen the last week of October or the first week of November. She will likely call on Captain Rob.
- Gina also updated the group that the line that holds the secchi disk broke while sampling. It is not expensive, but we will need to replace that. Gina will have to look and see if we have a spare, but it is probably \$100 or less to replace.

Lake Almanor West Association

- Peggy and Gina went to the board meeting. Gina talked about water sampling, and Peggy talked about LAWG. The board was very gracious and took a vote immediately. They agreed to continue supporting us at the same rate. They were very grateful we had come over to give them that presentation. Susan had the bulletin board, and we had handouts. It is a good idea to touch base and make that presentation, and it is good to let them know we appreciate their generosity.
- We are low on brochures after that presentation.
- Tom commented that at future meetings, we should encourage folks to join the group.

Lake Almanor Country Club

- The group prepared for the upcoming board meeting at LACC. It will be a 10 - 15-minute presentation asking LACC to renew their support. Tom saw a note that it was going to be at the Club House, not the Fire Station. Gina said she would check on that. Gina and Rich will try and be there at 10:30 a.m.
- The group encouraged Gina to make sure that we comment that WACC has renewed their funds at \$3 per parcel. We hope LACC will also renew some funds for our effort.
- Rich said there can also be some general members there; they may have questions. One of the common questions we often hear is, why isn't PG&E or the county paying for this? Why are we being asked to pay for this? We need to be prepared for that. We agree someone else should be paying, but nobody is. Those of us on the Lake are the ones enjoying the Lake.
- Rich added we have nothing to stand on if there is no LAWG. That data allows us to make our case that the Lake is important.
- Gina added that the county has, in fact, used our data to argue against the thermal curtain. Our data is the only data available to make an argument. It is valuable. If we do not keep going, it will become a big void.
- Monitoring is a huge need watershed-wide.
- At the meeting, Bridie is going to discuss the group's history. Gina is going to talk about water quality monitoring. Rich will wrap up with a discussion about the critical nature of the health of the Lake. Then we will ask them to renew their support and hopefully come back to their original level of support.
- Rich also mentioned that we will probably need to keep coming back to WACC and LACC next year. He thinks some visuals of the data could be very eye-opening. We could show DO over the last five years and show people how things change and why it is important to monitor. He would like to see LAWG create some visually striking graphics.

Maidu Summit Consortium (Lorena)

- Lorena updated the group on Dixie Fire restoration on MSC parcels. J&C is done on unit one with logging, which includes the campground. They are still cutting on unit 2. Unit three is out for bid. The campground is still closed. It is all cleaned up and ready to open in the Spring. MSC is still doing tables and bear boxes and getting it all ready to go.

- MSC is talking with Plumas County roads; we want to put in some more culverts to help the water go across the road in several places, so water goes all across the meadow, not just in one spot.
- Also, the beaver relocation project is moving ahead. We put in 23 analog dams. Those were not hurt by the fire. We are waiting for the beavers to come in.
- We also hired two interns. One intern is from Humboldt State, and she is working on land management plans this summer. She made a really nice poster that she presented at a conference in Alaska. The other intern is a Master's student from Oregon State, hired to revamp our donor program and our outreach to community partners. We are also working with a grant writer. We are submitting two grants at the end of this month to help with funding for next year.
- We are working with Feather River Land Trust on interpretive signage at the Sierra Valley Nature Preserve.
- We are also working with the Feather River RCD on a management plan for land outside Meadow Valley, which is a bear grass area.
- We are also working with partners such as Lassen National Forest, Cal Fire, Sierra Buttes, and Collins Pine on projects. We are doing so much that the board is meeting twice per month now. We are not hiring another executive director and hiring a grant writer instead. We are going to work on training for our current staff to keep these projects going and get up and running again.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: October 11th