

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

**Attendees**

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

**Call to Order, Approval of Agenda, and October Minutes**

The agenda and minutes are approved. There were two items added to the agenda, including “Bread for the Journey” and an article that Bridie read and wanted to share.

**Financials**

There were no changes in the income. Expenses are up \$4.81 for a Thank You card for WACC. The stated balance is \$17,825.40. There are still allocated money for the Maidu Plant Project (\$1,000.00), 2023 Water Quality Testing (\$4,125.00), and SI testing support (\$1,563.19). The working balance is \$11,137.21.

**Member Updates and Announcements**

**Water Quality Monitoring**

- Gina commented that she has not had luck finding someone with a boat available to take her out for Lake sampling.
- Che is going out tomorrow to do the stream sampling. An individual down the street from Gina has a boat; she is going to see if they might take her out, and she will offer to pay for the gas.
- Susan hopes to pay for gas for all volunteers in the future. Gina said she would continue offering, but some folks refuse to take LAWG’s gas money. Susan also wants to recognize volunteers in the future, especially in any written content we produce or publish. We should recognize people who are paying for gas and offering their boats. Gina may also contact John Crotty about his boat. John does not live here, so Gina would have to go to a place where he can launch his boat. That is not ideal, but is possible.
- Rich asked about the specifics of LAWG’s boat needs. Gina said we could do sampling from a row boat if we had to, but if the motor is small, it takes a while to get to all three monitoring sites. We are going all the way from the east to the west side of the Lake. We need a bit of space on the boat and a reasonable-sized motor. Susan confirmed that she covered a lot of distance when she went out to help with sampling.

- Gina anticipates getting the water quality monitoring report done sometime in January. She also thinks the Lake has turned over, but she thinks the algae is at low levels this year. Gina does not think algae levels are as high as they have been in previous years.

### **Lake Almanor Country Club**

- Gina updated the group that in the preliminary LACC budget, there was \$5k listed for next year for WQ funding. A former LACC board member has told Gina that LAWG should write a letter to the board asking them to please keep that money in the budget. We need to write a letter that will be recorded as part of their correspondence. It cannot be an email; it needs to be a formal letter.
- Gina is willing to write the letter but would like to add Rich's name and Tom's name. Gina thinks one group letter is great. The letter needs to come from LACC members, not just LAWG members.

### **Plumas Corp Project Update**

- Peggy is not here to provide an update. Bridie added that Plumas Corp is doing a project near Mountain Meadows Reservoir; it is a pond and plug project. The project is quite large. The holes that are being dug are quite deep, and this is to promote groundwater for the community of Westwood. This kind of project helps to raise the water level in the meadow. Lorena said it helps hold the water in the meadow, as dams do. Lorena also added that the pond and plug strategy was successful when it was done in Humbug Valley. It did raise the water level in a part of the valley. These types of meadow restoration projects keep water in the meadow for longer instead of having it all run out in the spring.
- Bridie thought there was a project like this in upper Goodrich Meadows too. Lorena confirmed that, yes, there is. Lorena added that Plumas Corp has done quite a few of these types of projects. Keeping the meadows wetter especially helps when the sagebrush is encroaching. Water helps the willows come back up.
- Susan brought up Goodrich Springs. How was that resolved? Did anything happen with that area? Bridie reminded the group that work at Goodrich Springs would require a land exchange to get the spring fenced off so cows could not enter that area. Susan is hoping for an update on this. Can Ron join the next meeting and share any updates? Bella will ask if Ron would like to join.
- Rich added that in his work, he saw a lot of incision from grazing, which ultimately caused the meadows to become drier. Keeping the animals out of the stream channel is essential. We should be restoring meadows but also working to keep the cows out of the streams.
- Lorena added that it is both the incision and the pollution from cows. Both are issues. Susan added that maybe LAWG should make meadow restoration and the damage done by cows a priority in our work. We should work to bring attention to this issue.

### **Bread for the Journey - Small Grant (Dec 7th)**

- This is a \$500-\$1500 micro grant opportunity. Bella will reach out to try and set up a call for LAWG to make initial contact with this group.

### **Maidu Summit Consortium (Lorena)**

- Beavers were relocated to Humbug Valley. They are doing ok so far. The campground is also ready to reopen in the spring. This will hopefully happen sometime in May.

**Others?**

- Western Outdoor News: Bridie saw an article about Spring Run Chinook in Central Valley. Agencies are already trying to reintroduce salmon in Mill Creek, Deer Creek, and Butte Creek. The article is talking about taking some to UC Davis to try and repopulate them. The particular sub population mentioned in the article does travel to the ocean. But warmer waters are really harming the salmon population. Wildfires are also harming them. Lorena said those are free-flowing streams, and that's why salmon can get to the ocean. There is accessibility in those areas, but the habitat is too warm.

Adjourn

**Next Meeting:** December 13th