



Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting
Wednesday, October 11th, 2023, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Attendees

Bella Bledsoe
Bridie Johnston
Charlie Plopper
Gina Johnston
Jacquie Cordova
Lorena Gorbet
Tom McCubbins

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda, and September Minutes

The agenda and minutes are approved. Bridie also commented that she would like to get 100 brochures mailed to MSC so that LAWG members have them on hand. Bella said she would work on that.

Financials

Income is up \$2085 dollars from WACC's donation. Expenses are up \$287.23, which includes \$168.13 for Salaries/Benefits, \$75.33 for SI Travel Miles, \$2.07 for postage, and \$41.70 for administrative. The stated balance is \$17,830.21. There are still allocated monies for the Maidu Plant Project (\$1,000.00), 2023 Water Quality Testing (\$4,125.00), and SI testing support (\$1,568). The working balance is \$11,137.21.

Member Updates and Announcements

Water Quality Monitoring

- Gina said she does not have a date for the last sampling. She has not contacted Captain Rob.
- There still has been no increase in the algae, and Gina is still waiting for that. Air temps have been dropping, and the Lake should start to cool off soon. Gina is planning to contact Rob to set up a sampling date but does not want to go out too soon before the Lake cools. She also does not want to go too late when the weather gets bad.
- The September sampling data was sent out. The most important piece of information is that dissolved oxygen levels had decreased in the deeper waters of the Lake, just as we have seen in previous years. This is also true at Mountain Meadows. There is no oxygen in Mountain Meadows just below the dam.
- Tom asked, do the fishermen pay any attention to our data?
- Gina answered that people do not have access to our data until we publish. But, the fishermen that Gina knows are very interested in our results. Fish are moving up and down in the water column, looking for oxygen. They move up in the water column for oxygen but then move down to get cooler water temps. Their movement shows how

stressed they are. There is a zone where temperature and oxygen are ideal, and that zone just gets narrower and narrower, and fish have to go up and down to survive.

- Gina added that she has a replacement for the cord on the Secchi disk; there is no need to get more equipment at this time.

Lake Almanor Country Club

- Gina, Bridie, and Rich went to the LACC board meeting. We kind of walked into a hornet's nest. Apparently, the day before our presentation, members got a preview of the 2024 budget. The members had received a notice that the dues would increase by 17%. Members attending the meeting got to air their complaints before we gave our presentation. Then, we got to stand up and ask for more money. The board chair did not even remember who we were and what our name was.
- We were not relaxed. But we charged ahead and asked them to please give us money. We had our bulletin board and made our pitch. We said thank you to the board and the members.
- Also, Gina left our bulletin board so folks could look at it, and LACC lost it. Gina will work to recreate it with Bella's help. People also picked up our brochures.
- Gina followed up with a letter to the President, and she has not heard back. She did notice, though, that in next year's proposed budget for LACC, there is a line item for \$5k for water quality monitoring to LAWG. There is at least a line item for water quality funding for next year. We will see.
- LAWG will follow up and see if we can keep that. Tom and Gina will follow up. The 2k for this year has been cut in the proposed budget, and we need to follow up and make sure the money stays in there for next year.

Maidu Summit Consortium

- Lorena shared that MSC's beaver relocation program is having a workday on October 18th. We are going to release the beavers in the Valley, and we are making a big media presentation during the release. We are hoping to have the governor and the head of the Department of Natural Resources present. This is a pilot program. This is going to be big for the Maidu Summit. All members of the staff and board will be there. We will have a GPS on some of the beavers so they can keep an eye on how they are.
- Bridie asked, do beavers and otters coexist? Lorena answered that they do not stay in the same areas really.
- MSC is still cutting burned trees on MSC parcels; a lot has been cut.
- Now, MSC is starting on CEQA for the wetland parcels. We are going to have students from Chico State doing the surveys across about 300 acres. All of those wetlands parcels burned. There is a lot of plant diversity there, and we have to see how many plants made it through the fire

Others?

- Jacquie updated the group that US Copper is petitioning the Board of Supervisors to reopen a mining pit. It could potentially have an impact on Plumas and Lassen Counties. We need to keep an eye on this. It is not clear where the runoff will go.
- Charlie updated the group that partners are trying to get the title for the railroad line to turn it into a recreation trail. All of the groups in this area that are interested in



recreation have now moved together as a partnership. SNC suggested we make a partnership and begin the integrated process to advance the planning as one entity. The trail is starting near Chester and may move all the way to Susanville. This new partnership is a positive aspect of the work.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: November 8th