



**Lake Almanor Watershed Group Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 14th, 2024, 1:00 - 2:00 pm**

**Attendees:**

Peggy Fulder  
Lorena Gorbet  
Susan Padilla  
Gina Johnston  
Bridie Johnston  
Bella Bledsoe  
Jacquie Cordova  
Charlie Plopper

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

The agenda and meeting minutes were approved.

**Financials**

LAWG income was up \$2000 from an anonymous donation. The group's expenses were up \$20 at the admin fee on the donation. Sierra Institute added \$37.20 back for the LAWG brochures; that was taken from the SI balance, but it was not an SI bill. The stated balance is \$20,393.09. There is still \$1,000 allocated for the Maidu Plant Project, \$ 4,125.00 for the 2023 water quality report, and \$1,292.89 for the SI testing balance. The working balance is \$13,975.20.

**Member Updates and Announcements**

**Water Quality Monitoring**

- Gina said she would like to wrap up the Water Quality Monitoring Report. If you have comments, please let Gina know. Peggy commented that she is struck by the sedimentation and soil erosion. Would you say the fishery is at risk?
- Gina: Yes. More so this year than in previous years. Soil has washed in from the Dixie Fire because there is no vegetation to hold the soil. This impacts oxygen levels in a lot of areas in the lake. Gina is not sure how long it will take for the Lake to recover from this sediment pulse.
- Susan: Is there anything we can do about it? Any way we can work on it collaboratively?
- Gina brought it up with Scott. Scott did not have the measurements for Oroville, and was not aware of whether it was a problem in Oroville. Gina thinks it probably was. Oroville probably has a lot of sediment.
- Gina: DWR had to look at areas like Greenville right after the fire, and they could not go to Oroville because people and groundwater were being impacted. Gina will have to see if this effect (in Lake Almanor) is big enough for DWR to take notice.

- Bridie: can the agency (DWR) give the logging companies an advisory? Can they advise them on how to lessen their impact?
- Gina: much of this damage has already occurred. I think logging companies know how to prevent the sedimentation, but they need/want to remove the dead trees.
- Susan wants to encourage DWR and others to deal with this situation. Gina will try and talk to Scott and see if he has ideas about where we might be able to have impact.
- The group voted and accepted the final copy of the water quality report.

### **Maidu Summit Consortium**

- LAWG Brochures Arrived!
- Lorena said there are not too many updates. Yellow Creek Campground will open on May 22nd. The beavers are doing well. Lorena has done quite a bit of media work with the Beaver relocation program. She presented to the SLWG, and did an interview for an LA Times article. She also did a radio interview in Chico.
- One subadult has moved out, along with a volunteer, to a different area. They are kind of hanging out together. The trail cams have picked up all kinds of animals, and they are trying to share those images with the public. There are bobcats, coyotes, deer, elk, and skunks.
- The logging jamboree will be on June 1st.
- MSC is also developing plans for the cultural center on the parcel by Prattville and is seeking funding.
- The brochures are located at the MSC office in Chester. Susan also asked if SI could make another display board. Bella said she will see if that is possible.

### **Others?**

- Charlie - A number of trails were proposed in the initial trails plan. For the one that extends from 89 to south of the airport, we are in the process of negotiating the final contract. The segment that needs NEPA is stalled. Janie Ackley's husband passed away...so she has been too busy to think about this.
- For the Rail Trail, from the high school to Clear Creek, they are in the final stages of getting that segment transferred to the Almanor Park District. We have received SNC money to pay for all this planning.
- We also have planning funds available for the trail along the north edge of Walker Lake. In the next three or four months, we will work to get public input on these trail segments. The goal is that in the next two years, you could hop on a bicycle at the West Shore trail and go all the way to Clear Creek, then to Westwood, and down to the Lake. SNC and CalTrans are very active and anxious to get these projects going in our area.

### **Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** March 13th