

ALPINE WATERSHED GROUP

Meeting Minutes September 12, 2017

I. Meeting Opening

- A. **Call the Meeting to Order** - Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm.
Board members and staff in attendance: Richard Harvey, Michael Barton, Dan Kaffer, Bob Twiss, Sarah Green, Gavin Feiger, Aly Cheney, Sarah Muskin.
Community participants: Ron Hames, Jerry Lloyd, Ken Peck, Mark Quillici.

II. Public Comment

- Dan announced that the beaver research is currently on hold. The severe winter and water flows reduced the local beaver population. Work is still being conducted to protect native vegetation through aspen and cottonwood wrapping.
- Ron Hames revisited his prior request to use our graphic of Alpine County's watersheds for a t-shirt with the addition of a slogan like "Where does your water come from?" He would like to help represent the importance of source water protection at regional and state meetings, like the upcoming East Bay MPUD's Pardee BBQ on October 6. AWG staff will explore the possibility further and get back to Ron soon.

III. AmeriCorps Member Recognition

- AWG recognized Sarah Muskin & Aly Cheney, Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership (SNAP) Members, for their completion of 1700 hours of national service to AWG. Board, staff and group members acknowledged them for their hard work and dedication this past year.

IV. Program Planning

- A. Markleeville Creek Day Accomplishments – Sarah Muskin reported the following outcomes:
- 50 ft of streambank stabilized, 1 acres of trail revegetated, and a footbridge built at Turtle Rock Park
 - 475 ft of streambank stabilized, 375 willow stakes planted, and 400 willow stakes procured for the future in Hope Valley
 - 150 lbs of native seed spread and Sweet Clover and Bermuda Grass removed from Grover Hot Springs Meadow
 - 50 Native tree protected from beaver
 - 24 storm drains marked, 6 picnic tables stained, and trail maintenance in downtown Markleeville
 - 27 lbs of trash removed from local rivers and streams
- B. AWG 2017 Water Quality Monitoring Program Data Summary – Aly presented an update via PowerPoint about the AWG's Ambient Monitoring Program and data analysis. Historically, AWG has developed Data Reports every few years. She and Gavin took a

different approach to data reporting this year in order to make the information more interesting and accessible to a broader audience.

This 2017 story focuses on our “Ambient Monitoring Program” which is our most long term and consistent monitoring program. This story explains that despite our long history of ambient monitoring, we do not have enough data points to make statistically significant findings on water quality trends. We uploaded our nearly 15 years of data to the state database, California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN). This will help inform statewide priorities over in the coming years. AWG plans on further analyzing our data as well as the other Alpine County data from the state database and continuing our monitoring programs in order to continue our role as steward of Alpine County’s watersheds.

Comments from group provided feedback on how to improve the presentation by highlighting how our work helps the county: making it a better place to live, bringing the community together, what parameters mean. Another suggestion was to include more pictures, especially before and after photos which is more relevant to our restoration work.

C. Program Updates

- **Goal #1** – to preserve and enhance Alpine County watersheds
 - Restoration – Gavin gave an update about our primary restoration projects.
 - Hope Valley
 - American River/USFS project finished last fall, some adaptive management this year and maybe next.
 - Faith & Forestdale
 - AR/USFS/CDFW just starting planning as result of AR Carson Meadows Assessment.
 - Hope Valley Planning
 - AWG project on CDFW land between 2015 and 2016 AR/USFS projects. Just commencing, planning will last about a year.
 - Grover Meadow
 - Started this year, will really kickoff next year. State Parks building new handicap accessible trail with rock causeways and bridges and boardwalks. AWG to provide weeding, trail decommissioning, and interpretive signage,
 - Markleeville Creek
 - Shovel ready and seeking implementation funding.
 - Ron Hames stated that there is a recent letter to the County from the Historical Society asking that the floodwall stay.
- **Goal #2** - to increase community awareness and participation in stewardship
 - Aspen Festival – Dan gave an AAF update. The Orion Group is longer assisting with media and outreach for the festival. They will be reimbursing AWG \$1,800 of the \$3,000 paid to them. Event planning is going well. One new event is the

Mutt Strut. Ron Hames has offered to lead a historical hike. Please help spread the word about the event!

- **Goal #3** – to build organizational capacity and plan for sustainability
 - Updated Bylaws – Sarah explained that the group has been working to update our bylaws for several years. The final version is based on a template used by several other watershed organizations in California. The following changes would finalize the version presented:
 - Correction of a few typos
 - Changes to Article 4 Section 3 – 1) Addition of “a majority of” to the first sentence – “Any officer may be removed, either with or without cause, by a majority of the Board of Directors, at any time.” And 2) Removal of section (a) and (b) within that section.
 - Motion (Michael) & second (Mark): Approval of new Bylaws. All in favor.

V. Meeting Wrap-Up

A. **Next Meeting** – no comments

B. Calendar of Events

- Alpine Aspen Festival – October 7-8
- Next AWG Group meeting – Tuesday, November 14, 6:30 – 8:00pm

VI. **Adjourn** – board meeting adjourned at 8:07pm