



Alpine Watershed Group

Protecting the Headwaters of the California Alps

Alpine Watershed Group Meeting **Tuesday, March 12, 2019** Hung A Lel Ti – Woodfords Indian Education Center

I. Meeting Opening

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

- Welcome and Introductions
Board members in attendance: Rich Harvey, Michael Barton
Staff Members in attendance: Kimra McAfee, Mo Loden, Taylor Norton, Shauna Langan
Community participants: 19 attendees
- Upcoming events - Taylor announced the following:
 - Thursday, March 21 Tool Sharpening Party at the AWG office
 - Tuesday, April 2 Alpine Biomass Collaborative Community-wide Forest Health Planning Meeting
 - Saturday, April 20 Celebrate Earth Day at Grover Hot Springs State Park
 - Thursday, May 30 AWG River Monitoring Training

II. Presentations

- a. Alpine County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and Adjacent Lot Ordinance – Kris Hartnett, Alpine Fire Safe Council
 - i. There is a project ongoing to clear the area around Diamond Valley Road and Highway 89. A portion of the area is tribal land.
 - ii. The action items located in the front of the plan were not previously completed so they were included in the CWPP document.
- b. Hope Valley Restoration Project Update – Mo Loden, Alpine Watershed Group
 - i. The goals of this project are to help reduce erosion, improve water quality, and enhance aquatic habitat at the project sites on the West Fork Carson River in lower Hope Valley.
 - ii. Project Site 1 restoration techniques will mimic an abandoned oxbow feature by creating a trench behind the failing bank and filling it with live sod blocks, willow stakes, and live shrubs. In the interim the vegetation will serve as good habitat for birds and amphibians, and eventually it will provide vital fish habitat when the erosion pushes back that far.
 - iii. At Project Site 2, updates are needed to divert stream energy from scouring behind the 2015 American Rivers project, a log crib structure. A basic approach of installing slash (conifer and willow cuttings) at the ends of this reach will add the stability needed.
 - iv. The designs will be completed by summer 2019 and construction will begin in 2020.
- c. Cookhouse Meadow Restoration – Craig Oehrli, US Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
 - i. The project site is in the Lake Tahoe Basin adjacent to Highway 89 near Luther Pass in the Big Meadow watershed.



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- ii. After three years of planning the project, implementation was completed over two years from 2005-2006. To date, project costs are estimated at \$710,000.
- iii. The project was brought into focus because the meadow was drying out in 2004 and the vegetation in the area was changing. Some of this was due to grazing, floods, and construction over the years.
- iv. In 2005 treatments began, including inset floodplain, willow bundles or fascines, boulder grade control, and sod harvesting.
- v. 2006 treatments brought boulder and soil plug, vegetation harvesting, earth plugs, and partial channel fill.
- vi. Fourteen years later, Cookhouse Meadow continues to be monitored by the USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit for success. The 2005-2006 constructed stream channel has maintained its route and integrity during many high flow periods over the years. The vegetation coverage has returned to a robust and natural state. Overall the USFS feels this project is a great success. Components that Craig felt could have been done better were more direct aquatic habitat enhancements and greater vegetation diversity overall.

III. Meeting Wrap-Up

- i. Next Meeting – Tuesday May 14, 5:30-7 p.m. - Location TBD
- ii. Adjourn Meeting- 6:59 p.m.