



**ALPINE WATERSHED GROUP**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Grover Hot Springs State Park**  
**July 10, 2018**

This meeting was held at Grover Hot Springs State Park as a site visit to the Grover Hot Springs Meadow Restoration Project funded by the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, administered by State of California, Department of Water Resources.

**I. Meeting Opening**

A. Welcome and Introductions - Meeting called to order at 5:37 p.m.

B. Board members, Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) staff, California State Parks (CSP) staff, and public in attendance: Beverly Griffith Williams, Michael Barton, Carl Ruschmeyer, Andy Lovell, Ron Hames, Sarinah Simons, Bob Twiss, Rich Harvey, Cyndie Walck, Kara Miffitt, Josh Heitzmann, Jason Porteur, Mark Quillici, Keith Barrie, Jonathan Zittel, Natasha Zittel, Marina Vance, Julia Keane, Kimra McAfee, Mo Loden

**II. AWG Announcements**

A. New Executive Director - Kimra McAfee officially started June 20

B. New Watershed Coordinator - Mo Loden officially started July 2

**III. Restoration and Monitoring Committee Announcement**

A. Roles and Responsibilities

Mo introduced the purpose and background of the Restoration and Monitoring Committee as an entity to help guide AWG in making the best decisions in regard to restoration and monitoring needs. With the help of these experienced individuals, the Restoration and Monitoring Committee will be able to provide AWG with insightful counsel. Mo stated that she would like this committee to grow into a sustainable relationship with dedicated partners. AWG is in the process of recruiting interested people. The first meeting will be August 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

B. Interested Individuals contact Mo: [awg.mo.loden@gmail.com](mailto:awg.mo.loden@gmail.com)

**IV. Grover Hot Springs Meadow**

A. Grover Hot Springs Meadow Restoration Project Overview

Cyndie Walck with California State Parks proceeded to give the background of the origin of this restoration project. She stated that Grover Hot Springs State Park is required to have an accessible trail for people with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. This

statewide program funds these types of projects in order to comply with the Act. Cyndie gave a brief outline using maps to show how the new ADA trail will connect the campground to the hot springs pool.

Cyndie also explained that the grant does not fund anything besides construction of the ADA trail. With this in mind, AWG sought and received Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) funding from California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to allow for trail decommissioning, weeding, meadow restoration, and interpretative signage creation in partnership with CSP. California Conservation Corps (CCC) is actively on the ground working on the ADA trail supervised by CSP staff. The Alpine Trails Association (ATA) has been working with AWG on aspects of trail decommissioning and maintenance. AWG's role involves designing the interpretive signs that will be posted along the ADA trail as well as at vista points at the end of decommissioned trails. Tentative themes for these signs include meadow wildlife and habitat, meadow vegetation and habitat, Grover Hot Springs history, cultural history of Grover Hot Springs and the meadow, hot spring geology, and fisheries and instream habitat.

Rich Harvey asked if there would be advertisement for the ADA trail at the entrance of the park, and Cyndie explained that there will be information on signs at the entrance of the park as well as at the trailhead since the ADA trail program requires certain language to be present.

Michael Barton asked if there was a time frame for the project, and Jason Porteur stated that the project is scheduled for three summer seasons and the CCC trail crew is currently on its sixth week.

Rich Harvey asked if the crew was planning to work as long as winter allowed, and Cyndie responded saying that they can only work up until October 15<sup>th</sup>. Rich also asked if they are going to need help from AWG for building trails and Cyndie said no, she only needs help from AWG to do trail decommissioning, weed work, and coordinating volunteer work days.

#### B. Ongoing Trail Building with CA State Parks and CCC

Jason took the group to the start of the ADA trail on the campground side. The trail starts as a boardwalk over the meadow in order to allow for water to run underneath it and not disrupt the hydrology of the meadow. The boardwalk is made out of redwood planks. As the group walked through the meadow along the path that the boardwalk would take, Cyndie showed some members of the group where the old user trail was and how it impacted the land.

The group came together at the portion of the ADA trail that the CCC has been working on. The trail is currently lined with gravel and cut rocks on the sides that are completely level. Jason spoke about the methods to be used to build this trail. The level rock ridges run parallel to each other at a 3ft wide trail boundary. The gravel is placed, tamped, and then a composite material is placed on top. This permeable layering technique allows the meadow to continue flow while maintaining the trail boundary. He stated that CSP staff are checking for high contact of the rocks. The first inspection went well, and the work will continue with more compacting of the material as well as adding the finish layer of natural material. Andy Lovell of ATA asked what

kind of material they were using. Jason and Cyndie said Class 2 base, meaning clay material that will be able to shed water in the event of rain and will be durable.

The group continued down the gravel trail and discussed where certain signs may go. Rich and Andy mentioned that the interpretive signage at the Curtz Lake trail that the ATA built is a good example of professional signs.

The group continued to talk about the material for the trail as Jason and Kara spoke about shaping the rock at the site, building a drainage for water to pass underneath the trail, and picking a type of rock that is durable enough. The trail will be made from all granite.

### C. Trail Decommissioning with AWG

At the middle of the ADA trail, Cyndie showed the group which trails you could see from the meadow that were going to be decommissioned. Michael asked about the ditches that are present near the trails, and Cyndie explained that those are historical ditches from ranching.

Marina took the group to the first of two trails that AWG will be enhancing and highlighted the trails to be decommissioned. The first is at the bridge next to the creek. The group walked on the path next to the creek to a stopping point near an old post from the old trail. Marina talked about establishing a viewpoint at the end of the trail at the next island of trees to discourage people from continuing on. Marina discussed removing old posts as a potential aspect of the Grover Meadow site for the Creek Day restoration project. Andy talked about methods to detract people from going on the trail including signage at the beginning with language stating that this is a viewpoint trail and directional signage pointing to the "Trail to hot springs pool."

Josh Heitzmann reminded the group that this path is heavily used by fisher groups, meaning they will probably not obey the signs. However, he did point out that they mostly use the part of the creek that does not go past the vista point.

The group moved on to the next trail that is directly across the creek from the first trail. This trailhead is commonly used by people taking a shortcut from the campground to the hot springs pool. Cyndie stated that since the trail cuts across the meadow, people find themselves stuck in the bog-like swamp that occurs in the middle of an alkaline meadow.

Andy began to suggest that at the end of this trail could be a viewpoint that sits higher on the hill above the creek, but Cyndie commented that she could not do any excavation on that hillside since it is a cultural site. The group brainstormed ideas on what this viewpoint could have including a bench and another sign to create a destination point. However, after discussion about the proximity to the cultural site and the ability to see exactly where the old user trail is as well as the hot springs themselves, the group was reluctant to make this area a viewpoint. They did discuss making another area on the same island feature a viewpoint with potentially a picnic table. More discussion will occur between CSP, AWG, and ATA to make a final decision on that trail.

**V. Meeting Wrap-Up**

A. **Next Meeting** – Tuesday, September 11, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., location **TBD**

**B. Calendar of Events**

- Death Ride – July 13-14
- Physical Habitat Assessment Training – July 28, 9:00 a.m.
- Ambient Monitoring Day – August 11, 8:00 a.m.
- Markleeville Creek Day – September 8, 9:00 a.m.

**VI. Adjourn** - Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.