



Alpine Watershed Group

Protecting the Headwaters of the California Alps

Watershed Group Meeting

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

Hung A Lel Ti – Woodfords Indian Education Center

I. Meeting Opening

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

- Welcome and Introductions
Board member in attendance: Michael Barton
Staff members in attendance: Mo Loden, Julia Keane, Kimra McAfee, Marina Vance
Community participants: Keith Barrie, David Griffith, Ron Hames, Jim Holdridge, Jerry Lloyd, Mark Quillici, Carl Ruschmeyer, Kirsten Whitt, Judy Wickwire
- Kimra initiated 30 seconds of silence for September 11th.
- Meeting attendees recognized Julia & Marina for high-quality service during their 11 month term. Praises for completing duties above and beyond their expectations.

II. Public Comment

None given

III. Watershed Project Updates

A. AWG AmeriCorps Presentation – Julia and Marina shared highlights of their Service Year.

B. AWG Restoration Work Day Overview – Accomplishments of Markleeville Creek Day 2018 Hope Valley Restoration (Willow Planting)

- 250 willows planted on the West Fork Carson River to stabilize 60 feet of streambank

Invasive Weed Removal – Grover Hot Springs State Park

- 20 large garbage bags of bull thistle rosettes collected - California State Parks (CSP) botanist stated her group ventured further into the meadow than ever before looking for bull thistle, which means they are spending less time finding bull thistle near the hot spring and getting more time for the general meadow.

Headcut Protection – Grover Hot Springs State Park

- Two brush boxes were built with willow, alder, and pine tree clippings to remediate headcuts in Grover meadow.
- The larger brush box was estimated at 7 ft. tall, 3 ft. deep, and 75 ft. wide.
- Largest brush box built in 2018 by CSP trail crews
- Nearly 75 feet of stream bank were improved with stabilizing techniques on Hot Springs Creek

Heritage Park and Markleeville Creek Maintenance (Great Sierra River Clean Up Project)

- 10 trees wrapped for beaver protection
- 6 picnic tables sanded and stained
- Cheat grass mowed with weed whacker
- Downtown Markleeville trail rehabilitated, stairway raked, and weeds removed
- Picnic area across the highway restored by weeding, thinning branches, and raking stairway
- 2 bags of trash cleaned up along the highway

C. AWG Restoration Project Update – Kimra led a discussion on the Markleeville Creek Restoration Project in Heritage Park and Concept Proposal for a California River Parkways Grant (due September 27). She explained how AWG must submit with the 95% complete plans as we need to be close to shovel ready to be considered for this funding. Markleeville Public Utility District is also applying to the State Revolving Fund for Clean Water to try to accomplish the necessary sewer relocation portion of the project which needs to happen before the floodplain restoration portion of the project. Community Development Director Brian Peters and AWG staff will present next Tuesday, September 18th to Alpine County Board of Supervisors to request permission to move forward with the California River Parkways Grant application. All interested parties are invited to attend. Ron Hames and David Griffith suggested other funding opportunities from USDA and SNC. Ron Hames explained SNC will review proposals with grantees and give critical feedback to increase SNC funding chances.

If AWG is invited by the California River Parkways Grant program to submit a full proposal that will likely be in October. At that time a more detail-oriented discussion and plan would need to be assessed. Kimra addressed the complications about pursuing the restoration funding before the sewage funding is secured—this River Parkways Grant funding round only has \$7 million and this project cost estimate four years ago was \$1.6 million. This does not give the Markleeville Creek Restoration Project in Heritage Park good odds, but it does make the project relevant again to funders and may give the project a leg up for the next round of funding (which could be a larger funding pot if Prop. 3 passes). The sewage and restoration projects will be kept separate and may enhance each other's funding potentials by showing multiple needs and collaborations.

Some Alpine County community members are concerned with this project due to the destruction of the creek bed wall which is viewed as historic. Plans as have been explained to AWG staff will leave ≈50 ft. of the wall extending from the Highway 89 bridge to the forked tree. Judy Wickwire noted that the wall itself is aesthetically pleasing, but the concrete on top is not.

Kimra explained that each component of this project requires creek dewatering: (1) the CalTrans bridge improvement project; (2) the sewage relocation project; and (3) the floodplain restoration project. Ideally the creek could be dewatered once for all projects, but AWG understands this may be very challenging. A meeting attendee inquired how the dewatering happens, to which Judy Wickwire responded that there would be a temporary dam installed upstream and a large pipe would reroute water around and downstream of the project area.

IV. Meeting Wrap-Up

A. Next Meeting – Tuesday, November 13, 5:30-7:00 p.m. – location **TBD**

- Suggestions for topics/speakers – David Griffith stated he may have a geology presentation ready. Keith Barrie recommended a speaker on fuels reduction, and a brief discussion ensued about Alpine Biomass Collaborative monthly meetings and their featured speakers. Michael Barton recommended speakers who spoke at the River Network River Rally conference this past May.

B. Calendar of Events

- Ambient Monitoring Day – Saturday, September 15, 8:30 a.m.
- Bear Valley Lake Day – Sunday, September 16, 9:00 a.m.
- Alpine Aspen Festival – Kimra read this statement from Dan Kaffer and said that anyone who doesn't have Dan's contact info can contact her (awg.kimra@gmail.com) to get it:

Dear Aspen Lovers,

Thanks for your inquiry for Alpine Aspen Festival 2018. Sorry, No Tables, Music, or Tent Talks this year, due to dozens of issues. We Hope for a full Aspen Festival in 2019. We plan to have free Hope Valley Aspen walk-up-tours, Oct 13-14, 2018, 10am-2pm. Should the "peak aspen bloom" occur earlier/later, we may move the free tours to fit the "peak bloom!"

Please send your email, phone #, & I will inform you of changes from Oct. 13-14 if any, via text/email.

Happy Leaf Peeping this Fall!

C. Adjourn Meeting – 6:48 p.m.