

ALPINE WATERSHED GROUP

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2018

I. Meeting Opening

A. Welcome and Introductions

Call the Meeting to Order - Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.

Board members and staff in attendance: Michael Barton, Gavin Feiger, Marina Vance, Community participants: David Griffith, Ron Hames, Brenda Hunt, Karri Smith, Mark Quillici, Norman Harry, Kirsten Whitt, Don Jardine, Alyse Weyman.

II. Public Comment

- Brenda announced the Carson Watershed Forum will be held on April 11th and 12th at the Carson Community Center. The event will host a floodplain workshop, sneak peak of the watershed campaign, and more. Next Tuesday on March 20th, CWSD will host a Noxious Weed workshop. Both events are free and the forum will include lunch. CRC coalition will be celebrating their 20-year anniversary on June 22nd from 3-7pm and they will be kicking off their watershed campaign, location and details TBD.
- David Griffith suggested for the Hope Valley Meadow Restoration Project to use CHIPS Washoe Crew for implementation.
- Don Jardine noted that invasive weeds are potentially brought in by travelers and CalTrans does not spray for invasive weeds. LeAnne Mila with El Dorado/Alpine County Weed Management and John Warpeha with the Washoe Tribe, along with Svetlana from CA State Parks are local invasive weed experts.
- Karrie Smith announced the opening of the Nature and Wildlife Gallery at Mad Dog Café in Woodfords. A portion of the sales' proceeds go to AWG and Alpine County Search and Rescue.
- Mark suggested using Mad Dog Café + Gallery for a farewell happy hour party for Sarah. The event could be after hours (after 5PM), can hold up to 40 people at a time, and Jennifer could cater.

III. Partner Recognition – A special recognition for Don Jardine for years of service and leadership for AWG and watershed efforts in Alpine County. Michael Barton, Vice-Chair of the AWG Board of Directors, presented him with the Aspen in the Fall watercolor painting donated by Janice Powell Shedd.

IV. Watershed Project Updates

- A. Partner Updates – Washoe Environmental Protection Department – Presentation by Norman Harry regarding the 1) Meeks Meadow Restoration Projects and 2) the Climate Change grant.
1. Norman Harry introduced himself in traditional Paiute language. He encouraged and was happy about their continued relationship with AWG and collaborative watershed restoration and environmental education. The Meeks Meadow Project is shovel ready with NEPA complete and CEQA pending. WEPD kicked off the project last year in June. Meeks Meadow is located on the West Shore of Lake Tahoe. The memorandum of agreement (MOA) from 1997 established the base responsibilities of both partners: Lake Tahoe Basin Management and the Washoe Tribe. The reason WEPD adopted this project is to maintain traditional cultural

relationship with the land and to combine traditional ecological methods with forest service. Without the cultural practices of annual burning there has been an increase in encroachment of conifers which have a negative effect as conifers take up excess water. The CEQA funds that are available now will be used for biological and cultural assessments. David Griffith suggested NEPA can transfer rather easily to CEQA. Brenda suggested that US Bureau of Reclamation Water SMART Phase II watershed restoration project implementation grant may be accessible this coming month and the project might be eligible because it is within the Tahoe Basin Plan. Cardno is the consulting firm that WEPD has hired for the project Alyse suggested reaching out to The Nature Conservancy about working together for permitting and funds.

2. Norman also presented the Climate Change Grant which is the Washoe Tribe's adaptation planning project which started in the fall of 2017. They worked on assessing the risks of climate change and the main objectives for a plan. Five communities of Washoe Tribes rely on wells for water source. They want to consider what the adaptation plan would be during a prolonged drought. Their consultant provided graphs and predictions for temperature and precipitation for Douglas County in the case of drought. Norman presented the survey that WEPD sent out to the tribal communities and Tribal Advisory Group. The purpose of the survey was to assess knowledge and concerns for upcoming climate change issues. The survey engaged the tribal community and showed to have a successful response rate. The survey was sent out via postal mail to the different tribal councils.

B. AWG Program Highlights – Stream Bioassessment Summary – Report on volunteer data collected since 2005 and the California Stream Condition Index

1. Marina presented a summary and analysis of the past 14 years of bioassessment data. Last year, a Lahontan Water Board provided funding through their existing contract with the Moss Landing Marine Lab to convert all of our Bioassessment indices to California Stream Condition Index (CSCI) scores. The CSCI scores are based around 1 with 1.0 representing an average healthy habitat/stream. As the scores approach 0, the habitat moves closer to an unhealthy system. A summary of AWG's data shows that a majority of the data at each our bioassessment sites on Markleeville Creek in the vicinity of the town of Markleeville, are less than 1 indicating degraded habitats. David Griffith noted that the trend lines should include R^2 values (how well the trend line fits the data points). Marina clarified that the trends associated with the data are not statistically significant due to the fact that we lack enough data points to have a conclusive trend; however, the apparent trends imply a possible relationship in the data. You can find the full report on the AWG website under "Updates".

v. **Meeting Wrap-Up**

A. **Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 8, 5:30 – 7:00pm**

B. **Location TBD**

Calendar of Events

1. Earth Day Restoration at Grover Hot Springs – Saturday, April 21 8:30 – 12pm
2. Volunteer Monitoring Training – May date TBD

VI. **Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm