

# **Almanor Basin Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting Draft Notes**

**May 17, 2006**

**6:00 pm – 8:00 p.m., Rose Quartz Inn, Chester**

## **1) Call to Order. 6:03**

Present: Jerry Duffy, Carl Felts, Lorena Gorbet, Mike Mitzel, Aaron Seandel, Sherrie Thrall, and Ken Wilson. Glen Long, briefly present. Absent: Bob Pyle. Staff: Jonathan Kusel

## **2) Review & approval of agenda.**

Aaron requested approval of minutes be moved to 9b. Jerry Duffy moved to approve a modified agenda, Ken Wilson seconded, unanimously approved.

## **4) Public comment None**

## **5) Individual committee member reports**

Carl asked about the county launching a natural resources department. Comment by another that this has not been done. Planning Commission will include a resource element in their work. Aaron thanked Jonathan for stepping in, and announced that we have a new watershed coordinator. Regarding the 2105 lake re-licensing process, Aaron said it is unlikely we'll see any definitive progress until the end of the year. They are moving from eight options to three options and then will do some additional modeling. There will be no decision until 2007, which is later than we could have hoped.

Ken attended a presentation by Dave Bradley of Chester High School and was surprised to hear that water temperature that was proposed to be drawn off on the "big" side of the lake, the west side, would have an even greater impact than he thought. He wondered if this information had been shared with PG&E. Others in the group reported that it had. The group discussed becoming a formal conduit for passing information to PG&E as well as the Board of Supervisors. Ken asked that this be discussed in the future, perhaps making it a future agenda item.

## **6) Subcommittee reports**

Fish and Wildlife and Critical Habitat met on May 4. They went over draft goals and objectives and sent them out.

Land and Agriculture met April 25. They spoke to issues generally, and agreed to hold off on any additional meetings until they had the Watershed Assessment in hand. All ABWAC members agreed that they needed the watershed assessment to proceed with subcommittee work.

The Water Quality Subcommittee met. This group remains the Water Quality Subcommittee as established by the county, and efforts continue to clarify the place, scope, and responsibility of this group vis-a-vis the Basin Watershed Advisory Committee.

The Water Quality subcommittee will be meeting June 15 with the TAG in attendance to discuss a presentation by consultant Maurice Hall on a target Water Quality Monitoring Plan for the Lake. As part of the water quality subcommittee report, Jonathan reported, following up on a previous committee request, that he spoke with Ron Dykstra of the State Water Quality Resource Control Board to tour the PG&E Mountain Meadows dam outflow/bypass into Hamilton Branch and discuss associated erosion issues on June 18, immediately after the water quality subcommittee.

**7) Guest Presentation- Bob Orange, California Fish and Game, Lake Davis Pike Eradication, and Lessons (if any) for Lake Almanor Information and Discussion**

Bob presented the Lake Davis “pike” story. They were introduced illegally (from Frenchman Lake). Lake Davis was treated 10 years ago. Bob reported that it is unclear whether the pike survived the treatment or whether they were re-introduced. Nonetheless, the pike population is on the rise and they are currently considering treatment of the lake at a level associated with 15,000 acre feet, compared to the 45,000 a.f. level at which it was treated before. They are continuing to study options, including their economic impacts. One of the lessons: ultimately, enforcement is extremely difficult if not impossible given the number of wardens.

**8) Staff Report- Lake Almanor Basin Watershed Assessment**

Staff distributed the Lake Almanor Watershed Assessment Report and the Water Quality Report. Jonathan briefed the group on key findings of the report and how it might be used. The Assessment is a compilation of data that will be useful for subcommittees and the committee as a whole to base their work and recommendations on. A key question for each group is: What are the key issues associated with and for each subcommittee? The report will allow subcommittees to identify what is known and not known regarding their area of focus, help them make recommendations, as well as identify follow-up work needed to collect essential information.

**9) “Action plan” and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors; the role of the Almanor Basin Watershed Advisory Committee Discussion item.**

- a. Discussion of the role of subcommittees to the full group.
- b. Discussion of the form and substance of recommendations and/or a plan.

Carl Felts indicated he was concerned about the group fulfilling its mandate and the charge by the board of supervisors. He is also concerned that the grant did not call for an action plan.

Ken Wilson made the point that the action plan is not a required element of the funding, and that Proposition 13 does not preclude the group from developing one. The group generally agreed that they are not precluded from developing an action plan, and, in fact, are predisposed to developing one. This led to the question about whether the action plan gives direction to subcommittee work, or whether subcommittee work and identifying key issues and recommendations will form the action plan. The group generally supported the idea that subcommittee work should inform both the form and a good portion of the content of the action plan. The assessment forms the critical foundation from which the group work will build. There may be certain action plan models that are more appropriate than others but this will be worked out as the recommendations are developed. Staff will continue to offer examples.

There was further discussion about sharing the work and progress of the committee with the board of supervisors. There was agreement that this is a good idea and it will be discussed in more detail at a subsequent meeting.

**9b) Approval of minutes- April 19, 2006.**

Ken Wilson moved, Sherrie Thrall seconded, unanimously approved.

**10) Next meeting** The group moved the meeting *from* June 14th, *to* June 21 from 6:00-8:00 p.m., to be held at the Rose Quartz Inn.

**11) Adjournment** 8:03