

## **Lake Almanor Basin Advisory Committee**

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005

Hamilton Branch Fire hall

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

### **1) Call to Order**

Aaron Seandel made the call to Order at 4pm.

Carl Felts, Bob Pyle, Sherrie Thrall, Lorena Gorbet in attendance. Applicants for the Prattville West Shore Committee position; Dick Fording and Ken Wilson were also in attendance.

### **2) Public Comment Period**

No comments made by the public.

### **3) Discussion of Meeting Protocols and Operating Guidelines**

A. Staff presentation of potential protocols & operating guidelines.

Jess Jordan presented meeting protocols and operating guidelines prepared by staff.

Jess indicated that these are standard meeting protocols and operating guidelines and that these are suggested protocols and guidelines that the Committee may add to or subtract from the list prepared.

### **4) Select member from the West Shore/Prattville area**

Before voting the Committee discussed the manner in which they should decide on the applicant for the Prattville/West Shore position. Aaron Seandel suggested hearing the applicants; Committee makes a nomination and then look for a second. Aaron asked for input from the Committee Carl Felts indicated that he would prefer that after hearing the applicants the Committee should rank the applicants with the person with the lowest score being the recommendation to the board. Bob Pyle suggested writing down first, second and third choice sign ones name and have the staff read out who voted for who and in what order. This was agreed on by the Committee.

A. The committee will hear from applicants their interest in serving on the Advisory Committee.

Aaron read the questions to the applicants who were given 3 minutes a question.

Mr. Fording was the first applicant to answer the following questions read by Chair Aaron Seandel.

#### **1) What are some of the key basin issues that should be addressed by the Committee?**

- Maintaining the health of the Lake.
- Septage Planning for the Basin.
- Concerned about 2105 re-license and ongoing water quality monitoring of the lake.
- Overall planning for the basin.
- Future traffic issues with growth especially if Dyer Mtn. goes through.

#### **2) How do you envision your role as a potential Advisory Committee member with respect to the public?**

Represent citizens of basin in order to achieve a desirable outcome for all it's stakeholders. Use a balanced approach when addressing issues.

Mr. Fording indicated that as a basin resident he feels that he should be part of helping to maintain the quality of life in the basin.

- 4) What strengths do you have that would aid the committee during this watershed planning process in the basin?  
Worked as an employee with PG&E and routinely interacted with Planning Commissions, Developers and local county agencies. Mr. Fording indicated that he felt he could provide skill set to the Committee that will aid in the Committee in it's working relationship with the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Fording also indicated that through his interaction with Lake Almanor West Community Club, and the Save Lake Almanor Committee he has a knowledge of the community and is poised to help address these issues.
- 5) Is there anything else that you feel the Advisory Committee should know about you to help in its selection process?  
Mr. Fording indicated that he was neither pro or anti growth but wants to seek a balanced approach to the issues. Does not want to follow the TRPA model.

Mr. Wilson was next asked the prepared questions.

- 1) What are some of the key basin issues that should be addressed by the Committee?  
Mr. Wilson first indicated that he sees a number of challenges that will need to be addressed first. What is the working relationship with the planning commission and the BOS in working on the prioritization of issues to address? This is a challenge as Planning Commission was formed after LABAC.  
Mr. Wilson also indicated that the project is so large and that there are so many issues it is going to be a challenge for this group to address all of these.  
Mr. Wilson indicated that for him the Water quality of the basin is the major issue. Along with this is affordable housing, and the management of growth within the basin and the effects that growth can have on the natural resources of the basin. The group will need to examine and address issues that are connected to one another in order to be effective.
- 2) How do you envision your role as a potential Advisory Committee member with respect to the public?  
To listen to the public as they voice their concerns and ideas on how to address the issues facing the watershed. To represent the citizens of the basin in this planning effort.
- 3) Why would you like to serve on this Committee?  
Mr. Wilson indicated that five generations of his family have lived here in this basin and that he feels a strong desire to protect the wonderful quality of life that the area affords it's residents and his family.
- 4) What strengths do you have that would aid the committee during this watershed planning process in the basin?  
Mr. Wilson indicated that he has worked in the woods and as an attorney and has an appreciation of the natural area of the watershed and a certain skill set due to his work as an attorney with cities and counties. Mr. Wilson indicated that the

firm he worked in addressed environmental and development issues and that he is well versed in the challenges that cities and counties face.

- 5) Is there anything else that you feel the Advisory Committee should know about you to help in its selection process?

He and his family have been here long enough to have a perspective on how things have changed within the basin and the rapidity at which the quality of the basin could change. Mr. Wilson also indicated that he feels he can be a resource to the committee on environmental laws and the Brown Act.

Mr. Sloan next answered the prepared questions in letter form as he was unable to attend.

- 1) What are some of the key basin issues that should be addressed by the Committee?

The key basin issues that the committee should address are:

- a. Preservation of the water quality for the basin
- b. Maintaining adequate water supplies for current and future residents
- c. Preserving the Lake Almanor water quality and water supply for fishing and other recreation needs
- d. Balancing environmental concerns and future growth issues for the basin
- e. Since the basin water supply covers three counties and numerous state and federal agencies, the committee should facilitate input and participation from all the agencies involved
- f. Address the forest management issues involved with the watershed including forest agencies and businesses
- g. Address any groundwater contamination issues at the earliest stage
- f. Septic usage, limitations and sewage issues.

How do you envision your role as a potential Advisory Committee member with respect to the public?

- 2) How do you envision your role as a potential Advisory Committee member with respect to the public?

My role as an Advisory Committee member with respect to the public would be to act as a liaison and stay informed as to public questions and opinions, to advise the public what the committee is doing, and generally to facilitate communication between the parties.

- 3) Why would you like to serve on this Committee?

I would like to serve on the committee because we have been residents of the Lake Almanor community for the past 2 1/2 years and have already seen issues with water quality, water supply and needs within the water basin. With the P G & E suggestion of the thermal curtain, the issue of water quality and recreation needs within the basin and of the lake is paramount. With the possibility of the Dyer Mountain project being developed in the next few years, the water in the basin will be subjected to new building needs and it is imperative that growth be planned so that environmental needs can be balanced with future growth.

- 4) What strengths do you have that would aid the committee during this watershed

I have the ability to process information from an unbiased viewpoint and present facts and opinions from such data. In my years with Alameda County, I worked with a number of state, county and community agencies. I would like the opportunity to serve on this Committee and I believe I could bring this experience with me.

5) Is there anything else that you feel the Advisory Committee should know about you to help in its selection process?

My wife and I are full time residents of the community and want to see the basin environment preserved as a recreation area, even as the area grows and development occurs. We love the area and want balanced growth which compliments the natural beauty that we came here to enjoy.

B. Committee will make selection of new member.

Committee members listed their first second and third choice of applicants for the Prattville/Almanor West position. Staff read the results and announced who had voted for whom and in what order. The results are as follows:

Aaron Seandel 1)Ken Wilson 2) Dick Fording 3) Robert Sloan  
Lorena Gorbet 1)Ken Wilson 2) Dick Fording 3) Robert Sloan  
Sherri Thrall 1)Ken Wilson 2) Dick Fording 3) Robert Sloan  
Bob Pyle 1)Dick Fording 2) Ken Wilson 3) Robert Sloan  
Carl Felts 1)Ken Wilson 2) Dick Fording 3) Robert Sloan

**5) Elect Vice Chair**

A. Responsibilities of the Vice Chair

B. Election of the Vice Chair

**This action was tabled.**

**6) Name Change of the Committee**

A. The Committee will review and discuss a name change to recommend to the Board of Supervisors.

Aaron Seandel suggested that the name be changed to Almanor Basin Watershed Advisory Committee to more accurately reflect the context within which this committee will operate. Aaron asked for any comments on the proposed name change from the Committee. Carl Felts indicated some reservations about not having Lake within the title. Aaron indicated that the inclusion of the lake was present because the lake is part of the basin. Name change motion was seconded and passed. Name change recommendation to be made to the BOS meeting.

**7) Presentation of issues in the watershed**

A. Staff presentation on basin issues and recommendations on the prioritization of issues to address in the watershed.

Jess Jordan the watershed coordinator and staff to the Committee briefly discussed the way in which the committee can address the prioritizing of issues in the watershed.

A handout prepared by Jess was given to the Committee members to read and reflect at a later date on for prioritizing of the issues. Jess indicated that this Committee should keep in mind that a major goal of prop 13 is that this Committee is to create a framework that will enable a public entity such as a watershed council, or natural resources division at the county level to be

developed so that watershed management of the basin can go on long term in the basin.

Staff indicated that there were a number of steps to be taken with regards to prioritization and how the prioritization of issues fits into the larger picture. The first suggestion was to identify issues and associated concerns across the whole watershed. Use of the Almanor Basin Report, Water Quality Monitoring Report, the Watershed Assessment and public input in the forms of public workshops, charettes and forums will more fully inform the Committee in the identification of issues and concerns and build on those issues already identified. The second was to determine goals and objectives for the watershed. Third was to establish criteria to aid in the prioritization process. Staff also mentioned that a number of management alternatives would need to be considered in order to gain consensus and buy-in from the Committee, the public and the Board of Supervisors. Staff also stressed the importance of documenting the process in the form of an Action Plan. This type of document can contain the process the group took the, goals and objectives recommendations in the form of recommended actions to be taken.

Aaron Seandel voiced concern over the enormity of the project and many Committee members questioned what the first step would be. There was discussion between staff and the Committee on how best to prioritize the issues. Staff indicated that the use of the 2003 Basin Report, the upcoming Water Quality Monitoring report, and the Watershed Assessment as well as a robust public input effort in the form of workshops and charettes would greatly aid the Committee as they decide the priority in which the issues should be addressed. Carl Felts made indicated that he wanted handouts before the meeting. At this point the Chair indicated that the meeting had gone late and suggested we adjourn till the next meeting.

B. Discussion of prioritizing basin issues by Committee.

**This action was tabled.**

#### **8) General discussion items**

A. Discussion on recommending to the BOS that the next members for the four areas of the committee be elected by the citizens of that area at a town hall meeting in that area.

**This action was tabled.**

#### **9) Future agenda items**

Bob Pyle suggested Committee Member Reports

Voting on Vice Chair

List of names of Technical Advisory Group

#### **10) Set next meeting time**

A meeting time was decided on 6-7:30pm at Hamilton Branch Fire Hall on every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

#### **11) Adjournment**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm.**