**ALPINE WATERSHED GROUP**

**Meeting Minutes**

**January 9, 2018**

1. **Meeting Opening**
   1. Welcome and Introductions
   2. Call the Meeting to Order **-** Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.

Board members and staff in attendance: Richard Harvey, Michael Barton, Dan Kaffer, Zack Wood, Sarah Green, Gavin Feiger, Marina Vance, Julia Keane

Community participants: David Griffith, Ron Hames, Eddie Kleiner, Anna Belle Monti, Sally Champion, Brenda Hunt, Karri Smith, Carol Beahan, Mark Quillici, Ron Hames, Cindy Wise, Carly Nilson, Darrell Cruz, John Dayberry, Hannah Schembri, Kyle Bartholomew, Marcia Barrie, Keith Barrie, Alyse Weyman, Jim Holdridge.

1. **Public Comment -** This item was covered after the Forest Service presentation.

* Brenda provided an update about the status for the Carson River Watershed Adaptive Stewardship Plan. Nevada portion has been accepted by the State of Nevada as a 9-Element Watershed Plan which opens doors to more funding opportunities. The California portion is still pending. Lahontan representatives confirmed that they have approved it. Final approval by California EPA is being pursued. AWG will work with CWSD, Lahontan, and US EPA in the coming months to determine path toward Calif. approval.
* David Griffith introduced the Cal Fire Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grant opportunity for forest health projects. There was a preliminary meeting discussing viable options on how Alpine County forests and watersheds could utilize the two hundred million dollars in available grant funds. The potential project options discussed included additional planning for the Forest Service’s West Carson River Forest Health Project and implementation of the remaining 1,000 acres in the Markleevillage Fuels Reduction Project. AWG will continue to be involved in planning meetings to explore the possibilities.

1. **Program Planning**

Partner Update ­­­­– West Carson project – Representatives from the US Forest Service, Sally Champion and Anna Belle Monti, presented and received questions and comments about their West Carson River Forest Health Project. Sally provided a background and status for the project alongside a large poster sized map and handouts describing the objectives and proposed treatments. The main goal of the project is to enhance forest health. Major topics included the improvement of aspen stands. They aim to remove conifers from Aspen stands to improve aspen stand regeneration and resiliency.   
  
Project timeline and activities: Crews did cultural, wildlife, and botany surveys over summer 2017; USFS will officially start scoping at the end of February and present proposed forest treatments (1st official opportunity for public comment); they are planning on doing a NEPA Categorical Exemption for the project; a final, signed decision is expected mid-summer 2018.   
  
Questions included whether there would be a focus on the hydrology of the meadow which Sally responded that there is not a specific focus on hydrology but more on the Aspens. Sudden Aspen Death was discussed in depth as to its origin and potential response to treatment. The disease has been present in Alpine County for the last 10 years. It is not particularly worsening but precipitation changes (droughts, significant rainfall, etc) seem to have a greater effect on the Aspen health. Alpine County’s aspen stands are most affected by the disease on Monitor Pass. The project will place a road barrier to block access for OHVs towards Scotts Lake. Techniques to encourage regeneration for Aspen groves were discussed as potential volunteer opportunities and work days for AWG as well as forest thinning and reducing conifer meadow encroachment work days. Weeds and invasive species are always a potential problem for restoration projects. Suggestions included ceremonial fires before work days or tribal blessings. When using fire for treatments, Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and understanding should be considered; Washoe tribe offered to work with USFS on this. Grand Canyon Trust was referenced for their studies on elk and Aspen relationships.

Program Updates

* **Goal #1 –** to preserve and enhance Alpine County watersheds
  + Restoration – Gavin presented an outline and timeline for all of AWG’s projects. He gave short descriptions of the current projects that are on the Restoration Projects Summary 2018 handout. One idea offered was to address the Pickett’s junction parking lot.
  + Project Committee Development – Gavin described the history and current need for a restoration project planning committee. This committee is intended to be a group of individuals of all backgrounds and skills. The group meetings would be 3-4 times a year to discuss restoration projects and proposals. Gavin described the meetings to be fun and engaging. More information and a formal request for members will be coming over the winter.
  + Monitoring – Marina and Rich discussed the background and current status of the STPUD monitoring project. The wastewater effluent from STPUD sewage plant sent to Alpine County for use on fields will be tested by AWG for Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) and Pharmaceutical and Personal Care Products (PPCPs). With $15,000 provided by STPUD to the County annually, AWG has been contracted by the County to conduct water quality monitoring for PPCPs. The contract is officially finalized between AWG and the County. AWG is currently updating their QAPP (Quality Assurance Project Plan) to include standard operating procedures (SOP) for collecting water samples for PPCPs. STPUD has conducted their own lab tests on the wastewater effluent at the STPUD plant in South Lake Tahoe. This provided AWG with relevant information on what compounds were detected and at what concentration when the effluent leaves the plant. AWG has decided to use the accredited Weck Labs located in the City of Industry, CA. They will analyze 30-35 constituents (CECs, PPCPs). How many Sampling locations and frequency are to be determined next month after a tour of the reservoir and site.
* **Goal #2 -** to increase community awareness and participation in stewardship  
  + Education –Julia gave an update on the upcoming education programs:   
    - Advanced Learner Program at Diamond Valley School - Last month the first after school program was a success with 12 students from grades 1-5 present to learn about watersheds. The program included The Incredible Journey and the enviroscape model. The next after school program will take place this Thursday, January 11.
    - Collaboration with Tribe - Julia and Sarah have begun to work more closely with the Woodfords Washoe community and the Washoe Environmental Protection Department to develop youth educational opportunities. AWG is hoping to contribute to the after school tutoring program either in the next few months or this summer.
* **Goal #3 –** to build organizational capacity and plan for sustainability – No updates this month.

# Meeting Wrap-Up

# Next Meeting – Tuesday, March 13, 6:30 – 8:00pm

# Location TBD

# Calendar of Events –

# Water Monitoring Season Kickoff – Saturday, March 10, 8:30 – 10am

* + 1. Earth Day Restoration at Grover Hot Springs – Saturday, April 21 8:30 – 12pm

# Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm