MIDWEST-GREAT LAKES CHAPTER
SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL
RESTORATION INTERNATIONAL

Business Meeting
November 14, 2008
Welcome

- Thank you for your participation and interest

- Objectives:
  - Provide report on recent activities
  - Presentation of proposed bylaws
  - Overview of student involvement
  - Future plans

Speaker – R. Smiley
Agenda

• Introduction – Rocky Smiley
• Recent Activities – Cody Fleece
• Proposed Bylaws – Rocky Smiley
• Student Involvement – Wesley Ket
• Conclusion and Question and Answer Session – Jennifer Lyndall

Speaker – R. Smiley
Recent Activities
Cody Fleece
Agenda

• Organization Status
• Membership
• Proposed Bylaws
• Communication
• Next Steps

Speaker – C. Fleece
Organization Status

- Employer Identification Number
- Bank Account
- Working on 501(c)3 status
  - Need to generate revenue to cover fees
    $300-400

Speaker – C. Fleece
Membership

• 11 membership applications received as of 11/2008

• Will soon be able to join on-line

• Link membership to form on website
  http://www.ser.org/content/SERMWGL.asp

Speaker – C. Fleece
By-Laws

- 3rd Draft
- Framework for Structural Organization
- Will be voted on @ Annual Meeting in Spring

Speaker – C. Fleece
Communication

• Website

• Newsletter
  – January 2009 – Issue #2

• List Serve (Moderated)

• Monthly Conference Calls for Board

Speaker – C. Fleece
Communication

- Practitioner List
Communication

- Practitioner List

Speaker – C. Fleece
Next Steps

• Technical Information Exchange
  – Techniques
  – Training
  – Demonstration Projects (Highlight Successes)
  – Adaptive Management

• Vendor Information
  – Construction
  – Materials
  – Design

• Restoration Database

• Funding

• Volunteer Opportunities

Speaker – C. Fleece
Proposed Bylaws – Overview

• Modeled after the Coastal Plain SER Chapter as it too is a large multi-state Chapter

• Currently in its third revision

• Selected topics
  – Mission Statement
  – Membership
  – Officers and Board of Directors
  – Committees
  – Elections
  – Annual Meetings
  – Amendments
Mission Statement

- To promote the science and practice of ecological restoration to assist with the recovery and management of degraded ecosystems within the Midwestern and Great Lakes regions of the United States. We will connect local resources and partners by facilitating dialogue among groups and individuals interested in ecological restoration. We will also provide educational opportunities to foster an interdisciplinary understanding of and interest in concepts and methods of ecological restoration for specialists and laypersons.

Speaker – R. Smiley
Any person, group, business, or organization is eligible for membership.

Membership dues are mandatory and will be payable annually.

Costs of membership dues will be established by the Chapter Board of Directors.

Speaker – R. Smiley
Board of Directors

- Board of Directors controls Chapter business and affairs

- Members of the Board of Directors include:
  - Chapter Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer)
  - One Representative from Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota (total six State Representatives)
  - Up to four At-Large-Representatives
  - Up to two Student Representatives

Speaker – R. Smiley
Terms of Office – Board of Directors

• All serve two year terms that begin and end at the Annual membership meeting

• Elections will be staggered
  – The President, Secretary, State Representatives from Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, and At-Large Representatives elected during even years
  – Vice-President, Treasurer, State Representatives from Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Student Representatives will be elected during odd years.

• All Board members are eligible for re-election, but no Chapter Officer may serve more than 2 consecutive terms in a single office
Committees

• Two types – Standing and Ad hoc

  – Standing committees established by resolution of Board of Directors

  – Ad hoc may be appointed by President, Board of Directors, or created by Members at any time

• All Committee Chairs required to progress and annual reports to President, Board of Directors, and if requested to the Membership

Speaker – R. Smiley
Types of Standing Committees

• **Executive Committee** – Consists of Chapter Officers. Functions in place of Board when Board is not in session.

• **Annual Meeting Committee** – Collaborates with President and Vice-President and makes arrangements for Annual Meeting

• **Communications Committee** – Produce and distribute Chapter newsletters, maintain Chapter website, and distribute notices of Chapter events.

• **Membership Committee** – Work to recruit new Chapter members, develop strategies for increasing membership, and develop ways Chapter can better serve its members.

• **Subregional Restoration Groups Committee** – Develop and maintain working list of ecological restoration groups active in Chapter boundaries. Establish and maintain communications with these groups. Develop ways that information from working list can support other committees.

• **Board Development Committee** – Oversight in nominations, appointments, selections, elections, recruitment for Board of Directors and Committees. Provide orientation and training for Board Members.
Elections

• Board Development presents slate of nominees two months prior to annual membership meeting
  – All candidates must be members of Chapter and SER
  – Candidates for Officers must have previous leadership experience with professional society or served on Chapter committee
  – State Representatives must reside in the state they wish to represent
  – Chapter members can submit additional nominations to Board Development Committee before final ballot issued
  – Final ballot distributed to membership 30 days before annual meeting

• Each Chapter member gets one vote on each matter submitted for a vote

• Completed voting ballots must arrive 10 business days prior to Annual Meeting

Speaker – R. Smiley
Membership Meeting

• Annual membership meeting held once a year to:
  – Install Officers and Board Members
  – Receive Committee reports
  – Receive the annual financial report
  – Other business items on agenda

• Bylaws only describe business meeting component of Annual Meeting
  – Gives Annual Meeting committee flexibility in developing other aspects of annual meeting such as scientific program, training courses, field trips, etc.

Speaker – R. Smiley
Amendments

• Bylaws can be altered, amended, or repealed and new bylaws adopted by:
  
  – Affirmative vote of the majority of members present at any business meeting at which a quorum is present
  
  – Affirmative vote of majority of Directors of the Board of Directors present at which any meeting in which quorum is present

  • However, no bylaw adopted by membership can be amended or repealed by Board if bylaw states that it can not

• Implied Amendments – Temporary suspension of bylaws to complete a good faith action that is not consistent with current bylaws.

  – Requires an affirmative vote by the majority of members or Directors required to amend bylaws.

Speaker – R. Smiley
Summary

• The proposed bylaws were set up to provide guidance in how the MWGL SER Chapter will operate in the future

• Copies of the final version of the proposed bylaws will be distributed to all Chapter members one month before the Annual Meeting is held in spring 2009.

• We will vote on the Bylaws at the Annual meeting

Speaker – R. Smiley
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Student Involvement - Overview

• SER is committed to providing support to the next generation of leaders in the field of ecological restoration.

• Topics
  – Opportunity for student involvement in MWGL SER chapter affairs
  – Establishing student subchapter
  – Student guild opportunity
  – Source of knowledge for students
  – Networking and volunteer possibilities

Speaker – W. Ket
MWGL SER has allocated up to 2 student representatives on the Board of directors

Leadership position

Student representatives vote in accordance with interest of fellow student chapter members

Keep fellow students informed

Annual meeting opportunity

Speaker – W. Ket
• MWGL has the opportunity to be a trendsetter in establishing a student subchapter through a bylaw amendment

• Provides students with the ability to take responsibility of their own subchapter activities

• Becoming a member of the student subchapter will keep students abreast of all restoration related activities and programs available in the region
Student Guild

- Student Guild is a new SER International initiative
- Educational institutions obtain membership rather than individual students
- Institution benefits
- Currently only one Student Guild - University of Washington - College of Forest Resources

Speaker – W. Ket
MWGL SER chapter can serve as a central repository of restoration related information for students

We are actively seeking to create and maintain a list of all restoration related organizations, institutions, and groups within the region

Potential to provide students with a listserv they can collaborate on and share information
Networking and Volunteering

- Student members in the region can benefit from volunteer opportunities made available through the MWGL SER network
- Provides students with the opportunity to contribute to projects
- They can gain valuable real world experience outside the classroom
- Networking with fellow members and volunteers
- Potential to learn about internship opportunities and employment

Speaker – W. Ket
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Annual Meeting

• Spring 2008

• Two meeting location options
  – Marian College, Indianapolis, Indiana
  – University of Illinois-Springfield, Illinois
Marian College
Indianapolis, Indiana

- **Allison Mansion**
  - 1911 summer home of James Allison – Co-founder of Indy 500
  - Spectacular site, can accommodate up to 250, but easily accommodates 100.

- **Marian Hall**
  - 50m from Allison Mansion
  - Lots of tech classroom space that would work well for concurrent talks
Marian College Ecolab

- Adjacent to Allison Mansion
- Contains the James Allison estate designed by famed LA, Jens Jensen, in 1912
- Jensen designed using native plants in great profusion in ecologically sensible locations – much like a modern day restoration ecologist
- EcoLab is a case study of a very early “restoration”
• Since 2000, the EcoLab has been undergoing a contemporary restoration project to remove non-natives, increase native diversity and restore Jensen design features.

• EcoLab stats:
  − 55+ acres
  − 20 acres groundwater-fed wetland
  − 165+ bird species since 2001
  − 265 native plant species
  − FQI: 73; Mean C: 4.5
  − 2 active beaver colonies with beaver-dredged canal networks
  − Mink, muskrat, deer, red fox, college students
  − 10 minutes from downtown in 12th largest city in U.S.
Logistics

• Lots of other field trip possibilities in Central Indiana – e.g. stormwater BMPs, urban restoration sites, “green” developments, etc.

• Easy access to Indianapolis and Indianapolis airport

• Great things to do in Indy for spouses and children: Children’s Museum, Indy Zoo, Indianapolis Museum of Art, NCAA Museum, Indiana State Museum

• Costs:
  – NO COSTS other than catering
  – 3 meals plus a snack price range total $56 - $105 per person depending on specifics (e.g. hot breakfast and lunch vs. cold, sit down dinner vs. buffet, ice tea vs. wine)
  – The School of Math and Science will throw a wine and cheese “social” for us!
University of Illinois at Springfield

- One of three campuses of the University of Illinois
- Established in 1969
- About 4,900 including about 2,000 graduate students

- 21 bachelor’s degree programs and 25 minors, 20 master’s degree programs, and one doctoral degree
Conference facilities—Public Affairs Center (PAC)

- Brookens Auditorium (capacity of 190)
- Many other conference rooms with capacity ranging 25 to 200 available in PAC
Emiquon Restoration Project

- Emiquon restoration project was initiated in 2007 covering about 7000 acres. It is the largest floodplain restoration project in Illinois.
- Located in Fulton county, about 60 miles away from UIS campus

Before restoration (2006)

After restoration (2008, photo by Chris Young)
Partnership of Emiquon Restoration Project