



Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: December 8, 2015

Re: SER MWGL Board Meeting

Location: Teleconference

Issue Date: December 8, 2015

Submitted By: Joe Di Misa

In Attendance: Roger Anderson
Dan Larkin
Becky Dolan
Laura Jackson
Martha Holtzheier
Rocky Smiley
Steve Glass
Todd Aschenbach
Jen Lyndall
Jessica Miller
Joe Di Misa

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- October, 29 2015 Board Meeting Minutes. Roger motion to approve. Martha seconded. All in favor-minutes are approved. Minutes will be posted to the website.
- Committee Reports.
 - a. Webinars (Jessica). Jessica is talking with Bat Conservation International to try to co-host a webinar. She is also meeting with Dave Redell of Ohio Prairie Nursery for a webinar on seed mix uses and seed mix ingredients. Dave wants to do the webinar in early 2016 before seeding orders come in. Three other webinar proposals working - Ecological Restoration Quality Committee, Chris Lenhardt University of Minnesota, USACE Buffalo District Invasive Species Control. SER National is looking into Adobe Connect. Rocky recommends a webinar with a diversity of topics to add to the offerings. Roger recommends a webinar on invasive species. Laura recommends a topic on working with roadside managers-pollinators etc.
 - b. SER Restructure (Jen). Trying to synch the SER National Board of Directors with chapter boards. SER is looking to modify the fee structure. Proposal is to pay a single fee and you affiliate with a chapter. SER fees would be increased to cover the chapter affiliations. Increase would be from \$12 (current) to \$15-based on national average. Student cost has not been set yet. Chapters will continue to

operate on an independent basis. Joe foresees we would pick up members-some members in our geography do not currently belong to any chapter. Rocky wants to make sure each member joins one chapter so that the full payment would come to us. Sharing two chapters reduces our payment. Rocky would like us to obtain the greatest fee share possible (25%). SER Certification-April-May 2016 is the forecasted timeframe. There was a question about the difference between SER and the ESA certification. SER is looking primarily at a practitioners approach to the certification while ESA is for scientists. Continuing education credits will be required. Joe asked if comments on the existence of the program has passed-and it has. Future comments will be how the program is to be shaped.

- c. Annual Meeting (Rocky). Keynote speaker has been decided upon-Gerard Wilhelm. He has been invited-waiting on his response. Opening Plenary speakers and ideas are coming together. All 5 proposals were voted affirmative last month. Looking to host solicitations from 2017 and 2018-possible UW Stevens Point in 2018. Possible joint meeting with Iowa Prairie Conference in July 2017. This is different than our normal April meeting. No conflict concerns were raised. SER International conference will be in October 2017. Partnership for River Restoration in the Midwest could be a partner as well. Building a membership base in Iowa would be good. Would be best if the conference would be in Eastern Iowa. December 18 is last call for workshop or symposia proposals-especially student oriented workshops. Call for abstracts is January 11, 2016. Registration fee for 2016-not known yet but it will likely be same or less than last year.
- d. Continuing Education Ad Hoc Committee (Martha/Becky). 25 people responded to a November 23 survey. 50/50 interest in continuing education credits. ESA credits was the highest response with just a certificate required. 50 percent of respondents willing to pay \$25 for a class. Write-in comments were also provided. ALSA requires pre-approval of classes. 71% were interested in SER practitioner certification.
- e. Membership. Membership is 230 in November 9, 2015. October 8, 2015 was 236. Cause is unknown-but we may be entering into a low stable point. Jessica-webinars-Iowa has a great roadside management program. Joe recommends that Jessica connect with Laura Jackson to pursue this kind of webinar. Iowa centered webinar. Joe continues to outreach to non-members and Laura is working on increasing membership in Iowa.
- f. Communications. Need for more blog posts. Thanks to all that have done blog posts so far.
- g. Board Development (Todd). Student Rep-Katrina will be resigning. Other positions up for election: President, Secretary, Ohio Rep, Illinois Rep, Wisconsin Rep, two at-large positions, student rep. Todd reaching out to the persons up for election. Ohio Rep, Illinois Rep, One At-Large Rep, Student Rep positions up in the air right now. The terms are two years. Todd will send an Illinois list to Roger and

he can make recommendations or contact. Same thing for Joe in Ohio if Mike Enright does not desire to continue.

- h. Awards (Jen). Grants request for proposals have not been issued yet. Rocky will connect with Lauren to get this action moving forward. It is running behind schedule.
- Treasurer's Report (Dan). \$xx,xxx in the treasury. Amount is confidential-not for public view.

NO BOARD MEETING IN DECEMBER 2015!