



Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: January 29, 2015

Re: SER MWGL Board Meeting

Location: Teleconference

Issue Date: January 29, 2015

Submitted By: Joe Di Misa

In Attendance: Jen Lyndall
Todd Aschenbach
Roger Anderson
Don Tilton
Steve Glass
Laura Jackson
Joe DiMisa
Dan Larkin
Pamela Rice
Young Choi
John Shuey
Chris Lenhart

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- December, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes. Young motion to approve. Roger seconded. All in favor-minutes are approved.
- Iowa update. The board welcomed Laura as new Iowa rep! SER National approved Iowa as a new member state. We have sent an email to SER members in the state-through Leah Bregman-to ask them to join the chapter. Lauren also posted this news to the blog. Jen recommends a push to Iowa schools to encourage their participation at the annual meeting.

Chris is going to the Feb 8-11 Iowa Stream Restoration Conference. He will be setting up a booth and is considering holding a social hour-drinks on your own (no cost to the chapter).

- SER feedback on bylaws. SER National is reviewing bylaws revisions. We had proposals-but two wording suggestions came back from SER National. One on membership and one on subchapters. The edits were included in this meeting invitation. Jen will send out request for board approval of edits.

- SER updates (restructuring, social communications, elections). Working on software and communications with other chapters. HootSuite is being investigated which compiles social media posts. We are leading the charge on this for chapters.
- Webinar Planning. SER National has a go-to webinar account that can host up to 100 persons. Free to us and we can record the webinar. We can use it as much as we want as long as we book it in advance. Our first webinar is upcoming---this quarter---an idea is live stream the conference plenary and keynote. Joe mentioned uploading the presentations to You Tube after the conference as well. Jen will work with Todd Larking regarding audiovisual requirements.
- Update on reduced meeting registration/awards for Board members (Todd). This effort turned over to awards team. FYI-Michigan stewardship conference gives reduced cost to presenters. This discussion has been tabled for the future.
- Committee Reports.
 - a. Annual Meeting (Rocky). Deadline for abstracts is 30 January. 54 abstracts and 3 symposium proposals received so far. Student career workshop (resume design, etc) will be held. Meeting hosts will be holding a student mixer. Schedule of events is underway. Trying for 31 January to be the opening of registration. There is a board vote out on registration prices-please respond to Rocky.
 - b. Communications (Lauren) - Blog is up and running. Postings can be done by categories. Throwback Thursday is planned. Send any cool pictures that are landscape oriented to Lauren. Link to the blog from the chapter website.
 - c. Membership (Joe). Membership numbers as of January 6, 2015 are 248 total. The retweet promotion to be in a drawing for one of three free conference memberships is still ongoing and will continue after the conference registration announcement occurs. Joe sent emails to the 51 persons that attended the Michigan Botanists symposium in Fall of 2014 and three persons joined the chapter.

Joe described that in years past, if you joined the chapter for \$12, you received a discounted rate at the annual conference. It appears that there are 45 chapter only members that did this last year. We may lose some of these members in 2015 because to receive a conference discount, the attendee will need to join both SER and the chapter for \$62. Rocky-change in the structure of the membership dues is a test and evaluating the effects in the future and make changes as necessary. Young believes that the change will result in more involved and committed members in the future.
 - d. Subregional and State Activities (Don). No updates. Rocky, Joe, and Mike Enright are working on the Ohio 2nd year mini-event-likely to be held in Dayton with strong assistance from Five Rivers MetroParks.

October 14, 2015

Page 3

- e. Board Development (Todd). Slate sent to all members yesterday and opened for additional nominations.
- f. Awards (Lauren). - Practice Award, Research Award. Another \$1,000 student award will be offered again this year. Considering a \$500 practice award. Considering if this should be just open to students or to anyone. \$443.46 contributions are in hand. Her team is going to stores to get products for raffles for annual meeting. Rocky-idea-we could be giving off the idea that research is more important than practice because of the value difference. He also recommends that it be offered to student groups. Rocky, Chris, and Joe offered comments on asking firms to contribute. Rocky suggested that the awards be "up to" the maximum award. Rocky would like the awards presented at the meeting and need time for a board vote. Roger-asked about a restoration connection with companies. This will be investigated but might not be viable for seed/nursery sources. Best student poster and oral presentation will be awarded at the conference.
- Treasurer's Report (Dan). Bank account moved to Chase-widely available in all our member states. Conference sponsor checks coming in-\$400 has been deposited. \$4,400 conference pledges received as of yesterday. Catering costs have been reduced. Account balance is \$19,594.
- Jen Closing Comments. SER National has commented to Jen that we are "leading the way" across SER as one of the most involved chapter board and one of the most active chapters-thanks-and keep up the good work!