DRAFT Minutes from SERNW Monthly Board Meeting

Conference Call Number: 619-326-2772, Access Code: 315192
Tuesday, April 21 2015, 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
DRAFT DATED 5/3/15

Attendance:

President: Allison Warner - PRESENT
Executive Vice President: Barry Southerland - ABSENT
Program Vice President: Rolf Gersonde - PRESENT
Treasurer: Frank Reckendorf - PRESENT
Secretary: Lisa Chang - PRESENT
Publications/Web Manager: Kathy Schuler - ABSENT
SER Regional Representative: Dave Polster - PRESENT
Director at Large Position 1: Michael Hughes - ABSENT
Director at Large Position 2: Joshua Chenoweth - ABSENT
Director at Large Position 3: Jim Hallett - PRESENT
Director at Large Position 4: Russell Lawrence - ABSENT
Director at Large Position 5: Karma Anderson - ABSENT
Student Chapter Board Member: Vacant

Others in Attendance:
Samantha Rich

Handouts/Materials:
1. Agenda

I. Board Administration
1. 3/17/15 Meeting Minutes Approval (Karma Anderson) – Karma Anderson took minutes at the 3/17/15 Board meeting but the draft minutes from the March meeting were not circulated prior to tonight’s meeting, and Karma was not on the call. Therefore the March minutes were not approved.
2. Treasurers Report (Frank and Samantha) –
   a. The agenda indicated that a vote concerning items b and c below was needed from the Board. See agenda for background on this item.
   b. Frank made a motion that Samantha Rich should be added to Frank Reckendorf to have check writing and evaluation privileges at Key Bank for the Society for Ecological Restoration Northwest accounts. Jim Hallett seconded the motion, all Board members on the call approved with none opposed and no abstentions.
   c. Frank made a second motion that Samantha Rich should be added to Frank Reckendorf to have access and transaction privileges at both Sound Investment and at Charles
Schwab. Jim Hallett seconded the motion. All Board members on the call approved, with none opposed and no abstentions.

d. Allison asked if a third person should be added, per the agenda notes; Frank thought this would be confusing and the Board didn’t further entertain this idea.

e. Samantha reported that the Chapter has gone through the scholarship fund except for $400 awaiting travel reimbursement to be processed. She stated that we have $4,747.70 in the conference fund, with 65% to be allocated to SERNW and 35% to ERGB (i.e., $1,661.70 to SERGB, and the remainder to be transferred to the General Fund, which would result in $20,177 in the General Fund).

i. She noted that the Chapter was expecting $1,131 from SER for dues (see Item III.1. below, “Current membership report”); Frank indicated it would be received soon.

ii. Frank stated that the Endowment had $57,560.49 as of the end of March. Allison asked if we want to transfer funds to Endowment? Frank stated no analysis had been done yet and that we haven’t been putting funds into the mutual fund after previous conferences.

f. Research Grants. Jim noted that $3,000 had been allocated to a research grant. He explained that 2 years ago, SERNW instituted a research grant for advanced graduate and undergraduate students, and that we are currently reviewing applications for three $1,000 grants. Rolf asked where the $3,000 would come from; Frank explained these came from the General Fund, and that Samantha would transfer those funds now.

II. New Business

1. Allison to be absent for May Board meeting; Frank to Chair – Allison indicated she would not be present at the May Board meeting and needed a volunteer to chair; Frank volunteered and Rolf also indicated he could chair. Frank noted it would have been appropriate for the Vice President to fill this role as well.

III. Old Business

1. Current membership report – The agenda indicated the current membership report, with a geographic breakdown of the 306 members.

IV. Recurring Business

1. Board Committee Reports

   a. Program Committee. Rolf described the progress since the last meeting on putting together the conference committee for the 2016 Conference.

      i. Venue and Date. The venue and date have been set – the Red Lion Inn from April 4-April 8, 2016.

      ii. Contracts. The Program Committee is looking to work with a conference organizer to help with registration, venue, and accommodations. In addition, the Conference Committee is trying to set up contracts to retool the website, work with venue, etc.

      iii. Partners. A Conference Committee meeting has been held, and several organizations are interested in partnering with SERNW, including the
Washington Native Plant Society and the Northwest Forest Soils Council. Partnership agreements have not yet been established.

iv. **Conference theme.** Rolf noted that the 2016 Conference coincides with the 20th anniversary of the Northwest Forest Plan, and that the conference theme was likely to be something about monitoring.

v. **Call for Symposia and Papers.** A Call for Symposia will go out in early May, and a Call for Papers in June or July.

vi. **Other.** Dave Poslter said he would be happy to teach his “Natural Processes” course. Allison noted that the Prairie Oak Conference was putting on soils symposia and that she could put Dave’s name down for mechanical-physical alteration of soil. Lisa asked if there were a particular geographic focus to the Conference; Rolf said it was essentially that of the Chapter – the Northwest region.

vii. **Request for help.** Rolf said he’d like names of people who could help with Conference planning. Lisa stated that she could talk off-line with Rolf about some Puget Sound and Pacific Northwest monitoring consortia and forums she was aware of.

b. **Board Development.** Allison said that elections were due to happen in May and that anyone interested in running should send biographical sketches to Barry. Lisa asked about the timing of transition from current to new Board members. Allison explained that since elections are to be held in May, with new Board members to be seated at the summer meeting, it would be helpful if current Board members whose terms expire and who will not be running for re-election stay through the June 2015 meeting but to let Allison know if that isn’t possible.

c. **Strategic Communications.** Allison said a newsletter was being prepared for release at the end of May and asked Board members to send ideas to Allison and Karma. Dave indicated he had some ideas he could send Allison. It is also hoped that the 2016 Conference theme, dates, etc. can be announced in the May newsletter.

d. **SER Rep report.** Dave stated that Cara has found an interim Executive Director for SER and that this interim ED will at least serve through the SER Conference in Manchester, UK. He noted that the status of the ED position was being deliberated and could be related with pending decisions on where the head office is located – it could be decided that the head office is a “virtual” office. He also noted that members and officers are getting ready for the Manchester conference.

V. **Next Meeting**

1. The next meeting is Tuesday, May 19, 2015, and Allison again noted that she will be absent.