



Central Rockies SER Meeting Summary
Wednesday, September 9, 2015 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

Attendance: 14

Fort Collins: Mark Paschke, Randy Mandel, Andrea Borkenhagen, Casey Cisneros, Magda Garbowski, Jeremy Sueltenfuss, Brett Wolk, Cini Brown, Kelly Uhing, and Kristina Hufford.

Calling in: Susan Sherrod, Tim Hoelzle, Becky Kao, and Patricia Mcilvenna.

June minutes were approved and are posted to [CeRSER website](#)

President's Report (Randy Mandel):

- High Altitude Revegetation 2015 Summer Field Tour
 - The HAR summer field tour was hosted on July 13-14, 2015 in the Pinedale, Wyoming area. The theme was Oil and Gas Reclamation and was a free event jointly organized by HAR, CeRSER, and the Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center.
 - There were about 25 people who attended and the group spend the day touring a few reclamation project sites. There were many great examples of successful approaches to enhance wildlife and forb diversity. However, there does need to be a stronger emphasis on native plants. Overall, it was a great tour and many of the attendees were happy to see these reclamation projects in the field.
- SER 2015 Manchester recap
 - CeRSER was well represented at SER2015 in Manchester. Three executives and at least five chapter members attended and presented. There were many excellent plenaries and talks from around the world, however, the organization was lacking and there were too many presentations. The schedule was online and not very user friendly, rooms were small for popular sessions, and there were 17 concurrent sessions which resulted in dispersion of attendees. Overall, it was a good conference with many good sessions and well worth the trip.
- HAR-CeRSER 2015 conference
 - We are still waiting on receiving a summary of the surveys that were filled out online. Mindy set the survey's up on Survey Monkey and is the only one with access to them.
 - ACTION ITEM: Randy will follow up with Mindy to get these results.

Treasurer Report (Kelly Uhing):

- Kelly was able to get the signatures from Randy Mandel and Brett Wolk to transfer banking authority from Tim Hoelzle to Kelly. Tim is now officially off the books. Addresses will also be updated so all banking correspondences will now be sent to Kelly.

- Our balance is the same as last meeting, \$6,097.42. CeRSER is still waiting on the HAR- CeRSER conference money as all the donations and registration fees were collected in the HAR account. This was done because the HAR account was registered with Colorado State University, so tax receipts for donations and fund transfers with conference services was easy to organize. Cini Brown is the contact for the HAR account on campus and will follow-up with the CSU account manager to finalize the transfer. We are expecting \$12,147.08, which includes \$4,680.08 of conference expenses reimbursement and \$7,467.00 of profit. In total, the conference net about \$15,000 in profit, which was split between HAR and CeRSER.
- When the money from HAR arrives, we will have about 13k in our account. This is near what we had in 2013. Since then, our membership has increased and we are offering lots of events. Looks like the CeRSER board is spending money wisely and maintaining a healthy balance. Give yourselves a pat on the back!
 - UPDATE – Tim received the reimbursement check by mail from HAR on 9/18/2015. He will meet with Kelly to hand off the check so it can be deposited into the CeRSER account by 9/25/2015.

Secretary Report (Andrea Borkenhagen)

- WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: As of September 16, 2015, CeRSER has 102 members. Two new members sign-up in July; Neil Mclane (Private sector, Longmont, CO) and Stephen Hauptli (Government, Boulder, CO). Seven new members signed up by September; Marguerite Nutter, (Non-profit/Non-governmental Organization, SER Washington) Cedar Fisher (Academic, Salt Lake City, UT), Bryn Iten (Academic, Loveland, CO), Jon Plybon (Academic, Loveland, CO), Michael Cunningham (Government, Denver, CO), Gordon Kersten (Academic, Denver, CO), and Nora Covy (Academic, Greeley, CO).
 - Private sector – 1
 - Government – 2
 - Academic – 5
 - Non-profit – 1
 - Colorado – 7
 - Utah 1
 - Washington – 1
- Even though we added 9 new members, we still have the same number of members as we did at our last meeting in June. This may be due to summer and some members forgetting to renew.
- ACTION ITEM: Andrea will find out who did not renew their membership and pass the list to Randy, who will reach out to them and encourage their renewal.

Membership committee (Brett Wolk)

- Having a membership committee is written into the CeRSER bylaws but is not currently active. Meeting participants determined that the membership committee could connect members with student but should not be responsible for a student mentor program.

- Tim volunteered to chair the membership committee and Brett and Kelly volunteered to be members. Brett will send Tim contact info for the people who listed on the HAR-CeRSER conference survey that they were interested in participating in a membership committee.

Outreach Committee Report (Casey Cisneros)

- The committee has been at rest over the summer months. Casey recently reached out to the members to confirm their continued involvement in organizing outreach activities. Two people were no longer able to commit time, but the committee retained eight people and added one new member joining from the HAR-CeRSER conference.
- Future pub talks and workshops
 - There are currently no CeRSER events planned but Casey will kick-start the committee into planning something for the Western slope by the end of the year. Options include: Mark Weinhold, a fluvial geomorphologist from Carbondale, or Tamara Minnick, a plant and soil ecologist from Colorado Mesa University.
- Chapter Brochure
 - CeRSER does not have a promotional brochure. We have always used the international SER organizations brochure for advertising. Meeting participants determined that it would be good to design a chapter specific brochure, which would help with outreach and membership initiatives. Kristina Hufford volunteered to begin designing a brochure that will describe the CeRSER group and membership benefits for practitioners, agency personnel, and students/faculty. Our other marketing material includes a board and stand that can be used in booths, which Tim has, and t-shirts, which Mark Paschke has.

Student Guild

- Colorado State University SER (Magda Garboski, new president)
 - They have had a few meetings and lots of new members this school year. Yesterday, there were 18 people that came to the greenhouse to help plant seeds in preparation for their annual native plant sale. So far, they have organized four upcoming events with WRV and have 5-10 people signed up already. They would also like to do another pubtalk and mixer like last year, hopefully around December and another in the spring so that students can meet people they would potentially work with in the summer. We have done a mixer before that was not very successful as student were shy to talk to the professionals and ended up talking amongst themselves. We need to do a better job of facilitating this. Maybe it could be more formal, like a job fair where they could bring a resume, or we could provide nametags to display company affiliations. CeRSER will work to support and cosponsor a student mixer.
- University of Wyoming (Patricia Mcilvenna, UW student)
 - There is another restoration group on campus that have been around for a few years ([ROaR!](#) - Restoration Outreach and Research!) and they would be a good

partner for an SER group. Patricia will coordinate with their president to organizing an event and suggest registering with the international organization as a SER guild. ROaR! would not have to change anything but would get all the benefits of being affiliated with SER.

- Connecting the members with students and increasing the number of student chapters is a good goal for the next few years.

SER Global restructure update (Brett Wolk, Randy Mandel, and Tim Hoelzle)

- Or regional rep is changing from Aida Farag to Dan Spencer, an associate professor in Environmental Studies at the University of Montana. More information to come.
- Bethanie Walder is the new executive director of SER.
 - For more information, check out: [Bethanie Walder](#)
 - She was in Manchester for the SER2015 conference and some of the CeRSER members that attended got to meet with her. The overall sentiment was that she is a sociable and energetic person with a plan of action for getting the parent organization back on track. There will likely be a lot of new things coming out of this transition and it's exciting to see the position filled by such a competent member. When she was brought on for the restructure, she asked what regional chapters they should contact to understand more about their activities and needs. CeRSER was one of those chapters and Brett was able to speak with her. We got some feedback that they really liked our pub talks and workshops.
 - Bethanie is based out of Montana and it would be good for us to keep her in the loop of our activities. We should include her on our mailing list.
 - ACTION ITEM: Andrea to add Bethanie to the CeRSER listserv.

Additional Business

- The 2015 Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference (October 6-8, 2015 in Avon, CO) is offering 30 student sponsorships and there are still some available. They are prioritizing new attendees. CeRSER student members should apply. More information at [SCWC](#) or email Randy Mandel at Randy_Mandel@golder.com
- The theme of the next ESA is Novel Ecosystems. We don't have an SER international conference to attend this year so might be good to have a showing at ESA.
- Should we have another HAR-CeRSER meeting in 2017? If we do, we should start thinking about planning it soon and securing the facility now. Kristina supports Fort Collins as a venue as it's a good central location. We also have a list of people from last HAR-CeRSER conference who mentioned in our survey being interest in helping to organize. By December 2015 we should form a preliminary committee and have a meeting.
- In the future we should mix it up and have a meeting in Denver. We could also have a concurrent meeting with multiple locations. Tim would be happy to host at Great Ecology in Denver for the next meeting. As a note, the bylaws state that there are two types of meetings, board meetings and membership meetings. We can think about having one or the other in the future as we always have membership meetings.

- Sponsorship of the Southern Rockies Seed Network Annual Meeting
 - December 3rd, 2015 in Loveland, CO [SRSN Annual Meeting](#)
 - John Giordanengo has requested that CeRSER participate as a sponsor. Mark, Randy, and Kristina are either organizing or speaking at this meeting (so abstained from voting as a CeRSER member). This shows that there is a good amount of overlap between CeRSER and SRSN and it would be worth collaborating with them. Meeting participants agreed that we could sponsor a booth and honorarium for an out-of-town presenter. We would also request to have our logo displayed and perhaps have a CeRSER member introduce the speaker. We plan to review the amount required to support an out-of-town presenter but will remain consistent with the value we typically donate for these sorts of events.
 - ACTION ITEM: Casey will ask how much money is needed to sponsor a particular speakers travel. UPDATE – travel costs were determined to be \$650. This expense was approve electronically by the CeRSER board on 9/18/2015.

Next Meeting

- October 22nd at 12pm
- Concurrent meeting locations:
 - Great Ecology, 1435 Larimer Street Suite 200 Denver, CO.
 - Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, Forestry Building, Rm 114.
- Call in number: 970-491-2613



CeRSER members enjoying some English ales at a local pub during the SER2015 conference in Manchester, UK.