



Central Rockies SER Meeting Summary
Wednesday, October 22, 2015 12:00pm - 1:00pm
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
Great Ecology, Denver, CO

Attendance: 11

Fort Collins: Mark Paschke, Randy Mandel, Andrea Borkenhagen, Casey Cisneros, Jeremy Sueltenfuss, Brett Wolk and Hannah Riedl

Calling in: Tim Hoelzle, Kelly Uhing, Sara Copp and Patricia Mcilvenna.

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

President's Report (Randy Mandel):

- Nothing new to deliver at this time, however Randy Mandel is pleased with the continued momentum.

HAR-CeRSER 2015 conference

- **Summary electronic survey results:** received by Mindy Wheeler and delivered to the group at the meeting by Randy. The results are from the 98 people that participated in the survey. For a more detailed account of the results, check the last few pages of the meeting minutes
 - The majority (44%) of the attendees of the conference were restoration practitioners. The next most common groups were Land Managers (19%) and Research/Academics (15%).
 - We were able to most effectively inform people of the conference through CeRSER (25%) and HAR (29%) listserv emails, although most participants heard of the conference through Word-of-Mouth (33%)
 - The majority of participants were very satisfied (59%) to satisfied (31%) with the conference, with only small fraction of participants being unsatisfied (2%)
 - The large majority (90%) of workshop attendees were very satisfied to satisfied.
 - The large majority of conference attendees strongly agreed to agreed that attending the conference increased their understanding of issues (97%) and that they learned new skills (79%).
 - All the sessions ranked similarly on level of interest with novel ecosystems, wetland/riparian and mining and energy averaging higher and forest ecosystems and case studies as lower.
- **Dates for the next conference:** Tim Hoelzle has had a number of people contact him about when our next conference will be. We are currently planning for around the same time of year (March) for 2017. To keep the momentum going with our annual schedule of events, we could plan a one-day workshop in March of this year. The reason we are not having one this year is because it's a lot of work to host a conference and the group wanted to avoid burnout. Maybe a few years down the road, if we had more people

interested, we could host it each year. However, we all agreed that having a smaller event around the same time on off-conference years would be good way to consistently deliver CeRSER educational events to members.

- **HAR-CeRSER 2017 conference:** The board plans to have a conference planning meeting before December.

Treasurer Report (Kelly Uhing):

- **Balance is \$18,244.42.** This is about \$7,000 more than we had at this time last year.
- Since our last meeting in September, we received a check from HAR for \$12,147 for half of the conference money, the SER membership dues of \$182, and had one t-shirt sale, from Kelly Uhing herself. Thanks for representing Kelly!
- We have upcoming board approved debits for sponsoring an out-of-town speaker at \$650 for the [Southern Rockies Seed Network Annual Meeting](#), to sponsor a member meeting at \$75 with the [Colorado Weed Network Meeting](#), and our [Grand Junction Pub Talk](#) that will cost about \$500.

Secretary Report (Andrea Borkenhagen)

- **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** We received our 3rd Quarter report from SER on October 8th, 2015 and we have 103 members. Before the conference, we had about 80 members, so we continue to grow and offering conferences and related educational events is a great way to attract new members. Since September 16, 2015, we have attracted one new member, David Ross (Government Agency, Denver, CO).
- Bethanie Walden, the new Executive Director of SER has been added to the CeRSER listserv.
- **Our new CeRSER Facebook page** will be set up by Kelly and she needs photos from CeRSER events. We currently do not have a central location where we store these. Andrea Borkenhagen will set up a folder on our CeRSER Google drive for the board to access. In a future listserv email, we should reach out to members to see if they have a restoration project they would like to highlight?
- **ACTION ITEM:** Andrea to set up a folder on our google drive. This folder will be shared with the board member and other members who contribute with advertising and events.

Membership Report (Brett Wolk and Tim Hoelzle)

- The formation of a membership committee was approved at the last meeting but has not started rolling yet. Tim has volunteered to lead this committee.
- The membership committee is defined in our bylaws and its role is to help recruit and retain members, to promote new student groups, and facilitate student professional relations. This committee will coordinates strongly with outreach and the student guilds.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Tim will organize an initial meeting using the contact info for the people who listed on the HAR-CeRSER conference survey that they were interested in participating in a membership committee.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Andrea will find out who did not renew their membership and pass the list to Tim who can coordinate with Randy to reach out and encourage their renewal.

Outreach Report (Casey Cisneros)

- **Pub Talks**
 - **Our next Pub Talk** will be on November 11th at Baron's Bar and Grill in Grand Junction. Sara is making the advertisement for it and we will start circulating the information to members by the end of the week. The title of the talk is “Benefits of Successful Ecological Restoration Following Oil and Gas Development” by Richard Alward, a Certified Senior Ecologist and Owner of Aridlands Natural Resource Consulting in Grand Junction, Colorado. We do not have a cosponsor but can add a line item in the advertisement inviting any interested partners to contact us if they are interested in supporting the event. Jeremy Sueltenfuss volunteered to make some cold-calls in the area to see if we can get a cosponsor. Randy Mandel and Kelly Uhing will be attending and will coordinate to bring a projector and screen.
- **Other events in the works**
 - In talk with the American Society of Landscape Architects to coordinate a workshop day in March.
 - Also speaking with the CSU Student guild to partner for a Pub Talk for when the spring semester starts around the end of January.
- **Chapter Brochure**
 - Tim and Kristina Hufford had volunteered to lead this as it pertains to memberships. They have not started on this task yet but Tim will follow-up with Kristina this week.

Student Guild Report

- **Colorado State University** (Hannah Riedl, new CSU SER Student Guild president)
 - The group is currently putting together a list of people they would like to invite for a Pub Talk in Fort Collins in the New Year. They were considering New Belgium as CeRSER had great success with a Pub Talk at their venue last year. The benefit to hosting at a brewery is that they allow minors, just don't provide them alcohol. This is a concern for the CSU Student guild as they want to make sure that underage members are still able to attend even though it's at a pub-style venue. We also discussed that the New Belgium venue is expensive to rent (room and contracting outside catering) and there might be less expensive options. Consider looking into other breweries that have large meeting areas and food services such as Fort Collins Brewery or O'Dell Brewing Company. The CeRSER board agreed to cosponsor the event and can help work out the details on bringing in a regional specialist as a speaker.
- **University of Wyoming** (Patricia Mcilvenna)

- The current restoration organization is working to gather the funds and preparing the application to become accredited as an official SER student association. They would also like to coordinate with CeRSER and CSU. Maybe they can bring up the same speaker to talk at both schools.
- Kristina Hufford and Peter Stahl will be mentoring the guild.

SER Global Update (Brett Wolk)

- [Bethanie Walden](#) has been officially certified as the new Executive Director of SER. She is based in Missoula, Montana. Currently, there are two permanent staff in Washington, DC, Marguerite Nutter the Membership & Communications Director and Hannah Boone the Program assistant, and Levi Wickwire the Program Manager who is based in Arizona. More information on the [SER Staff webpage](#).
- Things are moving forward with the global restructure and the SER team is trying to figure out how to further connect the chapters. They have asked us to put on a webinar on how to put on a Pub Talk. Casey and Brett will lead this effort. Nothing has been scheduled yet.
- The next [SER2017 World Conference](#) will be in Brazil. This location was selected to try to recruit new members from the region. The current plan is to have a conference in North America every 6 years. This is being challenged by the local chapters as a great majority of the member base is in North America and they feel that 6 years is too long in between local conference events. There has been some discussion about hosting North America continental conferences that can be cosponsored by a chapter. The next target for this would be in 2018. Regional chapters will be discussing this plan at the [Northwest Chapter Conference](#) in Portland, Oregon in April 2016. They would like one rep of each chapter in NA to attend this meeting so they can discuss this idea.
- What do we think about trying to host this conference in 2018? It would be more work but we would get support from the global SER organization who would hire a professional organizer. This would also mean that we wouldn't have a local meeting for three years as it would be too close together to host HAR-CeRSER 2017 and SER NA Continental 2018. We should do one or the other. The idea of a NA Continental conference just came up among regional chapters over the last few days so we should talk more at the next CeRSER meeting when we have more information about how this will move forward. Brett and Tim will be going to the NW Chapter Conference and plan to attend the Chapter Rep meeting about this issue.

Additional Business

- **Voting bylaws**
 - There is some confusing writing and contradictory terminology in the bylaws that need revision. Such as, that there are chair positions for membership and outreach committees but they are not written in as officers, and that there is a board of directors, which we don't have anymore. We discussed, and nobody opposes that outreach and membership leaders should be on the board. If the membership position becomes an official board position, there should be an

election. For the most parts, the bylaws are clear but it does need some tweaking.

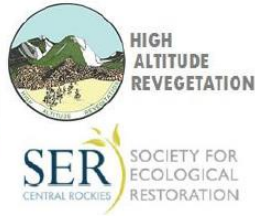
- ACTION ITEM: Mark will go through the bylaws and make edits, then send around for comments.

Next Meeting

- Officers Meeting
 - December 2nd 11:30 am
 - Nick's Homestyle, Fort Collins, CO
- General Meeting
 - December 2nd 1:00 -2:00 pm
 - Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, Forestry Building, Rm 114.
- Call in number: 970-491-2601



Figure: In April 2015, Central Rockies Chapter of SER and the Colorado Native Plant Society hosted a [Willow Identification Workshop](#) at the High Plains Environmental Center in Loveland, Colorado. Two leading restoration ecologists in Colorado, Randy Mandel and John Giordanengo, give hands-on instruction about how to identify the primary native willows of Colorado.



**The Central Rockies Chapter of the
Society for Ecological Restoration and
The High Altitude
Revegetation Committee
2015 Conference**

HAR-CeRSER Conference Online Survey Results

Question	Answer	Count (98 total)
1. Which of the following best describes you?	Restoration Practitioner	43
	Research/Academia	14
	Land Manger	18
	Student	7
	Policy Maker	4
	Other	12

Question	Answer	Count (96 total)
2. How did you hear about the conference?	Har Email	28
	CeRSER Email	24
	Word of Mouth	32
	Announcement	5
	Other	7

Question	Answer	Count (81 total)
3. Online Registration	Very Satisfactory	48
	Satisfactory	25
	Neutral	6
	Unsatisfactory	2
	Very Unsatisfactory	0

Question	Answer	Count (82 total)
4. On site check-in	Very Satisfactory	50
	Satisfactory	19
	Neutral	4
	Unsatisfactory	9
	Very Unsatisfactory	0

Question	Answer	Count (82 total)
5. Meeting Facilities	Very Satisfactory	50
	Satisfactory	27
	Neutral	4
	Unsatisfactory	1
	Very Unsatisfactory	0

Question	Answer	Count (83 total)
6. Food and Beverage	Very Satisfactory	26
	Satisfactory	37
	Neutral	13
	Unsatisfactory	6
	Very Unsatisfactory	1

Question	Answer	Count (80 total)
7. Ease of Access	Very Satisfactory	37
	Satisfactory	29
	Neutral	11
	Unsatisfactory	2
	Very Unsatisfactory	1

Question	Answer	Count (76 total)
8. How far was your commute each day?	15-40	8
	40-75	16
	75-150	1
	150+	1
	NA	50

Question	Answer	Count (39 total)
9. Monitoring Workshop	Very Satisfactory	17
	Satisfactory	18
	Neutral	2
	Unsatisfactory	2
	Very Unsatisfactory	0

Question	Answer	Average	Count
10. Rate the technical sessions by the highest to lowest interest:	Novel Ecosystems	5.7	49
	Complex Projects	5.6	47
	Forest Ecosystems	6.0	47
	Mining and Energy	5.3	48
	Muti-trophic Interactions	5.9	44
	Grassland and Shrubland	4.9	46
	Wetland and Riparian	4.6	49
	High Elevation	5.3	46
	Case Studies	6.0	40
	Forest Ecosystems	6.5	40

Question	Answer	Count (58 total)
11. Poster Session	Very Satisfactory	23
	Satisfactory	29
	Neutral	5
	Unsatisfactory	1
	Very Unsatisfactory	0

Question	Answer	Count (26 total)
12. Student Mixer	Very Satisfactory	12
	Satisfactory	9
	Neutral	4
	Unsatisfactory	0
	Very Unsatisfactory	1

Question	Answer	Count (26 total)
13. Pub talk	Very Satisfactory	15
	Satisfactory	5
	Neutral	4
	Unsatisfactory	1
	Very Unsatisfactory	1

Question	Answer	Count (78 total)
14. Increased Understanding of Issues	Strongly Agree	39
	Agree	37
	Neutral	2
	Disagree	0
	Strongly Disagree	0

Question	Answer	Count (77 total)
15. Learned New Skills	Strongly Agree	26
	Agree	35
	Neutral	15
	Disagree	0
	Strongly Disagree	1

Question	Answer	Count (78 total)
16. Conversed with people	Strongly Agree	31
	Agree	39
	Neutral	7
	Disagree	1
	Strongly Disagree	0

Question	Answer	Count (79 total)
17. Was it a good time of year?	Yes	77
	No	4