



Central Rockies SER Meeting Summary

Wednesday, December 14, 2016, 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

Attendance: 10

Fort Collins: Brett Wolk (President), Mark Paschke (Chair – Scientific committee meeting), Hannah Riedl (Student Representative), Jayne Jonas (Communications Committee chair), Andrea Borkenhagen (Member)

Calling in: Megan Bowes (Boulder Open Space), Magda Garbowski (Secretary), Jessie Olson (Membership Committee Chair, Left Hand Watershed Group), Kristina Hufford (Professor - U. of WY), Casey Cisneros (Treasurer)

September meeting were approved and posted to the CeRSER website:

<http://chapter.ser.org/centralrockies/newsletters/>

Agenda (check the [events calendar on the website](#) for agenda updates):

1. President's Report

- General Updates
 - This is the first call in sometime that has been open to all CeRSER members. There has been a push to restructure meetings to include webinars or host speakers as part of meetings to engage more CeRSER members.
 - Since April 2016 various board positions have been filled with new individuals and several committees have been formed to fill CeRSER organizational needs. Brett has been working with the communications, membership, and outreach committees to make sure everyone is on the same page and duties are not being duplicated.
 - The website is being updated to fit with SER's website. Currently the website is hosted by wordpress but the platform may change as well (Jayne).
- Tim Hoelzle (Vice President) updates sent via email and relayed to the group by Brett
 - Several SER chapters have expressed a need for more North American activities (conferences, workshops, etc.) in addition to hosting a world conference every six years. Specifically there is interest in a chapter hosting a national conference in 2018 and proposals are now being solicited regarding which chapters would like to be involved.
 - SER has offered support for hosting a conference. Specifically they are willing to provide staff to help organize but the hosting chapter would have to compensate SER for this help.
 - There will definitely be a meeting in Quebec City in 2020, but a site has not been chosen for 2018.
 - There is definitely a desire for more cohesion among the North American Chapters and there needs to be more involvement among chapters for continental scale work.
- World conference in Brazil
 - CeRSER involvement. How do we want to participate in the conference?
 - Scholarships?
 - Should scholarships be focused on students?
 - Travel to Brazil and participation in the conference is going to be expensive (a few thousand dollars for travel, registration, and lodging) so we probably cannot provide too many scholarships to folks likely just one.

Approving international travel for student is often difficult and the whole cost needs to be covered to avoid hassle (Mark).

- Should scholarships be open to professionals?
 - Profession travel issues to Brazil would be similar to student problems – primarily finding a way to fund the whole trip. Also work is often funded by grants and international travel may not be covered or folks may be ineligible for international travel. Agrees with Mark about fewer but larger awards are a better option (Jessie).
 - We could ask candidate to confirm that they can cover the remainder for the cost of the trip so funds are actually used (Megan).
- Fundraising is an option but we would need to decide what we are going to offer soon so we can get fundraising underway.
- If travel from CO/WY is so expensive how many people can we actually attract to go down there with scholarships? Does CeRSER have people slated to go to the conference? Randy Mandel has been helping with organization and may be going – we should touch base with him to see what his plans are at this point. Maybe he could represent CeRSER (Megan)?
- A campaign to get the awards process underway needs to be started. Megan and Andrea are willing to head these efforts.
 - As a chapter we prefer to fund travel for students or professionals to North American meetings and other regional conferences rather than travel to Brazil or other international travel.
 - **Action item: Megan and Andrea work on setting up a scholarship committee and developing guidelines for the awards process.**
- Special session? – CeRSER hosted a special session in Wisconsin a few years ago. Hosting a special session may entice folks to head down to Brazil.
- SER Global Update
 - SER is going through a re-branding: there is a push for corporate donations, there seems to be more communication from the national level, and a few of the CeRSER members have been receiving more emails about updating/renewing memberships.
 - SER is also restructuring payment and membership fees.
 - Starting in January 1, membership will be a \$65 flat fee that will include a membership in a chapter. Members will now have to be affiliated with a chapter.
 - SER has been moving forward with certified restoration ecologist training and outlining what it means to be certified. Brett reached out to the CeRSER board to see if anyone was interested in helping out with this efforts. John Giordenango been helping with these efforts. **If there is anyone else who wants to be involved they should get in touch with Brett Wolk and he can provide them with more information.**

2. Treasurer's Report

- Total Balance: \$14582.16

- Since last Board meeting (Sept. 28th, 2016) Quarter 3 chapter membership dues were deposited (\$217.50)
- Southern Rockies Seed Network sponsorship (\$500.00) and expenses for the Laramie Pub Talk at Dyer's Public House (\$350.00) has been withdrawn.
- How much of it will be used for the March conference? What is our expected profit margin? Mark hopes that NONE of the \$14,000 is needed for the conference. The conference should be self-sufficient. The money in this account can be used for pub talks, brochures, and meetings such as the recent seed network meeting, sponsors, and scholarships.
 - Ideally the chapter will continue to raise funds through memberships. CU now has a chapter and hopefully those students will sign on as well as students from Wyoming.

3. Secretary's Report

- Cleaning up CerSER email list.
 - Students on listserve? We should let the guilds decide and potentially only add students that join the regional chapter - it is only \$5. Students should do this to get information and highlighting the benefits of getting on the broader list.
- Students at CSU have been using RamLink so the restoration listserve (w 200+ people has not been utilized as of late).
- **Action item: Jessie will send Hannah a list of faculty advisors and chapter presidents for each group.**
- **Action item: Magda and Hannah work with Jessie to see how to get students to join. Mention breadth of members and see how to get in touch with these people.**
- **Action item: Magda – send email to Brett and Tim to who we can cross off the list serve and we will contact folks about who should remain on the list. If someone is more than six months over due we should contact him or her about renewal.**

4. Membership Committee Report

- Jessie – As Brett has mentioned, membership, outreach and communications have been working together to clarify roles and responsibilities.
 - Outreach updated event protocols and paperwork that will streamline planning of events.
- Jessie has been working with SER global office to get more information about website and abilities to track members. Can get up to date list of members now.
 - Notifying members about lapsing memberships is not our responsibility – SER will take care of it.
- Goals for next year: increase student chapters and develop streamlined way to communicate with them. So far, CU, CSU, and U. WY are involved. One way to streamline communication is to get one email going for all of these groups so there is no confusion and we have a unified way to deliver information.
- Jessie would also like to develop a list of groups of potential members outside of academia.
- Should we have a CerSER survey about member expectations of the chapter?
- The numbers: October (88 members) now (97 members) (Brett)
- Mark has noticed a lot of abstracts from NM Highlands University.
 - They are not in our 2-state region but maybe they would want to form student guild – should they go to desert chapter or join CerSER.
 - Geographically our chapter has been given WY and CO. Can we claim Northern New Mexico? It may be worth asking SER national leadership. This would be great since WY has only one 4-year university (Kristina). More diversity and more options may involve other folks.

- Utah has also submitted a lot of abstracts for the conference. Eastern Utah may also be interested in our chapter. There is nothing that prevents people from being members of our chapter. As a student guild we do not know if we could have them in our fold. Nothing to prevent us from recruiting them in our chapter. If they form a student association – it could help them share information with us.
- These groups would still need to be official student guilds to get the \$5 chapter option. CeRSER should have conference with SER national folks about borders. Maybe this shouldn't be by state boundaries but by biomes. Moving along....
- Conversation happened with SER restructuring a year or so ago. We may not have the traction to officially get boundaries changes – we tried to get Montana but it didn't work. Geographically that doesn't make sense. If people want to be involved with our conference and what we are doing that is good thing and we should try to capitalize on it (Brett)

5. Outreach Committee Report

- Recap on pubtalks and summer events:
 - We were able to schedule a pub talk to coincide with the HAR/CeRSER Summer Field Tour in Durango on July 26. Mike Wight of the Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) spoke about collaboration for riparian restoration projects along four tributaries of the Colorado River. One dimension of the SCC approach is to engage young adults in the science and community of riparian restoration. We were very fortunate to have this talk sponsored by Horizon Environmental Services, a land restoration and reclamation company, also based in Durango.
 - On October 27th Mike Curran and Nicholas Graf spoke in Laramie about GIS tracking tools and reclamation efforts for the greater sage-grouse. GIS layers include sage-grouse leks, and disturbance and reclamation within 2 miles of each lek. Data are used by the USFWS as well as policymakers addressing development and restoration. This was attended by about 35 people from both the University and consultant groups. Key developments from Larimer: plan earlier, select good venues, make sure someone from the board of membership can be present and make it a CeRSER event not just a pubtalk.
- Upcoming event in Colorado Springs
 - There will be a CeRSER event held the last week of January or first week of February in Colorado Springs. Leah Shipstead from the USFS is working on a presentation, and CUSP will likely also be in attendance. Venues and a solid date should be confirmed within a few days.
- Outreach committee is planning on doing a workshop in Fall 2017. Medium to low organizational stress either alone or with another chapter. Location, date, topic has not been decided.

6. [HAR-CeRSER 2017 Conference](#) Update - March 7-9th, 2017, in Fort Collins, Colorado

- Poster abstracts still being accepted

- Conference update (Mark) – Conference is being organized by five committees that have been meeting fairly regularly. Planning for the March meeting has been moving along.
 - Program committee has been selecting abstracts for speakers. 48 abstracts to be presented as presentations and will be broken into four person sessions: 11 sessions over three days with three keynotes.
 - Posters on two evenings. Right now we have 22 posters but will keep poster submission open. The program committee would like to increase poster numbers.
 - Registration is open. Deadline for early registration is in January/February. Make sure to register because prices go up. Key notes: Erik Higgs, Katie Suding, Ann Kennedy.
- CeRSER at the meeting- is there time allotted for a CeRSER membership conference?
- Program committee will turn this over to logistics committee to plug in breaks and figure out other things to include in the conference.
- Other events?
 - Student mixer event? Maybe get student chapters together?
 - Ideas and plans need to be sent to Mark.

7. Student Guild Report

- CSU, U. of Colorado Boulder (Newly joined!), U. of Wyoming (Joining soon!)
- CSU chapter updates
 - CSU has been working on getting a project together in MT.
 - Nancy Shaw – CSU was trying to rally student groups to host a student mentor meeting at the seed conference. Nancy was interested in meeting in Denver, Hannah reached out to CU Denver and got the ball rolling but the week before we didn't have location figured out or time so the plans didn't happen and a cancellation was suggested.
 - Maybe better to meet folks in person and make communication more clear. Trying to be hand off with events may not necessary work.
 - Nancy Shaw did go up to Wyoming and met with students up there.
- Early January – send email to register for conference and to still submit posters. Maybe include list of speakers/keynotes?
 - Student groups and involvement – All student groups should be invited to CeRSER events.
 - WY will submit paperwork to become an official chapter this month or next month.
 - All student groups were contacted about free registration for the seed network conference in exchange for manning the CeRSER booth but very few students attended. Possibly finals deterred some students from participating.
 - Becoming official student chapters is a benefit for the schools and SER regional as well. Hannah will check back in to see if students are required to be part of regional chapters?
 - Hannah and Magda need to draft information about this. To be on board of directors folks need to be members of the chapters. Currently we only have one student rep but we should get more in April since we now have two more local

student chapters. Opportunities to serve on the board and influence direction of CeRSER.

8. Additional business

- Jessie brought up potential for CerSER developing guidelines for riparian restoration – in the next 6 months they would be finalizing draft monitoring plan. If anyone has interest in being part of a technical committee contact Jessie Olson.
- Brett received feedback from Amber in CS about the document for planning pubtalk.

Next meeting date? Mid February – before HaR-CER.

- Magda initiate doodle for meeting.

Elections? Treasurer, student reps to be elected in March or April 2017.

- Action item: Megan Bowes will solicit board nominations again this spring.