



## **Central Rockies SER Meeting Summary**

**Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, 12:00pm ~ 1:00pm  
Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO**

### **Attendance: 16**

**Fort Collins:** Mark Paschke, Brett Wolk, Jonas Feinstein, Jayne Jonas, Cini Brown, Emma Bocking, Andrea Borkenhagen.

**Phoneland:** Tim Hoelzle, Randy Mandel, Ray Sperger, Ann Frazier, Steve Yochum, Adrienne Pilmanis, Susan Sherrod, Aida Farag, Megan Bowes.

### **President's Report:**

It was a quiet last month of service for our valiant president Mark. After 2 years at the helm and successfully resurrecting the chapter from no action the past 10 years to over 70 vibrant members holding regular meetings and events, Mark officially stepped down as chapter president at the end of the meeting. Thanks for all your service Mark!

Mark reported on an email thread amongst chapter leaders who are asking SER to offer certification for restoration professionals. SER is hesitant to start this program, mostly due to cost, but also the added logistics and organization needed to oversee a nationwide certification program is daunting. Mark and many others in the chapter voiced concern about how to design appropriate certification standards for such a broad discipline as ecological restoration, which includes soils, wildlife, vegetation, hydrology, landscape architecture, etc. The chapter made a recommendation to our regional rep, Aida Farag, that the Central Rockies SER is hesitant to endorse such a certification program run by SER, and we see greater benefit in offering training classes in specific disciplines of ecological restoration.


### **Treasurer Report**

Our current balance is \$12,492.70, which reflects about \$900 paid for catering for the upcoming pub talk at New Belgium Brewery in Fort Collins since our last meeting. Treasurer Tim Hoelzle raised the question about whether the chapter should pursue official 501c3 status with the IRS as a tax exempt non-profit organization. Tim spoke with other chapter leaders at the SER2013 conference in Wisconsin, and every other chapter has applied for and maintains non-profit status. While there is a burden with paperwork and filing a tax return statement every year, the benefits of being able to accept donations and also reserve venues for events seems worth the trouble. Tim is going to investigate further and pursue the paperwork so we can have official non-profit status.

**The Central Rockies chapter meeting summary from December was officially approved!**

## Secretary Report

Brett had a quiet month, membership is climbing near 80 members and the new email listserv seems to be working well. After 2 years as secretary Brett is moving on to the role of Vice President/President Elect. He described his current duties as secretary including taking meeting minutes and assisting with year end reports to the SER board. The largest and most exciting role of the secretary is participating as an active board member and offering advice on chapter wide decisions. Anyone interested in running for secretary is encouraged to contact Mark Paschke and nominate themselves.



**Ecology and Hydrology of Fires and Floods:  
Applied Science in a Changing Landscape**

**SER** SOCIETY FOR  
CENTRAL ROCKIES ECOLOGICAL  
RESTORATION

Come join the Central Rockies Chapter of the Society of Ecological Restoration for a **free pub talk** on the ecology and hydrology of fires and flood, presented by **Steven Yochum & Jonas Feinstein** of the USDA NRCS. Event runs from **7:00 – 9:30 pm** on **January 30, 2014** at **New Belgium Brewery** (500 Linden St, Fort Collins, CO 80524).  
*Food, Beer, & Ecological Restoration*

## Outreach Committee Updates (Formerly called Events Committee)

Our upcoming pub talk at New Belgium Brewery in January is coming together well. New Belgium is graciously providing free beer and free use of their tap room for the event, and we ordered catered appetizers to keep everyone happy. Susan Sherrod is also arranging a pub talk in Boulder likely in February or March with Merideth Gardner from CU Boulder as a potential speaker on fire, bark beetles, and disturbance ecology. More to come soon!

Randy also mentioned that he is doing a willow class for the Colorado Native Plant Society in April. CERSER was very interested in joining as a sponsor to this event rather than try and organize a similar event on our own. Steve Yochum mentioned that a recent fish passage workshop he attended would be interesting to our membership and we could pursue that as a potential training session to sponsor.

Ann Frazier had a second discussion with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers about holding joint training events. We are also discussing collaborating on a

restoration project with WRV in the next year. CERSER members would assist with project design as well as volunteers for the workday. Providing expertise from Central Rockies members to give a WRV crew leader training is also still very appealing to both groups, and they are interested trainings on willows and road obliteration techniques.

Mark and several other members raised concerns about only targeting training to WRV crew leaders. We feel the chapter is large enough and has enough expertise to hold additional training workshops that would be open to anyone in the community.

## **Elections**

Mark Paschke's term as chapter president officially ended at the conclusion of our meeting, and Randy Mandel was promoted from Vice President/President Elect to President. Brett Wolk was elected as the new Vice President/President Elect. Due to Brett's election, we now need to fill his vacant board position as chapter Secretary. The election committee, consisting of Mark and Megan Bowes, will seek nominations and conduct the election for chapter secretary in the coming weeks. Tim will continue as treasurer until 2015, when new elections will be held for his position.

A committee refresh was proposed for our next meeting to get new voices on the outreach and fundraising committees. In particular the fundraising committee has been quiet of late and could use some new enthusiastic people who want to add grant writing and fundraising to their resumes. In order to be a successful organization everyone needs to pitch in a little bit, this is your chance to make a difference!

## **Scientific Meeting Committee Update**

The basic update is not much progress was made over the holiday season on scientific meeting planning, but our enthusiasm continues building towards holding a scientific meeting in Spring 2015. A few possible partners are emerging, including the regional Ecological Society of America chapter, the High Altitude Revegetation committee, the Colorado Riparian Association, and the Society for Wetland Scientists. ESA has no local leadership and doesn't seem to be in a place to partner on a conference, but Mark will make another attempt to contact them this month. HAR continues to emerge as a willing and logical partner. Randy, Mark and Ray will continue discussions with the HAR group. Before jumping into an agreement with another organization, we discussed our need to better define what our role will be in organizing the conference and what we're looking for in a partner. These discussions will continue and be more well defined by our next chapter meeting.

## **Next Meeting**

The next chapter meeting will be in early March. Exact time and location TBA. Stay tuned and hope to see everyone at the upcoming pub talks in Fort Collins and Boulder!