



## **Central Rockies SER Meeting Summary**

**Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 12:00pm ~ 1:00pm**  
**Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO**

### **Attendance:**

**In Person:** Mark Paschke, Garrett Stephens, Stephanie Barr, Sasha Victor, Jayne Jonas, Chris Herron, Brett Wolk, Cassie Kieffer Stube, Ryan Kent.

**Phoneland:** Akasha Faist, Aida Farag, Susan Sherrod, Tim Hoelzle, Kristina Hufford, Tricia McIlvenna, Brock Bowles.

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

Mark participated in the quarterly call of SER chapter leaders, which mostly focused on identifying space at the SER2013 conference for all the chapter leaders to meet and discuss chapter business together. The SER organizing committee is quite busy arranging last minute details, but chapter leaders are committed to meeting face to face and connecting SER chapters across the world. SER also is establishing a registration system for chapters to use for their own conferences and events, at a nominal fee.

### **SER 2013 World Conference, Madison, Wisconsin, Oct 6-11**

We hope to have a Central Rockies SER chapter meeting in Madison. SER doesn't have space for us to meet in the convention center, so we will find a pub or some other meeting place and email the meeting time/location the week of the conference. We will also be putting together a short recruitment flier describing our chapter to leave on a table at the conference that will have materials from all the other SER chapters.

### **Student Scholarships**

All 5 scholarships of \$500 each have been awarded, checks are in the mail, and students are smiling eating fancy pizza. The Central Rockies chapter funded 4 scholarships, and with a generous contribution by Great Ecology we were able to offer a 5<sup>th</sup> scholarship. A donation in the name of Engineers Without Borders Ecuador Group also made a handsome donation. For other students headed to Madison, SER is still looking for student volunteers at the SER2013 conference in exchange for discounted registration.

### **Treasurer Report**

It was a busy month, and we spent a total of \$2862.25 on student scholarships and purchasing more CeRSER t-shirts to sell. Money flowed in from student scholarship donations by Great Ecology and Engineers Without Borders Ecuador Group, t-shirt sales, as well as chapter member dues. Our remaining balance is currently at \$13,359.50, still handsomely in the black.

## **Meeting summary from our June Central Rockies chapter meeting was officially approved!**

### **Secretary Report**

We are still a popular group with rising membership, gaining momentum with over 70 current members. We gained several new members in the last month, likely boosted from the SER2013 World Conference registration. Yeah growth!

### **High Park Fire Field Tour**

Tricia and Susan from the Events Committee reported that the tour is planned and ready to go. Time and meeting location have been set (Saturday Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am), fliers are ready to distribute, and we're ready to geek out in the woods on post fire restoration. We had a discussion about how to register for the conference, and several internet sign up sites were discussed. As chapter Secretary Brett was nominated to handle the registration via email, but he was concerned about a large number of registrants and also that he would not be able to attend the tour. No resolution was reached, and Brett and Tricia decided to work out the details in the coming days. The tour is first come first serve for signup and will be announced via our email distribution list as well as the chapter website.

The events committee has been hard at work on the field tour and no other events have been discussed since our last chapter meeting in June. The events committee is in need of help and new blood to plan cool things for us to do. If you would like to volunteer, contact Brett ([brett.wolk@colostate.edu](mailto:brett.wolk@colostate.edu)) and he will get you in touch with the events committee chair. One idea to help the events committee was to increase cross pollination with the fundraising committee. The fundraising committee is fairly involved with all the events anyway, so it was suggested that someone from the fundraising committee should sit in on events committee meetings and lend a hand when appropriate. Brilliant!

One event that is potentially in the works is a pub talk by Dave Rosgin about post fire restoration in the Colorado Springs area. Amber Shanklin is working out the details. With the added boost hopefully similar talks will sprout in Denver/Boulder, Fort Collins, and Laramie soon.

### **Colorado State University SER Student Association**

Our only official SER student association in Colorado or Wyoming is at Colorado State University. The student president Sasha Victor joined the call and gave a brief rundown of what the kids are up to these days. Classes just resumed, and a meeting was planned for the first week in September. The club will focus on recruiting new members and prepping for attending the SER2013 conference. With several members attending, they are likely renting a van for the trip. They will also be looking for more volunteer opportunities to get their hands dirty this year.

### **Fundraising Committee Updates**

New t-shirts are here! They are available from Secretary Brett Wolk in Fort Collins, Treasurer Tim Hoelzle in the Denver area, or via mail. We'll bring a stash to sell at the conference in Madison as well.

The fundraising committee will get a letter drafted to request sponsors for the High Park Fire field tour at the end of September. Chris mentioned that New Belgium Brewery has a few nifty vans that they occasionally loan out to volunteer events, often stocked with refreshments in the trunk, definitely would bode well for the tour.

## **Elections**

The chapter has 4 elected positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Mark raised the point that as currently written, the bylaws are conflicting, indicating that we should have elections for half of the board in alternate years to insure that half of the board stays in place and we have some continuity to keep the good mojo flowing. However, the current board has all been serving for almost 2 years and there needs to be some kind of election next year, but for which positions? At our next meeting we will revisit the bylaws and plan to hold elections next year.

## **Rocky Mountain Region SER Representative Aida Farag**

Aida Farag was recently elected as the regional representative on the SER board of Directors for the Central Rockies and Great Plains region. Aida took over for outgoing rep Carolyn Browning, who was instrumental in the Central Rockies chapter revival, but was term limited as the regional rep.

Aida took a moment to introduce herself and offered her assistance to our chapter in communicating and working with the SER board. She currently works out of Jackson, Wyoming, with the USGS on restoration and ecotoxicology issues. She began her career working through the assessment aspects of ecotoxicology throughout the west, but has recently become more interested in the restoration perspective and turning toxic situations full circle back into healthy functioning ecosystems.

As our regional rep, Aida mentioned that SER is helping to organize putting together a joint workshop with the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) in Jackson, Wyoming, during the first week of June, 2014. This will be an *invite only* workshop bringing together top professionals from both fields to discuss how to contain, mitigate, and restore toxins in the environment.

Thanks to Aida and we look forward to working with you as our supportive and active regional rep on the SER board!

## **Next Meeting**

In Madison, Wisconsin, sometime October 7-10<sup>th</sup>, time and location TBA. We will try and have a phone in option if possible, stay tuned.