



## **Central Rockies SER Meeting Summary**

**Thursday, August 24, 2017**

**CSU: Forestry 114**

**Call number: [970-491-1252](tel:970-491-1252)**

### **Attendance:**

**Fort Collins:** Brett Wolk (President), Mark Paschke (Scientific Program committee chair), Jayne Jonas (Communications Committee Chair), Magda Garbowski (Secretary)

**Calling in:** Randy Mandel (Great Ecology, former president), Tim Hoelzle (member) Leandre Mills (CU Boulder Representative), Susan Sherrod (Outreach Committee Chair), Megan Bowes (City of Boulder), Becky Hufft (Denver Botanic Gardens), Jessie Olson (Membership Chair), Garrett Stephens (Member).

### **Presidents Report**

- Elections – Currently our vice president role is vacant. Brett is a bit worried about the vacancy because in April he moves into past president role and someone needs to move into past-president role.
- CeRSER will have an election for vice president in about two months (October/November, 2017). By the end of October we would hopefully have elections wrapped up. That gives us two months to get everything together: find someone to run, announcements, ballots, etc. The timeline is based on logistics of getting everything together.
- Two past presidents are willing to serve again but this may not be the best option.
- Randy – given the timeline and given that Mark and I can shore the ship the issue is not of not having someone serve in the role but in having other people involved. CeRSER aims to bridge the gap for the future – having a past president serve could help continuity. Getting more people involved and active is the main goal.
- Brett is happy with either scenario but much less concerned because we have past presidents willing to step up. Everyone appreciates Mark and Randy's willingness to step up.
  - Mark – we should have a formal process to look for candidate and recruit someone: Megan (elections committee) is ready to get the ball rolling and to send ballots and notices out to everyone else.
- Brett came up with an announcement last spring when CeRSER first advertised for this role. However, at that time CeRSER received no nominations for this position.
- Tim – I held the role but had to leave because of conflict of interest. I am willing to talk to whoever is interested in running.

### **Action Items:**

- Jayne - send an email to Brett and Megan outlining vice-president roles.
- Brett and Megan - start the ball rolling for elections.
  - Megan - forward relevant information (previous announcement, timelines, etc.) to Brett and Jayne.

**Treasurer Report (Casey)** – waiting for funds to be deposited from HAR-CeRSER from the last meeting.

- CeRSER total is \$18,228! Doesn't account for catering so closer to \$17,000.
- CeRSER made 3K or 4K from spring conference. Randy was sent the check and it was mailed up to Casey – he did receive it.
- Brett needs to follow up with Casey to make sure everything is ok.

- Casey - communicated with national office – they want to know how many people are joining just for the conference vs. who is continuing member.

### **Membership Committee Report (Jessie/Tim)**

- The membership committee has reviewed the membership survey.
  - The membership committee is trying to get feedback about what members are interested in and future types of workshops, what they want, how they want to participate, why they are members, what they wish to take away from being a member, what goals CeRSER should set for the organization and what we should pursue in the future.
  - They can send out the draft to the whole board or share it with the communications chair (Jayne) and see what we would like to do with the results.
  - Brett- we have talked about this a decent amount within the membership committee. We have heard that pub-talks are not too popular but this result was from a limited number of surveys. Membership Committee will finalize results from this survey and send it out to everyone.
- Student scholarship (Tim) – Brett asked us to look into getting a more formalized scholarship program. This may be a good tool for recruiting new members and it provides a good reason to support students and practitioners in the field.
  - This scholarship program could get folks to conferences, and get CeRSERs name out there.
  - Membership committee has put together points for the budget, selection criteria, etc. Do we want the board to go through them now or later? (Brett) The general idea is to not be reactive but to have a set amount of money for these things just like we currently have for activities/events.
  - We want a set budget allocated to scholarships so we don't have to be reactive to conferences/opportunities. This would also put the onus on students/practitioners to apply for these opportunities.
  - Someone thinks it sounds great (Becky agrees).
  - Tim's proposal – asking for \$2,500. 3 student scholarships at \$500 and four \$250 scholarships for practitioners. Maybe more for practitioners/folks from non-profits?
  - Two deadlines a year or a rolling deadline? We would have a standard application form. Randy, Magda, and others support the idea of two-deadlines throughout the year. The question before the board and the group is: are we willing to allocate these funds?
    - Our annual committed expenses would be \$2,500 to membership, \$3,000 for communications. We aren't going to have another major conference or talk for 2 years. If we have 9K for the next conference. Mark – we can always put the breaks on other parts.
  - Tim – after we get this rolling we can see if companies would fund scholarships. Randy agrees that we could alter things down the road. Looking for means for co-sponsorship is something we should always be seeking out.
  - Jessie and Tim – work on fleshing out what needs to happen to get this ball rolling.
- Systemize Sponsorships for Conferences
  - Brett – wants to systemize sponsorships for conferences. Currently we need to make ad-hoc decisions and having a process would be good but we need a proposal for this. Brett is open to suggestions and ideas about how who/how

we can support other folks. Maybe we need to form another side group to come up with a plan?

- Susan – do we know how much membership we get from these sorts of activities?
  - Brett – No, but we know it's some and there are other benefits including: opportunities to send folks to conferences (students or young professionals).
  - Susan wonders if it would be worthwhile to itemize those benefits as a starting point.
  - Randy – it doesn't hurt to pull together bullet points to figure out where limited funds should be allocated.
  - Benefits include: cross-pollination between many different groups. Conversely, having scientific conference as a venue allows folks to tie projects into a larger body in the area?
  - Tim – sponsoring other groups gets us people to reach out to when we are looking for sponsorship for our conference. Also, if someone is able to attend we can sponsor and/or get a booth. We can get the word out that way.
  - Randy – at SCW they have had to put a cap on sponsorships.
  - Mark – another option is to continue doing it ad-hoc. Each conference will have different benefits, what are requests, what are funds, etc. Maybe a committee shouldn't be formed? Maybe the thing to do is put something into the bylaws – are there criteria to follow? Do the missions align or will we gain members? If we don't have group of people willing to step up I guess we need to keep doing it the way we are doing it. Brett is concerned with the spending of money early in the year. Tim – now that we are establishing budgets we may know what “free cash” that we have – encumbered vs. direct expenses.

**Action Item:** Brett - send out conference opportunities and the board will do an email vote about what's coming up.

**Outreach (Susan)** – Prairie and Pollinator Restoration Workshop – September 22, 2017.

- This process has optimized the team-work of planning the conference. This process has been satisfying from the perspective of chair.
- Events coming up in Wyoming – Michael Curran is trying to have back-to-back events in Pinedale and Jackson. Lining up a venue at the library with a focus on pollinator habitat with natural gas development. The following night, in Jackson, the talk would focus on restoration activities statewide.
- CeRSEER has been talking about a field-trip to Soapstone in the spring with focus on black-footed ferret and bison habitat.
- Brett – Matt Fairchild has done lots of restoration work in the area. Could we do a field trip and get feed-back? Sometime in October there could be a field trip organized.
  - Randy – lots of folks have been working with flood-restoration. Maybe we can get a few folks involved and get a more comprehensive view of what is going on with these efforts.
  - Brett - we talked about doing something bigger but we aren't going to organize another big event in the fall because folks are being stretched too thin right now.

- Jessie – it could be an event organized with people on board. Brett likes the idea of someone willing to show their work and organizing smaller groups to check local work. Brett echo's Susan's comments about getting events organized and working.

**Action item: Tim – get Aida and other contacts of people to get in touch with to Susan to get people involved in Jackson. Already done.**

### **Student Guild Updates**

- CU Boulder student chapter
  - Met with Tim S. (faculty advisor) to get an idea of what should happen in the next couple of months.
  - First meeting will be on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Trying to figure out ways to get more grad students involved as well as under-grads. The club is reaching out to faculty.
  - There is an open-space event in October that they will participate in and will be post advertisements for the pollinator workshop.
  - The club is trying to network with other student organizations at CU to see if folks want to join/collaborate.
  - Leandra – would Brett be willing to come down and talk to CU students?
    - Brett – yes, I'm still willing to come down and talk to folks down there. Brett – curious about thoughts on scholarships? How would that go over with CU students? Would benefit students for sure especially if they need help and getting conferences out there.
    - Tim – the CSU student guild had great opportunities with native plant sale and student club association.
  - Pollination flyer – poster-ing around campus and hopefully students/people would be interested in it.
- CSU – no updates!

Other business:

- Randy – heading down to Brazil – if anyone has any specific things to bring down to boards/SER let Randy know!
  - Folks – please send things to Randy ASAP.

**Next Meeting: October 2017**