



Central Rockies SER Meeting Summary

Monday, October 30, 2017

CSU: Plant Sciences C021

Call number: [970-491-2612](tel:970-491-2612)

Attendance:

Fort Collins: Brett Wolk (President), Mark Paschke (Chair – Scientific committee meeting, Newly appointed Vice President), Magda Garbowski (Secretary), Will Vieth (Member)

Calling in: Susan Sherrod (Outreach committee chair) Casey Cisneros (Treasurer), Becky Hufft (Denver Botanic Gardens), Kristina Hufford (University of Wyoming), Megan Bowes (Boulder), Tim Hoelzle (Denver)

Presidents Report (Brett Wolk)

- CeRSER elections update: New Vice President – welcome (again) Mark Paschke
- Nominations open for the scientific Meeting Committee Chair – there will be a call for nominations the week before thanksgiving via email. Any questions?
- Global Update from Randy Mandel
 - Randy in not in attendance so we will push this to the end of the agenda and hope he calls in to give up an update about the SER conference.

Treasurers Report (Casey Cisneros)

- Current chapter bank account balance is \$17,693
- \$490.18 was spent for the Pollinator Workshop at the Butterfly Pavilions in September.
- PubTalks have cost \$764 to date. This total does not include the Wyoming pubtalk in Pinedale the first week of November..
 - We're budgeted to spend \$500 per pubtalk. The total annual pubtalk budget is \$2,000
- Casey has ordered checks for CeRSER so we now have the ability to write a check and email it to someone.
 - Currently only Casey has access to writing checks in this way but we can add others as long as they are on the bank account.

Secretary Report

- Total membership is 121 but its still tough to tell who is renewing and who is actually new. Questions comments?

Student Guild – Updates from CSU, CU, UW

- Brett partook in a conference call with Leandra and Henry recently and talked about student guild/CeRSER. Topics discussed included:
 - Leveraging CeRSER to help student clubs
 - Seminar series to bring in guest speakers
 - Maybe there could be a speaker “trade” among the schools were folks visit all three schools during one visit.
 - Motivating students to join and stay in the clubs
 - How to get more involvement between CeRSER and the student cludes
 - How to organize events in which both regional chapter members and students could partake
 - Joint events with student guilds and with WRV
 - Pubtalk geared as a networking opportunity for students.

- Overall Brett wants students to lead the charge in organizing these events but is willing to help.
- Information about student guilds: Two positions on the CeRSER board are reserved for students. Currently they are occupied by Henry Nash (CSU) and Leandra Mills (CU). The overall purpose of holding these positions for students is to promote involvement and interaction with student groups and CeRSER.
- CSU Student Guild Update (Mark Paschke)
 - CSU is part of an initiative to plant 1 million trees. This may be an opportunity to bring in other student guilds/related clubs from other schools.
- UW Student Guild Update (Kristina Hufford): The club just chose new president Michael Curran.
 - Joy Zedler from Wisconsin Madison will be visiting Wyoming on March 30, 2018.
 - This is just the kind of thing that Brett would like to leverage. Kristina thinks that would be great. CeRSER as a chapter could help transportation etc.

Outreach Committee Report (Susan Sherrod)

- Prairie and Pollinator Restoration Workshop Recap (Sep 22, 2017)
 - Very successful workshop. Around 40-45 people attended, several who are on the call currently.
 - Speakers included:
 - Amy Yarger from the Butterfly Pavillion. Amy spoke about restoration in urban environments for the benefit of wildlife.
 - Jim Tolstrup of the High Plains Environmental Center talked about restoration in developed communities. Working with HOAs, companies, individuals to restore habitats.
 - Brian Kurzel from the National Wildlife Federation talked about engaging urban and suburban communities in restoration.
 - The speakers complemented each other very well and overall were very well received.
 - We could have done a better job promoting our sponsors, primarily Aquatic Wetlands. Their logo was only included in a couple of places and next time we should make sure to highlight our sponsors a bit more.
- Upcoming PubTalk in Pinedale (November 1, 2017)
 - Once again pollinator focused again.
 - Jonah Energy and Aquatic Wetlands are helping sponsor this event.
 - We would like someone from CeRSER to talk about the chapter at the Pinedale workshop. Ideally we want someone from CeRSER at all of these events to talk about who/what CeRSER is, how to join CeRSER, articulate benefits of joining, cost of joining (\$65), basic structure, etc.
 - Who will be representing CeRSER? No one from the board members will be attending.
 - Peter Stahl will be in attendance and may have enough history to speak on behalf of CeRSER.
 - Michael Curran and discussed this a bit but plan to reconnect before the workshop. Susan should give Michael and Peter talking points about CeRSER
- Thoughts on past events or suggestions for future events?
 - Last meeting there was talk of a trip out to Soapstone Prairie – status?
 - Moving this event to spring 2018 to have more time to plan and ideally recruit more participants.

- Overall its great that we are branching out to more areas but lets also not forget about Fot Collins were a lot of our members are from.

Membership Committee Report (Jessie Olson not present)

Update on Training Scholarship fund/Membership Survey

- Update – The membership committee has been working on a survey to ask members what they want to see from the group. An initial survey was distributed at the scientific meeting in March but few participated.
- Some responses indicated that they want to see us do more than just pubtalks and that there may be more services we could provide. Jessie is trying to find out whether these are wide spread sentiments.

SCW Conference outreach and recruitment

- Jessie attended the Watershed conference with other CerSER folks and represented CeRSEr with a booth and information. We can see if these efforts improve membership.

Question (Kristina Hufford) - Is there a means to have pamphlets at other local conferences? At the Native Seed conference for example?

- We are sponsoring this conference – Brett has organized with John Giordenango to recruit more people to join CerSER.
 - There was overwhelming support to provide funds for this conference so ideally we will have a booth and informaton. If we have ideas about how to further engage please let Brett know.
- Overall we should have information (pamphlets, poster, booth) at all events we sponsor. We should make sure we have lots of these available to distribute.
- Kristina/Susan – can you check with Michael Curran to see that he has materials for the Pinedale PubTalk?
 - This is doubtful. Is there a way to get him some before Nov 1? Kristina and Susan will coordinate with Will who is traveling north to see if this is possible for this event .
 - Next time we should be more prepared and give ourselves more time to coordinate.

Other topics:

- Kristina Hufford– Reclamation survey – sending it to groups in Wyoming to expand efforts. Talking to national SER and what the focus is for oil gas, mining, and so forth. Not quite ready to send it out yet but is working on it. It would be great to leverage SER and CeRSEr to get info to folks and use the network to disseminate information.

Any other news/announcements?

Global Update

Recap from Past President Randy Mandel on SER Brazil 2017

- Brett spoke briefly with Randy Mandel about the Global SER conference and he said it was fantastic. He did not get much information about SER business but he enjoyed interacting with everyone there. We will wait for Randy to tell us more.

SER 2018 North American Continental Conference: *Spokane, WA, October 15-19, 2018.*

- CeRSEr is encouraging members to attend this conference and plan around it for other events.
- Ideally we would have representation there.
- We are thinking about caravans and providing scholarships for students.

SER staff transitions: Membership Coordinator Marguerite Nutter moving on

- Marguerite Nutter from national is moving on to different organization. She has been a key point of contact. She is staying on part time for a few more months until the transition is over.

SER Certified Restoration Ecologist program

- Not too many updated about certified SER program. 5-6 CeRSER members have gone through it but we have yet to hear their feedback.

Additional Business

CeRSER Scholarships?

- Last meeting there was talk of CeRSER providing scholarships to students
 - Tim - There hasn't been much progress on it since the last meeting. The committee will re-group and write up an official description.
 - Reminder – at our last meeting we approved developing a scholarship program but need to flush out details so we can start getting that out and get students opportunities to learn more about restoration and share their view about it. This would provide yet another opportunity for folks to get the word out about SER.
 - \$2500/ year was approved for students and/or professionals scholarships for conference attendance. Tim and others are trying to develop a way to get folks to apply for these.

Next meeting

January 2018 - TBD