



## Central Rockies SER Meeting Summary

Wednesday, Jan 31, 2018

CSU: Forestry 114

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

In attendance: Brett Wolk (President), Chris Benches (Co Dept. Natural Resources, Member/Membership committee), Mark Paschke (President Elect), Cini Brown (Member), Magda Garbowski (Secretary)

Calling in: Casey Cisneros (Larimer County/Treasurer), Jessie Olson (Membership Chair), Tim Seastedt (CU Club Advisor), Carla Demasters (Denver), Tim Hoelzle (Dep. Interior), Belle Thompson (Easton, Martin Reservoir, member, formally from Alaska), Denise Arthur (Denver – member), Mike Curran (University of Wyoming)

### **1) President's Report**

- CeRSER elections Spring 2018 – Many positions are open. Most of the open positions are two-year positions.
  - o Mark Paschke is up for president elect, Mark will move into president role.
  - o Open positions include:
    - Vice president
    - Secretary
    - Outreach chair
    - Membership committee chair
    - Communication chair
    - Student positions – students can run for other positions as well. No term limits so folks can continue serving if they so choose.
  - o There seems to be a lot of interest in the outreach committee.
  - o CeRSER will move forward with nominations in March and have necessary elections at that time.
  - o Comments/questions? The CeRSER webpage has all of these positions shown on the webpage.

### **2) SER Global Update**

- Recap from Past President Randy Mandel on SER Brazil 2017 meeting
  - o Randy is not here so we don't have an update this time.
- SER 2018 North American Continental Conference: *Spokane, WA, October 15-19, 2018.*
  - o This conference will be hosted by SER northwest chapter and the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists
  - o There has been demand from folks in North America that we need a more regular conference every other year when the international conference is not in North America. This conference will likely have a bit of a wetland focus because it is co-hosted by Society of Wetland Scientists.
- SER staff transitions: Laura Caponi is the new SER Membership Coordinator
  - o Mark and Brett spoke with Laura last week about CeRSER and what the chapter has been up to.
    - CeRSER has been working with HAR on conferences.
    - Laura asked about how to make connections with other groups/chapters. She could help CeRSER connect with other chapters/members.
      - Ideas about how to interact with people in our region?
        - o Tim - spoke with folks from the Pacific Northwest recently. Montana is part of their chapter but the individual Tim spoke with didn't think there was much interaction with folks in MT and the chapter overall possibly because of differences in geography/ecosystems. Perhaps we can do something to partner with MT.

- Could CeRSER individuals plan a meeting with MT folks at the conference in October?
    - Mark – Some people that are attracted to our chapter work in the Rockies in systems more similar to the “southern rockies” than the Pacific North West. Maybe chapters should be defined by by geography not state lines. This might be something we want to think about as a chapter and consider forming a Rocky Mountain Chapter. **Follow Up action item: What does CeRSER think about expanding into MT and growing into a “Rocky Mountain” chapter?**
    - Brett- lots of folks in MT feel more connected to CeRSER. Most chapters have a lot more people to draw on and more people to distribute the work.
      - One thing we have been discussing is a pub talk in Jackson Hole so we can find folks from here to trek up there and folks from MT to drive down. Maybe this event would bring these two groups together.
    - As a chapter we need to consider how tough running/organizing a Rocky Mountain Chapter will be logistically. We would have to have more sub-committees to organize and manage events but we would also have more people to divide responsibilities among.
- SER Certified Restoration Ecologist program - More CeRSER members certified than any other chapter! how can we support this more?
  - The SER website has a list of who has completed the certificate.
    - 100 nationwide, 15 folks from CO have completed this certificate. Our chapter has not done much to promote this program.
    - Has anyone on the call done the program? What can CeRSER do to help?
      - Yes – Carla DeMasters heard about it at HAR-CeRSER a year ago. Carla went through and got certified and it was straightforward.
      - Is it valuable? Carla – the most value is that it holds you accountable to keep growing and learning by receiving continuing education credits. This is beneficial so folks don’t stagnate in their careers.
      - A potential issue is that folks may just get certified but not know much about restoration.
  - Brett – do you see a way that our workshops could be similar to the education credits?
    - Carla – Yes. With some planning we can advertise the conference as a way to provide credits. That would aid in getting the word out about the conference.
  - How much did it cost?
    - Several hundred dollars. Carla wouldn’t have done it if work didn’t pay for it. You have to pay each year to stay certified.
    - Brett –Still, it must be valuable as so many folks have done it.
  - Consulting firms may choose folks with certs as opposed to folks without them.
  - **Carla – Potential action item: lets bring up HAR-CeRSER conference for restoration practitioner credit with the outreach committee. Membership committee – do we want to facilitate even more people to join through this program?**
  - What about joint programs with students. We could use a certain portion of curriculum to complete the certification. We have no clear answer about how to get this going as of yet.
- CeRSER Scholarship fund draft guidelines
  - Folks have been interested in this for a while. Professionals have mentioned not getting funding from employers to go to conferences and students could also benefit from a scholarship fund. This is a niche CeRSER could potentially fill.
  - Recently CeRSER assigned a subcommittee about how to allocate money.

- Tim Hoelzle– a couple of months ago we highlighted that we would get some dedicated funding for scholarships. Details and an outline have been hashed out.
  - Now we need a review group to go through the applications and decide what meets/does not meet the criteria for the scholarship.
    - There are few criteria so hopefully reviewing applications will not be too challenging. We will be focused on getting folks to attend conferences.
- Brett- we will need to make sure this is advertised to students at all schools. What should we do to finalize?
  - **Action Item: Need to have something on the chapter webpage to advertise.**
    - Lets work directly with communications committee (Jayne Jonas) to get this advertised.
- **Action Item: Finalize process of receiving and reviewing scholarship applications.**
- **Action Item: Define what conferences/opportunities qualify. Make a list of conferences that qualify.**
- **Action Item: Recruit folks to be on the review committee.**
  - **Casey Cisneros** will be happy to sit on the committee in the first year, **Jessie Olson** is happy to continue that as well.
  - **Chris Benches** is happy to serve on the committee.
  - **Denise Arthur** is also willing to serve on the review committee.
- **Possible action item for the future: Look for partnership matches but for now lets use the funds we have allocated (\$2,500).**
  - Tim – As an organization maybe let’s not focus on fundraising at this point but on this this in the future. We could potentially look for a dedicated group of folks willing to focus on fundraising. We will passively include a line about sponsorship on advertisements at this time (fairly painless for now).

### 3) Treasurer’s Report \$\$

- \$18,954.15. Three outstanding checks that need to get cashed. In 2017 on pub talks we spent about \$1,199. Well under the 2k budget. Pollinator workshop cost \$590.18 well under the \$1,000 work shop budget per year. Casey wanted to mention \$1,370 form chapter dues.

### 4) Secretary’s Report

- 118 members. Only three new members since our last meeting.

### 5) Student Guild Report

- Colorado State University
  - CSU will be electing student representative for the board to replace folks that graduated in December. Friday they will have tree planting meeting.
    - Project to plant a million trees – there is lots of enthusiasm about this. CSU plans to reach out to U. WY and CU to help contribute to the goal. More detailed I soon to come. Lots of students have shown up for the planting parties and the club is going to have a tree planting sale.
      - Ideally they will count the ones they sell as part of the “planting” goal. The idea is to have a million records of plantings. This should be a cool project.
      - The biggest issue is keeping it under wraps. The students want to have a ceremony to plant the first tree but want to wait until they get the first one done before others start to “log” their plantings.
- University of Colorado Boulder
  - They are planning a spring organizational meeting. The club has about a dozen students participating that started in the fall.
  - In the fall they hosted a couple of speaker. These events were modestly attended.
  - Another dozen students helped with restoration projects/wetland projects.
  - At least they are doing more than they were doing two years ago.
  - Tim has some ideas about how to connect folks and will talk to Brett off line.
- University of Wyoming

- They will have a meeting on Friday.
- The big semester event is a visit from Joy Zedler on March 30, 2018.
- Another big project is with Union Pacific Railroad to establish a pollinator habitat program.
- The club has about 8 active members. Kristina is offering extra credit for students who participate. Hopefully we will see numbers increase in the coming months.
- Brett is interested in how we can connect the student chapters more. Brett had a call with Leandra and Henry last fall that was pretty valuable. Maybe we can start a regular dialogue among the universities. Other universities haven't really been receptive thus far.

#### 6) Membership Committee Report

- Jessie – membership survey results. What did we learn?
  - 35 responses from members.
    - Majority of respondents thought CerSER was meeting mission. Several responses regarding potential for CerSER to engage members and the public in general. Appreciated the responses of focusing more on the general public and not just members.
    - Some preferences of activities – inconclusive (may be misunderstanding with the way the question was necessary). Didn't learn much about prioritization.
      - In the future forced rankings may be more informative.
    - There were responses that people did not feel like there were enough events in Denver/Ft Collins.
    - Other mentioned working more with partners and leveraging their work.
    - Others mentioned focus on mentoring.
  - If there is one thing you learned what was it?
    - Don't forget the base – host events where members are currently to keep folks engaged.

#### 7) Outreach Committee Report

- Spring Fort Collins pub talk
  - Brett is hoping to invite someone from Wyoming with the idea of exchanging speakers/ faculty from different places.
- Wyoming/Jackson Hole pub talk
- Spring 2018 Soapstone Prairie Tour
  - Seems very promising and Jeremy Sueltenfuss will follow up on previous exchanges with the Soapstone coordinator. April seems ideal for a tour
- Ecological Restoration Workshop
  - Deferred to Subcommittee (Brett Wolk, Mike Curran, Dave Ross, Susan Sherrod). Susan has initiated communications with the Workshop subcommittee on location, date, theme, and speakers. Likely theme will be either Leadership or Partnerships in Ecological Restoration. If anyone would like to join the Subcommittee please let Susan know.
- Workshop for Denver area: Ecological Restoration Leadership and collaboration / Panel Discussion lessons learned 5 years post flood
  - Panel Discussion: deferred to Subcommittee (Becky Hufft, Amber Shanklin, Susan Sherrod). Susan has initiated communications with the Panel subcommittee to gauge schedule availability. If anyone would like to join the Subcommittee contact Susan.
- 2019 meeting... is there anybody who would like to see it held somewhere else?
  - Cini – conference services help out a lot and its pretty seamless with planning it.
  - Denise - Used to have it at Hilton and CSU is way better.
  - HAR will be meeting in the next few weeks to begin the discussion.

#### 8) Additional business

Denise – CSU job fair? Yes, parts are focused on careers in natural resources. **Action Item: Brett can get Denise info about how to get involved with this.**

#### 9) Next meeting: March 28, 2pm-3pm.