

## **Southwest Chapter SER Board of Directors Meeting, Tele-conference/Webex**

**February 29, 2016, prepared by Kathryn Thomas, Secretary**

**Attendees:** **Laura Norman (LN)**, President; **Kathryn Thomas (KAT)**, Secretary; **Victoria Stubbs**, Treasurer; **Conor Flynn**, NM Representative; **Matthew Grabau**, Representative at Large; **Steve Warren**, SE Utah Representative; **Jason Eckberg**, So Nevada Rep

Absent: Steve Plath, Arizona Representative, Travis Bean, SE California Rep., Carianne Campbell, Vice President

### ***Newsletter***

Laura displayed items in newsletter as of today, it will be sent out via Constant Contact around March 6<sup>th</sup>, Laura asks for comments or additional entries to be sent to her by Friday March 4

Additional items suggested in meeting

- Update on seeds section and global restructure (Kathryn will provide)
- Invitation to general membership to join the conference committee
- Suggestion to send to expired members with invitation to join – need to ask Carianne if this is possible via Constant Contact
- Include links to web site and FB page
- Include a link/button after sponsorship page with option to donate

### ***Bylaws/duties/Elections***

Kathryn noted that bylaws were developed during development of chapter and are dated 2011, contain criteria for running for office that could exclude current officers from running for second term, other discrepancies may exist with new national SER bylaws

Suggested that bylaws be edited to suggest changes so that chapter bylaws are more in concurrence with national SER bylaws, Board agreed and Kathryn will start this, Board will vet edits with the goal to have new bylaws in place by start of election cycle

Suggestions for edits

Duties of Board be included in bylaws as an appendix

Designate incoming Board members as starting in January of year

Upcoming election cycle was discussed. Election committee must advertise for nominees, determine nominees' eligibility, obtain and post candidate information, oversee voting, count and

determine new and/or reelected officers. Board decided May would be a good time to start this election cycle.

### ***End of year report***

Laura displayed the current draft of the end-of-year report. Matt provided additional comments and Vickie will send in this day.

The end-of-year report indicated 72 members were expired. Kathryn, as secretary, said we are not sure how notices to expired chapter members were handled by national SER. She will inquire.

### **Web site updates**

Jason reported that with the posting of Travis' picture on the web site all Board members pictures and bios are posted. Conference presentations are also posted (about 20 or so). Their posting will facilitate web searches using restoration related keywords to find our site. The conference presentations posted were provided via the DropBox Carianne set up. Many presentations remain unposted. Conor will check with Carianne to see how people were approached about the posting of their presentation. We may want to follow up again to see if we can receive more presentations to post. The by-laws on web site and meeting notes are available on the web site. Noted that the by-laws on the web site indicate they are for Texas; Jason will change.

Facebook engagement continues to grow. We have 283 follows as of this meeting date.

### **National chapter meeting April 8th**

In affiliation with the Northwest chapter's annual meeting National SER is organizing a one day meeting of representatives of North American Chapters. Travis was going to the conference already and is now our chapter representative at this special meeting. As he is not on this call, Laura will send a note to Travis for update. [Post meeting note – Travis was in the hospital for an emergency surgery. He is out now and intends to go to April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting if well enough.] Please contact Travis with any thoughts or ideas about chapter communications.

### **Conference**

Jason's company, Southern Arizona Water Authority, contacts guest services for Springs Preserve in Las Vegas. Jason provided us rates for this facility in a separate e-mail – we would receive preferred rates.

Discussion points about this facility and Las Vegas as a venue.

- Boards will determine final location
- No major lodging within walking distance of Springs Preserve, but may be smaller places

- Meals would be provided by Divine Catering, we would need to use them and work with them independently
- Preserve is part of water district well field, site of original Vegas (springs), about 100 acres restoration, LED buildings, host many events
- About 10 min drive from downtown
- Parking is sufficient, may be smaller hotels closer – facility may have connections to smaller lodging parking – sufficient
- Rates includes audio and visual, rooms in Tucson Double Tree were free but audio visual was very expensive
- Jason’s company could supply support some IT support
- There are good flights to Vegas
- People may want to come to Las Vegas but not attend meetings. We could situate dates around a weekend so people could stay for Las Vegas activities. Jason pointed out Las Vegas is the convention conference of the US, so apparently conferences have been successful there.
- There are only 3 SER members in Nevada.
- Promotion for the Mojave should include the high federal agency composition of the area: BLM, NPS, BOR and others such as Desert Research Institute and UNLV Restoration Lab (Scott Abella).

Las Vegas as a location is not totally settled. Steve Plath is looking into other potential locations. Laura pointed out Board will vote on final venue.

The March 3 conference meeting postponed

**Misc.**

Steve Warren, missing in action for some time. He enjoys being on Board, but is distant geographically. It may be better to recruit someone closer from the other part of Utah. Laura invited Steve to continue to contribute if he is still interested. We noted that both his e-mail addresses consistently bounce back SWSER mail.

Laura encouraged Board members to volunteer for the various small tasks that emerge through Board activities. Notes will be shared and discussions should continue via e-mail. She thanks all for their participation.