

SERNW Board Meeting, 29 July 2006

## **Present**

Tim  
Jim  
Tom  
Frank  
Steve  
Jake

*By teleconference (had quorum until the battery died):* Paul, Bob

\* Added post meeting as opportunity to provide input was curtailed due to dead phone battery.

## **Introductions, Agenda Check**

Jake started the meeting with introductions around the table and on the phone.

## **Prior Minutes Review**

Prior minutes were approved from the earlier board meeting (quorum was present).

## **Treasurer's Report**

CD = ~\$21,000

Chequing = \$11,535

Outstanding = \$1,200 owed to EPP for too much advance on last conference

Total available = ~\$31,000

On the horizon: Our insurance carrier has sent a letter stating that they will no longer carry non-profits. Jake is looking into other insurance options and has an agent working on options that will come to our next board meeting (7 October).

## **Committee Reports**

### *Budget for Conference:*

- We are negotiating a contract with the Yakima Conference Center. The contract will obligate us to pay \$4,100 for the conference space (up to 9 different rooms). Contract includes a 15% credit against rental for food concessions.
- We have 100 rooms reserved for the conference at the Howard Johnson, which is the closest hotel to the conference center, but have not yet signed a motel room contract.
- Tim will have a working draft of the conference budget for the October meeting, but needs help from others to get it in shape.
  - Tim will work closely with Jim on the big ticket items for the conference budget, such as the conference center, food, etc. Jake will also assist Tim with the budget, providing past conference experience.
  - Tim needs help from the committees to develop the overall budget for each of the separate conference elements. Tim will conference with each of these persons,

beginning with a general meeting (conference call) with Jim, the plenary, session, workshop and field trip chairs.

- It is currently intended that each committee chair will be responsible for keeping their part on budget and will be responsible also for tracking expenses (collect and approve receipts before submitting to Tim for payment).

### Web and Newsletter

- Adrienne has rescinded her resignation, but she mentioned that her time will be more limited for working on the web and newsletter.
- Web migration to SERI's website is going slowly.
- Because SERI is hosting our website and is providing e-mail addresses, we have already dropped the earthlink e-mail hosting and will drop Crystal Tech (our web host). Dropping these for the free SERI web hosting will save us about \$400 per year.
- Adrienne mentioned that she has enough information for the next newsletter, adding a thank you to all the board members who provided her with articles, etc. No one is submitting articles or other information from our membership.

### Bylaws

- Steve reviewed the changes to the bylaws, most of which were suggestions by Jake. Several inconsistencies were noted and need correction/clarification.

*Note: The phone used for the conference call died here.*

- The issue of sub-regional area nomenclature, designation and representation was opened again. Jake will provide a written proposal in advance of the October meeting to propose several changes related to how we select and provide regional representation.

### Membership

- We have an arrangement with SERI to help us recruit new members; they get a kick-back of \$5 for each new member, and \$2.50 for each renewing member.
- We need to get something moving on membership, because we have an extremely high turnover rate, and a low level of participation (for example, only 7 members voted in the last election including the board) in activities other than conferences.
- After some discussion, Tom volunteered to take on a marketing campaign where he will contact old members to ask why they dropped their membership (including cost as one consideration). Tom will be asking them to rejoin. Steve and Paul will be assisting Tom in this marketing effort.
- The information gleaned from this marketing campaign will be used to support a more comprehensive membership drive (continuous, as opposed to a one-time deal) that will be proposed by the Committee to the board and finally to SERI.

### Awards

- Bob is looking for Awards to go primarily for projects. The board reiterated that its preferred means to award someone should be for service to the SERNW and/or restoration community, not on the basis of projects of which we know little, especially considering our wide geographic area.
- Types of awards: 1) President's award; 2) Conservation of the Year; and 3) Special awards. All awards nominations must be submitted by 31 December, per the bylaws.

### Elections

- Half of the board's member terms expire next spring. Cara is beginning to think about how to recruit new board members and will have a nominating action to come at the next meeting (Jake to contact Cara).

### **Retreat Products Review**

This section of the agenda was tabled until the next meeting.

### **2007 Conference**

The conference will be held on 25-28 September 2007 in Yakima at the Yakima Conference Center. 25, 26 September will be conference days. 27 September will be a half-day conference, half-day workshop. 28 September will be reserved for field trips. Planning for the conference has begun.

Information on items below:

### Partners/sponsors

SWS have officially consented to partner with us on this conference, sharing programs. They will not be on the hook for either the food concessions or facilities contracts. We have not yet negotiated a contract with them, but we will probably seek contract language to the effect of splitting profits over \$5,000 equally (rather than the more complicated split proposed by SWS for the recent conference).

Tom will assist Jim in talking with the Yakima Nation, who have extensive restoration efforts in the area, and have expressed an interest in the helping with the conference

The WA Native Plant Society has a lot of work in the Yakima area and is very interested in sponsoring a track. Jim is working out details with them. WNPS will meet in the next month to officially decide on a sponsorship.

The Nature Conservancy is another potential partner/sponsor. Jim will be talking with them. One possible complication is that TNC splits its offices between the states. If the OR and WA offices want to sponsor track(s), contracting could be messy. The board suggested that we ask them to negotiate funding to come through one office to us for simplicity.

### Conference Support

EPP has an extensive contact list, and has worked with us in past conferences, providing support for: marketing, mailings, production of abstracts and other materials, coordination with facilities, signs, transportation, and the conference website. The board tentatively decided to contract with EPP to work with us on this conference.

Jake also mentioned a list of other actions we must accept to host the conference, not covered by EPP. These actions include:

### Conference Committee Assignments

The following committees were identified during the meeting. Board members present signed up for the following committees. Some members not present were signed up as well. The list will be e-mailed to the board for review. Jim expects that he will enlist support for these committees outside of the SERNW board, including SWS and others.

NOTE: it is hoped that all board members will be able to support our conference production efforts.

The following have volunteered their help, but due to the complex arrangements with other partners, final committee make-up has not yet been determined.

- Plenary - Frank, Jim
- Budget - Tim, Jim, Jake
- Workshops - Steve, SWS
- Field Trips - Tom
- Food - Tim, Jim Wiggins (SWS)
- Banquets - Jake
- Travel/Lodging (esp. speakers) – Tim
- Travel (field trips)
- Marketing - Adrienne
- Sessions – Cara/Paul\*
- Volunteer coordination - Jim
- Exhibitors
- Posters – Paul\*
- Electronic/AV
- Vendors
- Sponsor recruitment

### **New Business**

#### Board meeting schedule for the next year

7 October - Seattle CUH

20 January - Vancouver, WA TBD

30 March - Naches/Yakima - full day meeting to cover conference

21 July - Seattle CUH, or other (Olympia suggested)

#### SERI Proposal

Representative duties and obligations of board members was part of the packet Jake sent. Review this piece in particular and be ready to discuss it at the board meeting in October.

*19 June Rapanso vs. US Army Corps of Engineers Supreme Court Decision*

Frank talked about the Supreme Court decision and its huge impact on restoration. The decision was on how the Corps classifies wetlands and effectively removed roughly 1/2 of the Corps' jurisdiction over wetlands. Frank to provide more information to the board in upcoming information.

**Adjourned.**