

**Minutes were amended on January 20, 2007 meeting to correct spelling for the Yakama Nation

SERNW Board Meeting
October 7, 2006
Center for Urban Horticulture
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Present:

Jake Jacobsen
Frank Reckendorf
Jim Hansen
Steve Moddemeyer
Steve Erickson
Nancy Shaw
Scott Moore
Jim Wiggins

By telephone: Paul Crane

A quorum was not present, nor was one present at the previous meeting.

Minutes of previous meeting:

Jim Hansen asked about the status of the Board's liability insurance.

Jake: Safeco Insurance dropped the policy. Jake has contacted another carrier that works with nonprofits. Transfer is in progress and the premium will remain the same at \$350.

Jim asked about committees. Jake: In development.

Treasurer's report: Tim was not present. Jake provided a bank statement showing \$32,025.10 on hand. He said no bills are outstanding, but a bill for the insurance is expected soon. Cost savings are resulting as SERI provides email and hosts the website. Adrienne Fox serves as the webmaster, saving SERNW several hundred dollars per year.

Committee reports:

Jake, Jim and Tim have prepared a draft budget for the conference. It is somewhat tentative at this point because we are working with partners and exact commitments are not yet certain. We will probably contract for enough food that the price of the contract for facilities will be reduced.

Jake: Session leaders will receive a \$100 rebate for registration fees. Workshops are currently based on 80 participants. Transportation is based on 20 vans. AV: 9 rooms available for workshops. Jake must provide power point projectors. A large one is needed for the plenary session.

Jim: Food: We need sponsors for coffee. This will compensate for part of the food bill.
Jake: Five organizations are needed to sponsor breaks, etc. For the last meeting \$17,000 was obtained in donations. This was unusually high as one donation was for \$10,000. The others were about \$2000 each.

Jake: Profits for the 2007 meeting: SER gets \$3000, then 42% of the remaining net. SWS receives 42% of the remaining net. The rest goes to the other partners. FWS and NPS will be organizing field tours or sessions.

Jim: Has SWS seen the tentative budget? Jake: Yes.

Steve E.: The auction/raffle can bring in \$2000.

Website and newsletter. Jake: Adrienne handles this. There is also a listserve. A power point on streambank erosion is needed in smaller pieces. The website has a new format – everyone should check it. The minutes are included.

Membership

Jake: Committee includes Tim, Adrienne, and Steve E. 700 members have been added and 550 dropped in the last several years. We need more continuity. He proposed dropping chapter memberships to \$15 per year to encourage membership. He will send an email to all board members requesting a vote on this issue and request that replies be submitted within 1 week.

Steve M.: Felt an online vote was necessary. Also stated that fees may play a minimal role. The reason for joining may be more important.

Jake: If the change is accepted, SERI must be notified so the website information on membership could be changed. He would like to notify them of this change by January 1, 2007.

Board Development

An organizational chart and volunteer hour sheets were handed out.

Jake: Voiced concerns with participation of regional reps and executive committee. He proposed changes outlined in a handout: Demographic and Issue Representatives would replace Geographic Representatives. All would serve 2 year 3 month terms with elections held every 2 years. Elections are very time-consuming as it is difficult to find candidates. Executive committee members would be limited to 2 terms. All members would vote for all positions. A quorum would be set at 50%.

Steve E. Brought up the question of having an odd number of people on the board to avoid tie votes.

Followed a discussion (Frank, Steve E., Steve M., Jake): Geographic Area versus Demographic and Issue reps, a need for term overlap, number of members on the board. Jake suggested that 3-years terms might be a possibility, with elections held every 2 years. Frank recommended a total of 15 board members. Regional representatives would be from the North, East, South, and West with one At Large representative. A second consideration would be the area of expertise of each candidate (as is the case now).

A committee was formed to make recommendations on board composition and elections: Cara (who is in charge of Board Development), Jim H. Frank, Jake

2007 Conference

Jim H.: Provided a handout of tentative conference schedule, floor plan of Yakima Convention Center. Considerable space is available. Four concurrent sessions are planned, but others could be added.

- Program: SER, SWS, NPS and others.
- One evening: High School sessions. Students will give presentations.
- SWS and SERNW may have auctions.
- Program will be published. It will be necessary to review the abstracts.
- There will be 100 rooms at the Howard Johnsons. It could be used for committee meetings, etc. as well as the Convention Center.
 - Steve E.: Leave 1 room there or at Convention Center open for meetings, etc.
 - Jim W.: Chairs, tables, etc. in lobby would be useful for visiting, informal meetings
- Lobby can be used for exhibitors, vendors and posters. Posters can be left up throughout the meeting. Also in lobby:
 - Information booth
 - Snacks and coffee

Conference title: Pacific Northwest Ecological Restoration and Wetlands Management – Special Focus on the Greater Columbia Basin (or a modification of this)

Jake: Convention Center has 24 hr security. SER has a locked room for registration box, raffle items. This is Conference Room 1. This will also be used for speaker preparation. Someone will be assigned to watch the room full time.

Steve M.: High School presentations will be on day 2 in the evening (tentatively). These sessions are open to the public at no charge. Four or five high schools will be participating.

Frank: We need deadlines for the call for posters and papers. Also need to recruit session chairs and moderators.

Jake: Everyone can link to the registration website (EPP) and the program website (SER-Adrienne) once they are set up.

Booth and exhibitor space will be available for those who put on sponsored sessions.

Steve E.: These partners should also be recognized in the program. Jake: Those sponsoring sessions are pledging \$100 for each speaker. A mechanism is needed for handling this at registration.

Plenary Session

Chair: Frank. He suggested the topic of the Supreme Court – COE as this will change the definition of wetlands and could be one of the most significant issues in the past 20 years. He recommended a panel with representatives from Oregon and Washington, EPA and COE. He would begin by giving a brief overview of the litigation and panel members would explain how it is being implemented within their agencies. This would bring in regulatory people from all levels. Recommendation: Frank's overview followed by a 1-hour discussion by the panel. The break would then be followed by 45 minutes of questions.

Steve E. suggested adding a legal person as there will be additional litigation, also a landowner could be added. This expansion could then take up the entire morning.

Paul: Recommended avoiding a point/counterpoint situation (lawyer/landowner).

Generally agreed that the second part of this session should become a concurrent session after the break. Jim Wiggins (SWS) and/or Scott Moore (NPS) will set up another session after the break.

Workshops and field trips are yet to be organized.

Sponsors: Jake: Request \$2000 to sponsor most of a break, breakfast, or lunch. Sponsors will be recognized in the program.

EPP recommended that SERNW not enter into a food contract until summer when there is a better estimate of potential attendance available. We need more information on flexibility in the contract, what food can be brought in, etc.

Banquet questions. Separate banquets by organization? How funded? Which night(s)?

Jim Wiggins recommended 1 banquet in 1 room on 1 night with sponsors to reduce costs. This would help to build community. Jim and Tim Walls will be in charge of organizing the banquet.

Accommodations

A block of 100 rooms will be set up 6 months out at Howard Johnson's. There will be no profit from rooms for SWS or SERNW, except for complimentary rooms. The meeting will overlap the Central Washington Fair so it is essential to reserve room blocks in

advance. Tim is local and will be organizing field trips, but could perhaps set up room contracts, reserve campgrounds, etc.

AV: Adrienne Fox – will manage equipment. Jake will obtain the equipment.

Volunteers: Jim W. will have a list of SWS volunteers by the end of October.

Jake: Snohomish Co. and the Yakama Nation will provide a total of 15 to 20 volunteers - Washington Conservation Corps. They will stay with locals in Yakima, WA.

EPP will help with other volunteers.

Tables, chairs: Will be provided by the Conference Center.

Extra Curricular tours: Wine tasting, etc. Chamber of Commerce will have a table with brochures and a local staff at the Conference Center. There will be no organized tours.

Planning:

Jake: Will get an update with pricing/registration.

Contract with EPP

Conference on website by October 31, 2006

Call for papers on website by December 31, 2006

Needs field trip ideas.

Technical session committee – EPP will determine when abstracts are due.

Currently food is estimated to cost about \$89/person for mid range fare + tax/gratuity.

Future Board Meetings:

January 20, 2007: Vancouver. Frank will determine the location.

March 30, 2007: Seattle or by telephone.

July 21, 2007: Yakima (will include a walk-through of the Convention Center)

September 2007: At the Conference

Frank provided the board with a presentation on the Supreme Court vs COE case (Rapanos vs U.S. and Carabell vs U.S. COE)

Handouts from the October 7 Board Meeting:

Agenda (Jake)

Current and Proposed SERNW ORG Chart 2007 (Jake)

Minutes of 29 July 2006 SERNW Board Meeting (Paul)

Conference handout (Jim H.):

2007 Conference Assignment chart

Tentative agenda

Yakima Conference Updates and Needs (Dated October 7, 2006)

SERNW and PNW-SWS Joint Conference

Floor plan of Yakima Convention Center

Tentative budget for 2007 Conference (Jake)

ADJOURNED