

SER Northwest Chapter- General/Board Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2007, 7:30 am

Yakima Convention Center

Jake Jacobson, the incumbent President opened the combined annual general meeting/board meeting with introductions. Incoming board members were introduced; Frank Reckendorf, Lauren Urgenson, Lisa Dunham, and Allison Warner were newly elected. Standing board members Tom Elliot, Jim Hansen, outgoing secretary Paul Crane, outgoing rep Nancy Shaw, and past president Bob Hansen were also present. Absent were Ali Wick, Steve Erickson, Adrienne Fox, and outgoing treasurer Tim Walls.

Jake gave several reports about the status of our Chapter:

Treasurer's Report:

\$39,000 as of last board meeting.

Expect about \$15,000 gain from the Conference

Membership status:

Membership approximately 190 paid memberships currently. Membership revenues are not a large source of funds. Usually run around 200 members, with a dip in membership post conference and increase in membership before conference. No real fluxes in between.

By-laws:

We had an update last year. Change from defined area representatives to members at large.

Elections:

All candidates were accepted unanimously.

Cara Nelson, the international representative, sent a report from the SERI international meeting. She is now a dual representative and will be at our January board meeting.

Our mailbox is at the Center for Urban Horticulture and we get two meeting rooms a year as part of our rent.

Future training events:

Jake called for ideas for the next conference or training event. Producing training events is the Mission of the Chapter.

- Jake reported that the Center for Urban Horticulture approached us regarding co-hosting an event next winter. Jake's concern is that this is too costly, as the UW takes a large cut off the proceeds.
- Bob Hansen, former president, suggested a Design to Dirt format located in the Portland area and east side, with a series of targeted day-long workshops, practical/project planning/implementation focuss.
- It was suggested the Coastal Training program may be able to manage this for us
- Frank Reckendorf suggested a Streambank Erosion workshop that the curriculum is already developed for.
- A SERNW member in attendance: Janey (?) suggested that a partnering with local groups such as the conservation district would be more well attended and received rather than having an outside agency like the Coastal Training Program providing the training.
- Tom reported that Rebecca Brown from Eastern Washington University approached him joining with a University-sponsored a riparian issues conference- but is working fast on this – Target date is February.
- Venues were discussed. Yakima Convention Center is very interested in us returning- it is a good venue with central location for all our Chapter areas: 3 hrs from Portland, 2 hours Seattle, 3 hours from Spokane. Jim Hansen the Program Vice President has been approached by the Tri-cities area to host a conference there that might be equally well located. The east side focus with Shrub-Steppe to this conference was very well received. (Approximately 500 in attendance)
- No decisions were made, however most seemed to be in agreement that another Conference within a year would be too much for the board and Conference committee. There is a fear of burnout as many hours are involved. The Design to Dirt for this next year seemed to be a general consensus. Jake will post an email to membership requesting input and ideas for further discussion and a decision at our January board meeting.

Scholarships:

A number of scholarships were offered for this conference and Jake suggested/raised the question that the Chapter could fund a scholarship from our fund interest as part of our annual budges. Suggested \$5,000 as a scholarship for education. Fiscal planning is needed for the Chapter.

Need to invite past board members to become more active members.

January Board meeting, place and time to be announced, is slated for 3rd week in January. This will be a weekend retreat on the Columbia Gorge somewhere.