

# Report on 2016 National Monitoring Conference



# Some Conference Statistics

- Over 700 attendees
- Over 300 oral presentations
- 70 poster presentations
- 8 field trips
- 20 extended sessions (workshops, short courses, panels, discussions)
- Huge effort by seven committees (Extended Sessions, Program, Networking, Awards, Sponsor/Exhibitor, Local, and Plenary) and the overall Conference Planning Committee, with wonderful contractor support.



# How did it go?

A beautiful venue

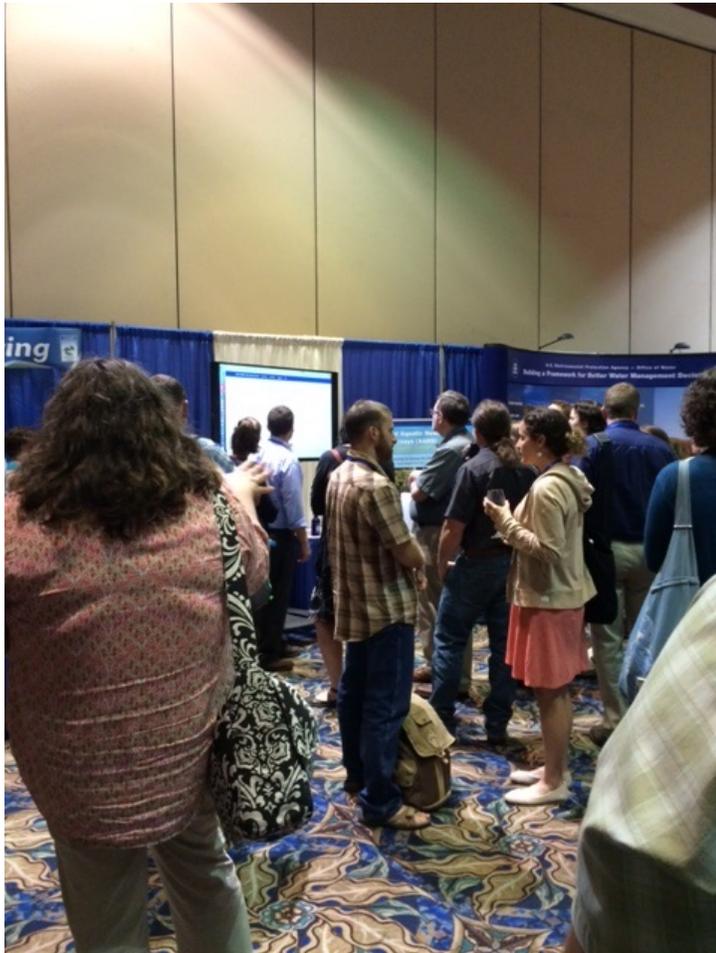


Interesting attendees



# Opportunities to learn and share

Exhibitor  
Reception



Poster Session



# Opportunities to network

Serious



Not so serious

# Lessons We Learned



At May 20 debriefing call, we talked about what we could do better:

- Formalize and stick with this overall agenda/format
- Develop clearer expectations/guidelines for each committee
- Hire contractor sooner
- Get information posted on registration website sooner (field trips, extended sessions, etc.); make ACWI conference website more informational
- Ensure the ability to make announcements at breakfast/lunch etc. to move people to next sessions, with herders to help; more announcements at Plenary
- Make list of restaurants, distance, type of food etc. available to all
- Develop guidance on extended sessions to send to session organizers

# Some additional suggestions.....

- Ensure there is a biomonitoring theme or sub-theme
- Abstracts submitted as posters should stay as posters if at all possible
- Adopt a set process and timeline to notify speakers of their status
- More specific training opportunities?
- Ask each networking group to have a note taker
- Regional lunch breakouts/tables?
- Use facilitated discussion format to get feedback on Council-related topics
- Recruit moderators from the registrants; speakers should not moderate their own sessions
- Others?



# Streamlining the next conference



Many of the suggestions and lessons learned will help streamline next time around

- Getting contractor support early, having distinct guidelines, timelines and sets of responsibilities, having an established conference format will save time and energy

*Question: How can we work more effectively?*

- Big chunks of time and energy were devoted by council members especially to: reviewing abstracts, selecting and grouping abstracts, conference calls, hand-holding extended session organizers, filling holes in concurrent sessions