

2019 National Monitoring Conference

CPC Debrief

NWQMC Meeting 5/13/19

Program

- Final program development
 - speakers should have been notified sooner of their abstract acceptance and presentation day/time slot
- Needed more paper copies
 - At a minimum, printing the conference at a glance for all participants.
 - All 150 printed programs were handed out within the first day or two
 - People are still attached to paper
- If we continue to go paperless – we should look into the app software options, something that will be easier than the pdf file
- Additional details in the conference at a glance
 - Add more – e.g., speakers and titles, so that participants can see everything going on in the same time period

Registration

- The rates should be set in advance for professionals, early career professionals, students, one-day registrations, etc.
 - Consider discounted rate for students
- Can we post the travel award details on the registration website?

Networking

- Networking Session and New Professionals Luncheon were well attended
 - Can we solicit networking topics from the public at the time we solicit abstracts?
- Many participants are interested in figuring out how to take their networking to the next level.
- Job/training board so there is an opportunity to share who has what available?
 - This would be useful for students and recent grads.
- Panel discussion on training and career history – for Wed night activities?
Resume exchange?
- Opportunities for end of career participants?

Webinars added value to the conference

- 20 in the room but ~ 475 online
- 2 person commitment
 - Having someone engaged with the webinar was key – a backup person is useful
- In the future, we should consider how many webinars we want to offer.
- Webcams might add value rather than broadcasting the laptop.
 - Estimated cost is ~\$5,000/day/session to have a camera – therefore we should figure out if people would have paid for the participation.

Code of Conduct

- Need to revisit the ethics document and discuss options for putting something formally in place
- We need to foster a safe environment for all participants
 - Access to gender neutral bathrooms

Field Trips

- 4 field trips happened – all filled up
 - Tour of Farmer Best Management Practices to Improve Water Quality Plus Drones! (8:30 am – 12:00 pm | \$35)
 - Tour of Denver’s New Green Infrastructure Projects (9:00 am – 12:00 pm | No cost, but pre-registration is required)
 - Next Generation Field Methods (1:00 pm – 4:00 pm | No cost, but pre-registration is required)
 - Tour of Denver’s National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) Air Monitoring Site (1:30 pm – 3:00 pm | No cost, but pre-registration is required)
- 8 field trips were canceled - minimum registration to cover the transportation cost was not met
- Timing was off this year (shutdown related)
 - Participants typically register for field trips by the early bird deadline
- Other options for transportation?

Diversity

- “BY-FAR the least-diverse conference I've ever attended (but I wasn't sure if that was just par for the course in environmental sciences)”
- Letter addressed to the conference organizers
 - “Increase Diversity and Inclusivity at the National Water Quality Monitoring Conference”
- Presentations are dominated by USGS
- Should consider a Diversity Committee for the next conference

Other Comments

- Certifications – what could the Council develop and offer at the next conference?
- Council panel discussions
 - structured feedback and outcome for something the Council might want or needed.
 - Council products were not addressed much at all. How can we use the downtime more strategically to get feedback from participants?

Planning the Next National Monitoring Conference