Conference Committee Meeting
7/10/2015
Meeting Minutes

Topic of Meeting: 2016 Abstract submission, technical tracks, Smart Phone App, BBQ & Keynote speaker.

Abstracts Submission
- Need to document process for how to set up abstract submission – for posterity
- Patrick to Help set this up
- ‘Hard Limit’ on text limit for abstracts – last year some of them went much longer than the limit and gets time consuming for reviewers.
- Due date 11/13
  - We always set it early and then delay it until right before Thanksgiving...submissions always come in late.
  - All committees promote call for abstracts
  - Coordinate with Debbie call for abstract and second call for abstracts
    - Second call for abstracts is promoted through committees
    - May ask for specific topics (e.g. need more regulatory or planning papers)
  - Conference Committee does first round of reviews and if additional input is needed may pull in other committee chairs
  - Review and sorting abstracts – put into format that is easily readable
    - Craig and Clayton volunteered

Technical tracks
- Push more contractors to submit
  - Owners push their contractors would help this
- Lab papers in wastewater track is desirable
- Committee Tracks
  - Send email to committee heads to ask how much time they want (30 min, 1 hr, none)
    - Construction, WFP, Scholarship (want 1 hr)
    - Research (30 minutes)
- Some people do not want to see ‘Asset Management’ as a topic in the pull down menu for abstract submission.
- Want to see us move away from sub categories and just show major topics.
- Innovative Technology (Vendor track) will be handled separately as a submission by Mike Ambroziak.
Bob offered that we could pull the submissions we (as reviewers) thought were applicable to this category for Mike A. to evaluate.

- **Add a Regulatory topic to the submission pull down menu**
  - Need to approach those people who could do a presentation and ‘coax’ them into submitting
  - Dave Iwanski could help out with this
  - Andy Kopster (ADEQ) on the committee could help with this too

- **Things we should be interested in/promoting**
  - Water Law
  - Design Build
  - Funding and Financing (Rates & Charges)
    - WIFA, Slone & Youngberg, etc
  - Customer Service
  - Regulations
  - Industrial/Commercial
    - Pretreatment Committee (Gus Lopez)
    - Energy and sustainability committee

### Smart Phone App

- Approved by the Board (We ARE going to get one)
- Quick Mobile ($6500-7500)
- CVET/CORE ($12000)
- Guidebook ($3500-6500) Amy like this interface
- Subcommittee to help Amy (input, questions, watch demos...usability and features we want)
  - Chris
  - Kurt
  - John
  - Clayton to help with technical background
- Asia wants the app to be added to the scope of work for the new IT person
- The App comes out of the Conference Committee Budget
  - Possibly get app sponsors, vendors pay for ads
    - Sell vendors ad space, notification, etc.
- Discussion was had a multi-year contract and awareness of changing some things in 2017 with the new conference location. Since this is the first year doing the app, it was decided that only a 1-year contract would be agreed upon.
- Good to get an app out this year and people get us to it. Don’t want to roll out the app next year and a new location.

### BBQ

- James Taylor chair
  - Past committee members; Erin Pysell, Maria Brady, Amy Baker, Gretchen Baumgardner
Has talked to Julie at Saddleranch – need to discuss price
Need to talk seating and PA system...how can we improve these from last year.
Possible do the new Dave & Busters that is being built and to be finished this fall.
There may be AV equipment AZ Water owns that was once stored at Mesa’s NWWTP – Gretchen to find out.

**Key Note Speaker**
- News Personality
  - Steve Benson (Entertaining)
  - Fitz Simons (over the top, but engaging)
- Governor (Dave Iwanski to attempt)
- New ADEQ Director Misael Cabrera
- ADWR Director Tom Buschatzke
- Paul Levy former Director Boston Water Authority
- George Hawkins Head of DC Water
- Jeff Flake
- Robert Redford
- People don’t always pay attention to the speakers at lunch because they want to socialize. But a good Key Note is important and sets the tone.

**Misc**
- Andy Kopster (ADEQ) - Regulatory outreach
- Nashita Naureen – Student Poster Contest
- Anupa/Bob – Photography

Gretchen has agreed to be Vice Chair (yeah!)  PLEASE cc her on emails sent to Mike W.

Next Meetings:
- September 18th (Hazen & Sawyer to sponsor)
- October 16th
- November 13th
- December 18th
- January 15th
- February 26th
- March 25th
- April 22nd (Moderator Training)

THANK YOU CPM for sponsoring August’s committee meeting