Conference Committee Meeting Minutes

Date 06/20/2019

Meeting leader: Clayton Freed
Type of meeting: June Committee Meeting

In attendance:

- Mike Ambroziak
- Larry Ayers
- Amy Baker
- Doug Berschauer
- Tom Braatelien
- Craig Caggiano (Ph)
- Curt Courter
- Lisa Culbert (Ph)
- Clayton Freed
- Towanda Heape
- Bob Hollander
- Lisa Jackson
- Jeanne Jensen
- Travis Kim
- Jason Montgomery
- Nashita Naureen
- Amber Page
- Marie Pearthree
- Sarah Rogowski
- Fred Rouse
- Melanie Sikes
- Steve Wedwick
- Mike Worlton

Topics Discussed

PDH Update
- Steve said the biggest issue with the PDH tracking is with the scan outs. He wants both scanners to advance to the next session automatically.
- Craig likes what ACE had (a generic scan in & out with a tiny pen laser). What is the additional cost? What does that data look like? Show Steve the data!
- Can the scan be a generic scan out no matter what session or time?
- Amy thinks the chip system could alleviate volunteer costs and efforts. Waiting to hear what Noah Adam’s thinks about less stringent tracking of specific rooms. The moderator could still use a clicker to do a headcount on the presentations (old school-style).
- Lisa C. will put together a comparison.

Operator Training
- Doug B. has requested that Committees have their sessions decided and back to him for operator training by August. He is only waiting on those in Green on the slides. He is happy that many have responded immediately.

AZ Water Councils
- To do an additional part to support the Association, everyone likes the idea of adding check boxes to the conference registration to leverage using some of the abstract topics for later Kachina articles and potential future trainings for the Association.

Abstract Workshop
Craig suggested the Research Committee to find trainers for this due to their ties with the University professors. Dan Q. and Zaid C. would be good people to initiate this.

Jeanne offered to find someone to delegate this to. Mike W. and Mike A. will assist with Jeanne’s delegating.

Lisa J. suggests an afternoon or early evening training to accommodate operators, who most likely need the training over consultants.

Speaker Workshop

- Doug B. and Tom G. will champion this.

Conference Schedule

- Marie: We don’t want to short the speakers that we fly in by having a large group leave during their talk and go into the exhibit hall.
- Mike A.: To get the exhibitors to stay a third day we would need to give them a dedicated hour before lunch and they would not be willing to stay past 3pm. In addition to the dedicated hour, give 1:30-2:30 as dedicated exhibit hall time. What about noise for breaking down? It will cost approximately $7,000 to have a third exhibit hall day and Mike doesn’t want to put that cost back on the exhibitors. He did say he could adjust some of the booth levels to accommodate.
- Jeanne: Will look into the legal ability to shorten the business meeting from 15 minutes down to 5 minutes by providing handouts.
- Lisa J.: Keep the keynote at lunch. Maybe AWWA/WEF could talk at the breakfast?

New Ideas

- July is the last meeting for new ideas!
- Exhibitor Track should be on the third day and kept as a part of the abstract process.
- Having breakfast in the exhibit hall would affect the breakfast sponsors and how they are recognized with slides during the breakfast.
- Council meetings only at the Conference in lieu of Committee Meetings (this discussion will be tabled for now). Jeanne has ideas. Can we create a video so it can be played all three days? Tom G. suggested a committee/council booth in the exhibit hall?
- While Copper Blues suggested a “Grab & Go” option to keep the lines moving quickly, some of the Committee feels that if Copper Blues had the food ready when the doors opened as they were supposed to, then the lines may not have been as much of an issue.
- Innovations Lounge was received well…ACE.
- Craig’s idea is to look at the Registration area to improve. Bags & lanyards can be assembled in advance or in a separate area to not hold up the line.
- Lisa C. will get numbers from PCC on the popular food items in order to request more of those items so we don’t sell out this year.
- Mike A. said the Happy Hour lines were too long and thought the bartenders were writing on tickets to track what was being ordered; however, Lisa C. said that we only served beer & wine to avoid that issue.
- Not brought up due to lack of time, but one new idea is to add a Lab Competition. Idexx wants to host it and both Anupa and Amy were approached by Rich from Idexx about the proposal.
Miscellaneous

- Craig said the Customer Service Committee wants to be involved with abstract approvals.
- Sarah R. wants to swap Awards with Competitions on the schedule. Towanda was okay with this.
- Lisa J. wants panel & keynote ideas. Contact her. She has a small group working on it, but is wanting more ideas.
Lunch sponsors:

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