

Notes - Annual Planning Webinar #1

Post meeting comments:

Notes from post follow-up meeting of the 2010 Annual Conference were presented to the group:

- More timing needed between strands
- MDA table better manned?
- Moderator needed for all general sessions (including welcome session)
- Microphones needed for every speaker
- Timing flash cards for moderators
- Plan for afternoon break
- 45 minute sessions needed :30 min to speak, 10 min for Q & A and 5 min to pass between sessions
- Vendors need their own room
- Possibly just list awards next year
- Awards nomination process changed
- More descriptive awards criteria needed
- Have a semi-formal or black tie banquet dinner (start a tradition?)
- Mention past Barb Mullin award recipients
- Next year's entertainment be comedian or a casino night – we need to change it up

Speaker policy:

Becky presented the following speaker policy for review and consideration of the group:

Attending conference:

- In-state speakers will receive a banquet dinner ticket and mileage reimbursement based on actual gas receipts. They must pay registration fees less the cost of dinner.
- Out-of-state speakers will receive waived registration and room and travel expenses upon request and within MWCA budget if their agency will not cover costs. Moderators or MWCA Staff will ask if their agency can cover costs upon invitation to speak.

Only presenting their session:

- In-state speakers receive a luncheon ticket and mileage reimbursement based on actual gas receipts.
- Out-of-state speakers will receive luncheon ticket (if desired) and travel expenses will be reimbursed upon request and within MWCA budget if their agency will not cover costs. Moderators or MWCA Staff will ask if their agency can cover costs upon invitation to speak.

Everyone felt this policy should be presented to the board at the spring meeting to adopt into policy.

Professionalism:

Everyone felt that we need to elevate our level of professionalism as it pertained to the awards, entertainment and live auction. It was suggested the fun things that several folks want to do would best be presented at the fall coordinator training. It was also felt the awards are honoring someone and the awards presentation should be geared towards professionalism and formality.

Silent & Live Auctions:

The main focus of the discussion was whether or not to hold a live auction. Due to the length of time it takes to produce a live auction, trouble securing an auctioneer and issues with both choosing live and silent auctions, and the quality of items we receive in given years, it was felt by the majority that we do away with the live auction for the 2011 conference.

Themes:

Several themes were presented:

- Holding down the Fort (how we are addressing invasion from our bordering states and Canada)
- Montana, the leader in U.S. noxious weed efforts!
- Lead, follow or get run over!
- Harnessing the expertise of weed professionals
- Place your bets on success
- Forever New Frontiers – new ideas that can lead us to new frontiers
- Unite to make a difference
- Strengthening our Stride with the MWCA on our side
- MWCA (Make Weed Control Achievable) TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More!)

Several voiced support of a theme that expressed Montana’s leadership in the noxious weed world. It was also brought up that this might be a difficult theme to fit strands and workshops around? No decisions were made.

Awards Criteria:

It was suggested that we look at the criteria and make several categories more descriptive (such as the weed district of the year description) There was talk about doing away with the youth category and creating bullet points for each category (possibly include an example). The awards committee will work on those descriptions before the next webinar.

Awards Nomination Process:

Several people felt the current awards process was not fair. Becky suggested a new process for nominating awards:

- All nominations would come to MWCA office in the form of a letter
- A packet of nomination letters and a ballot would be sent out to those who wished to be involved in the nomination process (this should include all area representatives). Participants would have two weeks to read over letters and submit ballots
- Ballots are sent back to MWCA office and only the MWCA staff and awards chair/committee know the winners and plan for award presentation

Again, the awards committee would look at the process and make a recommendation for a new and improved process by the next webinar.

The next webinar will be held on March 9 at 10 a.m. and the topics will include:

Awards criteria

Awards nomination

Entertainment options

Banquet dinner dress/theme

possibly start identifying topics and workshop themes