



2011 BWSR Academy

Evaluation Update

Nov 16, 2011

Background

On October 25-27, 2011, BWSR held the 4th Annual BWSR Academy. Through a state bidding process, Breezy Point Conference Center in Pequot Lakes, MN, was awarded the location for the second year. With a 10% increase in LGU participation (274 LGU participants) a total of 356 people attended the Academy in 2011. Planning Team members steered Academy operations confirming the Academy goal, developed in 2010, to: Provide high quality training for local government staff that maintains and improves the delivery of conservation work and meets the shared expectations of BWSR and local resource management boards.

Evaluation Summary

Attendees: 356 Evaluations Returned: 114 Response Rate: 32%

My personal goals for this Academy:

What are 2 things you were looking to learn, apply, or be better at as a result of this academy? (N:106)

Results show that **BWSR programs** and **organizational capacity topics** were most prevalent in participants' personal goals. Of note – these specific topics had the most interest as personal academy goals to:

- 1) network with peers and BWSR,
- 2) learn about BWSR programs; especially new requirements (cost-share manual and G.A.I.)
- 3) increase grant writing/application skills
- 4) learn new marketing strategies
- 5) understand WCA components.

86% of participants said they received information at the Academy to reach their personal goals.

Academy Sessions:

95% of participants said the 2011 Academy meet their professional training needs & expectations. (N:110)

Participants identified specific sessions as most useful and effective at the 2011 Academy. They include:

# Votes	Session Title
21	Dealing with difficult people
19	Marketing 101
13	Climb to top performance
13	Cost share and new grant administration
10	Pollution Estimators
9	Selling Conservation, Not
9	The Basics of MN Wetland Regulations
8	Stream morphology
7	Future of Water Planning

- 6 WCA in the Trenches
24 other sessions received an average of 2.6 votes each.

These 2 themes emerged of what makes a session successful:

Repeating themes of what made a session useful followed 2010 feedback:

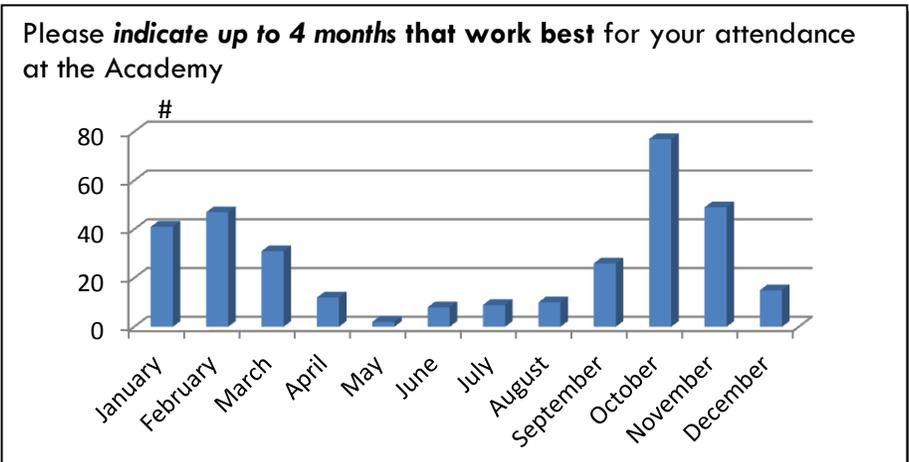
- 1) Successful sessions provided clear application connections – something practical to use back on the job,
- 2) Successful sessions provided hands-on activities or examples.

For example, one participant commented, “Not just a powerpoint, interactive and practical for anyone administering WCA... .. we were working w/ our own peers (small groups)... ..I feel will make me more well rounded in WCA admin.” Another said, “Speaker (had) great energy and interactive. Great info that I will use immediately and share with others in office, lots of take home, things to really make a difference.”

Future Academies:

Would you attend a future BWSR Academy? (N:110)
 99% Yes 0% No 1% Other (not sure)

If you checked yes, please continue with the following questions:



What is the **optimal length** for the Academy? (N:110)

1 day	0 %
2 days	30%
3 days	69 %
4 days	0%
5 days	1%

How would you prefer future academies be organized? (N:101)

Regionally	Statewide
16%	84%

How often should we schedule the Academy? (N:108)

Annually	Every 2 years	Every 3 years
83%	17%	0%

Have you restricted your attendance at other training programs, events, or conventions to attend the BWSR Academy? (N:107)
 25% Yes **75% No**

Would you recommend the BWSR Academy to other conservation local govt. staff? (N:112)
100% Yes 0% No