

MACDE Summer Session Evaluation Comments

June 23-25, 2008

Monday, June 23

(1 = low rating; 5 = high rating)

[Number of comments ~ note that some of the sheets didn't have ratings for all sessions circled]

Breezy Point History	1 [2]	2 [8]	3 [6]	4 [5]	5 [1]
Business Meeting	1	2 [2]	3 [11]	4 [7]	5 [2]
State Cost-Share Close outs	1	2	3 [9]	4 [9.5]	5 [3.5]

Comments:

- * Too many power points (*cost-share*).
- * Good info (*cost-share*).
- * Did enjoy the partner sharing.
- * There must be someone from NRCS that could attend!
- * Always good to go over cost-share requirements, but not really any new info. Probably very good for new people.
- * BWSR missed huge opportunity to decrease problems with state cost-share closeouts.
- * Where was our NRCS report? Cost-share audit was very good (even if part of it is review). If our BC would have come and done our audit when we requested them to do it (30 days after the closeout of the books), maybe my District wouldn't have gotten our hand slapped for doing the same thing wrong a few years in a row.
- * The history could have been more in-depth.
- * Very nice place, good. Where was NRCS? Mother no show year.

Tuesday, June 24

Technical – Forestry	1	2	3 [2]	4 [6]	5
Admin. – Grant Writing, CWL	1	2	3 [3]	4 [9.5]	5 [3.5]
Technical – TMDL	1	2 [2]	3 [8]	4 [3]	5 [1]
Admin. – Parliamentary	1	2	3 [1]	4 [5]	5 [2]
Technical - RIM/CRP	1	2 [1]	3 [1]	4 [8]	5 [3]
Admin. – Risk Mgmt. 101	1	2	3 [2]	4 [6]	5
Bus Tour of Crow Wing County	1	2 [2]	3 [7]	4 [10]	5 [3]

Hunt Utilities Group ~ <http://www.hugllc.com/>

Comments:

- * A boat tour would have been fun, lake country.
- * Good tour – But no info from Crow Wing SWCD.
- * Would have liked an info sheet (Agenda) on the tour. Interesting concepts on 1st stop.
- * Need handouts – email power points for reference and to share with staff. Would be great to have contact information (names, location, misc. information) about each stop on tour.
- * Please provide info on the tour – handout on what we are going to see.
- * May have been nice to have an alternative to coffee/tea during morning breaks (such as juices or pop). Also would have been nice to have someone on the bus to tell us where we were going and what to expect as we were on our way during the bus tour. We got to Hunt's and had no idea where we were and what we were about to see.
- * Hunt Utilities group was very interesting and different for a tour.
- * Really liked the first stop on tour – sustainable living.
- * Session 1 – BWSR could have handout – grant writing. Session II – BWSR could have handout – Robert's Rules.
- * I was expecting MCIT presentation to focus more on steps we need to take to meet their expectations regarding safety, etc. Thought it would be more about what their staff learned from the site visits to one office

– hopefully they will present that info sometime in the future, maybe at convention. The tour sites were awesome, but I wish we would've had some preliminary info either in print or somewhere on the bus explaining where we were going, etc.

- * Energy building was informative!
- * Research center was fantastic. It was very confusing as to where each session was going to be located. Someone should have been available at the end of each presentation to direct attendees to next session. A bus guide would have been nice too. It could have been very simple...”Welcome to the bus tour. We have 3 stops. Our first stop is approx. 20-25 minutes away, etc.”
- * Tour is good idea. This year lacked projects by SWCD.
- * Very much enjoyed the Hunt Utilities Group stop, their presenters were very energetic and fun!
- * Forestry and RIM/CRP sessions were very timely. The bus tour had good sites but it would have been nice to have someone speaking on the bus prior to the site and any incidental project sites along the way. I did not get a good understanding of their usual projects that they worked on.
- * Very interesting tour – nice job Crow Wing!

Wednesday, June 25

BWSR Performance Review &
Assistance Program (PARP)
“True Colors”

1 [2]	2 [1]	3 [8]	4 [9]	5 [1]
1	2	3	4 [4]	5 [15]

Comments:

- * Great (closing) speaker!
- * AWESOME
- * (PARS) A little repetitive, we have already heard this, would have liked more of an update on the program. (Closing Speaker) – I LOVE her – I am Blue, can you tell?
- * PARS – good to hear the reason. Colors – Fantastic!
- * Love the colors presentation – even if I have done it before. Cindy is great!
- * PRAP presentation was good, but I have heard it before. It would have been nice to have another session option for those who have attended this presentation before. True colors was good because it allowed me to see that people have different personality types and that is OK. It was nice to see how people voted themselves and have a good laugh about the differences.

Suggestions & Comments on MACDE Summer Session:

- * This was an excellent meeting! Breezy Point is an excellent location for the meeting.
- * Breezy Point is nice – good place.
- * Put signs on the doors to tell what sessions are in there. Make sure speakers have copies of presentation.
- * It would be nice to have materials that lay out information for all sessions.
- * Make the names on name tags bigger. 9:00 AM class start.
- * Great time, beautiful resort!
- * It was a good location for this years summer session. The only thing about this session I can make a suggestion about is maybe have more training topics.
- * Nice place and a helpful staff at Breezy Point. Enjoyed the tour.
- * I thought as a whole the 3 days were very worth while. New programs look great and challenging lots of opportunities.
- * Name badges looked very nice, but impossible to read names – too small – names should have been at least the size of SUMMER CONFERENCE – I overheard several other comment on the same. Would be nice if all speakers provided handouts especially if they're doing power point – it's so easy. Facilities/food – EXCELLENT we should come here again. Tour – very interesting, but where's the info on location and speakers? Crow Wing let us all down on that. Also, very negative feelings that they (SWCD) didn't have anyone at this session – no excuse, like bad manners. Also their tech that spoke at the school had no real info for us – why did we bother to stop?
- * Recognize retiring SWCD employees. Meeting rooms cold – it's summer let's do a little energy conservation. Food very good, good place for meeting. Stillwater excellent also, gives spouses something to do. Need closing motivation speaker. BWSR programs – cost-share review.
- * It was unfortunate this was scheduled at the same time as Leadership session – would be good to avoid that conflict in the future. Facility very nice – good food!

- * Names on nametags were too small to read. Power point presentations should be made available following conference – would have been nice to have them during presentations. It would have been nice to know where the bus tour was going. Did we need walking shoes or boots? We were quite confused about dinner. One in our group thought we needed to pay \$30 for supper. One thought Monday was included but Tuesday was not. The third person thought dinners were included. Short bios of speakers would have been nice. Conference organization was very unpolished and felt thrown together. Small details need more attention.
- * Breezy Point is a GREAT location to have this. For those that bring their families, there is a lot for them to do.
- * Breezy Point was a great place to stay. Nice meeting rooms, meals, and lots of things to do in the evenings.
- * It was a great summer session! I especially enjoyed the tour and the speakers were very good, well organized, with good materials. The event (lodging, meals, logistics) were all well-planned and wonderful. My only comment is that the very beginning of the meeting needed a little bit of formality to it. (Although it was great to attend such a relaxed meeting.) It would have been nice to get a bit more background on what MACDE has been up to – I am a new member and I haven't been to a summer session in 8 years. You can't assume everyone knows exactly what's going on. Something in our folder that included the names of the current MACDE Board members would have been helpful too.
- * Breezy Point was an excellent choice to hold the employee session. Great lodging – great food, etc. The sessions were pretty interesting. I enjoyed myself. To those responsible for putting the session together – Good Job!