

FEEDBACK AND RESPONSES: WATER COLLABORATION WORKSHOP AND NETWORKING TOOL

Participant Feedback	Response
Plenary Session	
<p>An overview for the state on what university researchers are working on - while impossible to do on a broad scale, it was a missing element from the State perspective. Include a representative from a university to speak about ideas to make partnerships work for researchers, along with presentations from the research community.</p>	<p>The initial workshop was designed to bring together academic researchers and state agency personnel to identify synergies and explore areas where collaborations might occur. Future agendas will be more balanced and demonstrate how state-university collaborations can be mutually beneficial.</p>
<p>A discussion of funding available to address knowledge and research gaps was missing from the conversation.</p>	<p>For this initial workshop, our intention was to facilitate relationship building. We felt a discussion about funding would have constrained conversations and detracted from our workshop goals. However, funding was clearly an important issue for the research community. In addition to making these kinds of opportunities available as they arise via michiganwater.net, we will consider ways to address this issue at a future event.</p>
Breakout Sessions	
<p>Discussions revolving around how to secure funding, pool resources, and share data to make collaborations valuable for both researchers and state agencies was missing from the breakout sessions. Participants suggested a number of improvements, including better clarifying goals of the breakout sessions, providing more guidance and structure, building breakouts around more focused topics, having smaller breakout groups, and having longer breakout sessions.</p>	<p>The workshop planning committee will consider the detailed feedback provided by attendees to increase the productivity of future sessions</p>
Networking Opportunities	
<p>In general, participants would have preferred more dedicated time and space for networking in order to promote more meaningful conversations and connections with new people.</p>	<p>The workshop planning committee will explore opportunities to build additional networking time into future workshops. This could be achieved through a longer workshop and/or more targeted breakout sessions. We welcome additional feedback on ways to enhance networking opportunities.</p>
<p>Collecting bios from participants and making them available in advance of the workshop could help people be strategic in their networking.</p>	<p>We will implement this suggestion for the next workshop.</p>



MICHIGAN WATER
COLLABORATION WORKSHOP

Poster Session	
The poster session was not well organized and was not as useful as it could have been. Participants recommended organizing a dedicated poster session with a more specific theme.	The inclusion of a poster session at the workshop was to accommodate several requests, rather than planned up front, and we agree it lacked structure and appropriate space. If a poster session is included in a future event, we will dedicate a space for poster display and time for interested individuals to discuss the work with researchers.
Networking Tool (<i>michiganwater.net</i>)	
More fully develop the options for chemical expertise. There are too few choices, especially compared to other research areas.	We are working with researchers in this expertise area to refine and improve the chemical expertise options.
Refine the Human Dimensions dropdown box to more accurately reflect the different kinds of research and activities those researchers undertake.	We are working with researchers in this expertise area to refine and improve the human dimensions expertise options.
Add a resources page to include collaboration workshop resources (e.g., presentations, notes), and state priority documents (e.g., reports and plans, inventories of current monitoring efforts, research needs)	We have added resources page (michiganwater.net/resources) to the networking tool site and will continue to populate it with desired materials. We will also explore the addition of an RSS feed option, which will alert subscribers when new information is posted.
Create topical list serves	We do not plan to add a list serve feature at this time. For those interested in communicating with researchers about a specific topic, we have added instructions for building targeted mailing lists to the resources page (michiganwater.net/resources)
Develop and integrate profiles for state agency personnel	We are developing a template for agency personnel/program profiles and will work with MDEQ, MDNR, and MDARD to add them to the site.
On researchers profiles, add a field to capture geography (where research is occurring)	We will determine cost associated with adding a map component to the site and add it if there are resources to implement and maintain this feature. If a mapping feature is not feasible, we will explore other options for adding research location information.