



68th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference
BE THE CHANGE • MANAGE LOCALLY CONSERVE GLOBALLY

Madison, Wisconsin
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Fisheries Program

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When a lead agency shares databases (containing abstracts etc. for symposia, for example) between other agencies using their FTP site, you may experience firewall problems with the database in one agency and not another. So folks on committees reviewing abstracts, etc will find it difficult to do those reviews. Another critical point is the personal communications between any symposia leads and others related to scheduling of their symposia (consecutive). It is imperative that two co-chairs were not always conveyed the same information or that symposia coordinator did not spell out specifics on their session request form.

Another critical point is that we were not critical enough about the symposia submissions. The symposium topic and speakers needed to be well thought out and that at least some of the speakers needed to be committed by the time the symposia submission deadline rolled around. A few folks felt symposium organizing meant simply stating they would host a session on that topic and waited for people to submit papers to fill the session. Bottom line is that if you plan a symposium; make sure that most if not all of your speaker have already committed prior to deadline.

This year we organized posters by board topic areas within both fisheries and wildlife rather than simply by submission number. Our attendees indicated this was helpful.

Finally, depending on who is planning to sponsor with agency funds (state, versus federal, versus private companies or tribes, etc.) be prepared to use several different tools

or agreements to get funds transferred into your checking or savings accounts. From a Forest Service perspective, we cannot contribute funds (deposit to Midwest accounts) until after the conference begins and/or ends. It is done electronically.