

2014 AERC Annual Meeting: Survey Summary

1. Which of the following AERC meeting activities did you find beneficial?

| | | |
|--|-----------|-------|
| Workshop on Communicating Science to Decision-Makers and the Media | 10 | 83.3% |
| Congressional Briefing | 14 | 100% |
| Meeting with Members of Congress | 11 | 100% |
| AERC Business Meeting | 5 | 100% |

*Percentages based on number of attendees at each respective activity

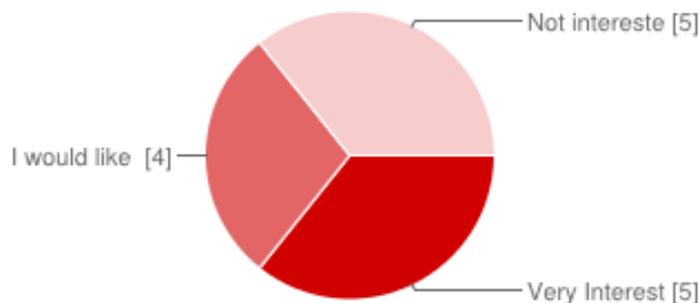
2a. If you were to attend next year's meeting, which of the following activities would you participate in?

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Workshop | 10 | 71.4% |
| Congressional Briefing | 13 | 92.9% |
| Meeting with Members of Congress | 12 | 85.7% |
| Would not attend next year | 2 | 14.3% |
| Other | 1 | 7.1% |

2b. If you answered "Would not attend next year," what is the reason(s)?

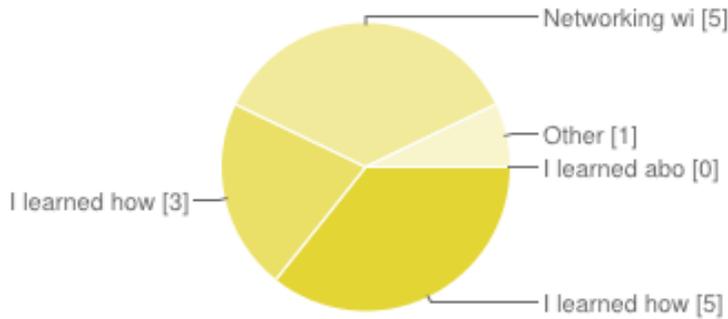
❖ if I don't, funding and time availability

3. Would you be interested in attending next year's AERC Business Meeting?



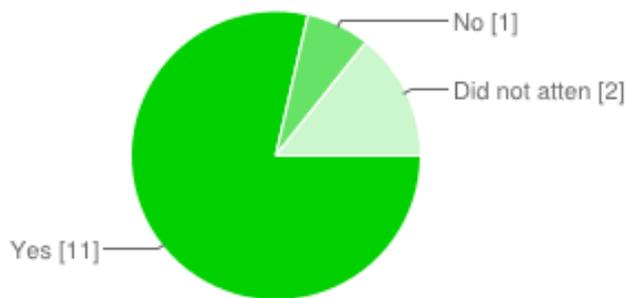
| | | |
|---|----------|-------|
| Very Interested | 5 | 35.7% |
| I would like to see how the workshop goes and then decide | 4 | 28.6% |
| Not interested | 5 | 35.7% |

4. What was the most beneficial information you obtained during the AERC meeting this year?



| | | |
|---|---|-------|
| I learned about AERC's mission and history | 0 | 0% |
| I learned how to communicate to media and decision makers | 5 | 35.7% |
| I learned how important it is for an ecosystem scientist to be familiar with policy | 3 | 21.4% |
| Networking with colleagues and learning what they are doing | 5 | 35.7% |
| Other | 1 | 7.1% |

5a. Did you find the first day's communication workshop helpful?



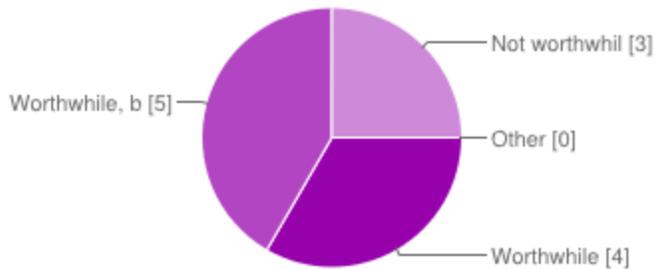
| | | |
|----------------|----|-------|
| Yes | 11 | 78.6% |
| No | 1 | 7.1% |
| Did not attend | 2 | 14.3% |

5b. What was helpful about the first day's communication workshop?

- ❖ small group discussions
- ❖ Learning how to communicate my science to a different audience than I am accustomed to.
- ❖ How to talk with politically powerful yet non-scientific people.
- ❖ There was a lot of good information provided during the session about communicating science to policy makers. The homework assignments were difficult without a lot of preparation or previous knowledge. It would have been better to work on those tasks at the workshop or have received more guidance prior.
- ❖ Julie Palakovich Carr did a great job instructing the group, using real-world examples from her time on the Hill as a staffer and as a public policy representative of the AIBS.
- ❖ Insights into how to interact with staffers.

- ❖ Having no previous experience in communicating research to policy makers and the media, the workshop provided me with a great introduction.
- ❖ I feel that the breakdown of how to communicate effectively was invaluable and really prepared me for my meeting with congressional staff.

5c. The time spent developing the policy one-pager and mini-presentation for the communication workshop was:

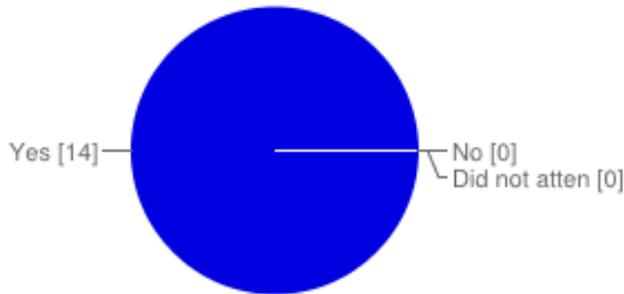


| | | |
|---|----------|-------|
| Worthwhile | 4 | 28.6% |
| Worthwhile, but with additional guidance I could have prepared a better policy one-pager and presentation | 5 | 35.7% |
| Not worthwhile | 3 | 21.4% |
| Other | 0 | 0% |

5d. What suggestions do you have to improve the usefulness of the communications workshop?

- ❖ It seems like getting more specific guidance from the AIBS Public Policy Office before the events in DC would be helpful and would make the time spent at the workshop more useful.
- ❖ I think spending a greater part of the workshop developing the policy one -pager with more guidance from those that have done this before would have allowed me to get more out of the exercise.
- ❖ Provide more information about how to prepare the mini-presentation and one-pager.
- ❖ nothing that is truly effective can be so formulaic
- ❖ Actually use it.

6a. Did you find the Congressional Briefing on the 2nd day worthwhile?

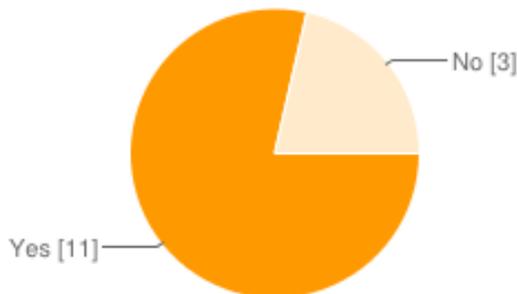


| | | |
|----------------|-----------|------|
| Yes | 14 | 100% |
| No | 0 | 0% |
| Did not attend | 0 | 0% |

6b. If you answered yes, why? If not, what would make it more worthwhile to attend?

- ❖ I found it very interesting to see how a briefing was conducted.
- ❖ It creates a better understanding of how policymakers obtain scientific information.
- ❖ I was one of the presenters and the overview of the topics was helpful to the audience
- ❖ It was great to hear the questions from the staffers and thereby learn what was important to congressional members. It was also inspiring to see so many early career people attending and engaged in public policy making.
- ❖ Interesting to see how the topic was addressed by the speakers and how the staffers responded to the messages given.

7a. Did you meet with anyone on the Hill?



| | | |
|-----|-----------|-------|
| Yes | 11 | 78.6% |
| No | 3 | 21.4% |

7b. If yes, how did the meetings go?

- ❖ They went well and I appreciated the experience.
- ❖ Well.
- ❖ Very Well
- ❖ It was good experience but I don't think it made any impact.
- ❖ The one I attended was nice, even though the senator is not particularly open to environmental issues, his staffer was informed and it got our institute on his radar.
- ❖ We met with aides from two representatives and both meetings went really well.
- ❖ Very well. Supportive congressional staff
- ❖ well
- ❖ The meetings went well and the staffers were attentive and courteous
- ❖ Unfortunately, I did not have time to do this in 2014.
- ❖ Interesting...!

7c. If yes, did you find the workshop or policy briefing helpful in these meetings? If so, which parts were most helpful?

- ❖ no
- ❖ Yes - What to expect from the staffers
- ❖ News and gossip from the hill on hill perspectives this year.
- ❖ Yes. Just have some background on what the typical congressional staffer was like and what they might be interested in was very valuable.
- ❖ Very helpful for preparing the mini-presentation and guiding our discussion.
- ❖ Yes, particularly the practice interviews.
- ❖ The workshop was somewhat helpful for practicing my brief speech and thinking about how to from my research.

7d. What improvements could be made to the workshop to help you handle Hill meetings better?

- ❖ Focus on the mini-presentation and message honing even more. Forget the one pager.
- ❖ I thought it worked quite well.
- ❖ move away from stunted presentations and focus on things that listeners won't forget
- ❖ How to connect with someone that is seeing new people every 30 minutes all day long.

8. If you have any additional suggestions or comments, please share them!

- ❖ No responses for this question.