**School IPM 2020 Steering Committee Conference Call Notes**

Monday, June 6, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM CST

1. **Roll:** John Connett, Sherry Glick, Joe Laforest, Lynn Braband, Shaku Nair, Herb Bolton, Tim Stock, Amanda Crump, Matt Baur, Gary King, Fudd Graham, Tom Green, Kathy Murray, Matt Neff
2. **Introducing John Connett, co-chair of the Western Region Community IPM Working Group (John)**
* John introduced himself. He’s in charge of School IPM outreach and IPM plan development for the University of Wyoming’s athletics department. He also deals generally with all things pertaining to their IPM program.
* His background is production agriculture and germplasm preservation research and he’s spent the last 5 years working in IPM. His master’s degree was in biological control of weeds using weevils.
* John said thank you and that he is glad to be here.
1. **Recap/Update on EPA Pest Management Roundtable (Sherry and Tom)**
* The EPA-sponsored Pest Management Roundtable event occurred on May 25, 2016. 20 national organizations convened, including the IPM Institute, the National Pest Management Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National School Board Association, the National Education Association and more.
	+ Over the next three years the EPA will be working closely with national, state and regional organizations to promote sustainable pest management in schools.
	+ During the event, organizers handed out backpacks with flash sticks containing humorous and fun school IPM tools. Also included on these flash drives were the Stop School Pests training modules.
* The group agreed it was a great meeting, great for EPA to put together and that it was way past overdue to engage with organizations on that level.
	+ There was a presentation on Stop School Pests; several IPM coordinators from school districts across the country also presented including Raul Rivas, Seth Miller and Ricardo Zubiate. These were 3 districts that had in-house programs. It was powerful for the audience to hear how those school districts turned their programs around and made a huge difference.
	+ The plan is to continue to strategize how to engage with the groups that attended – especially with getting Stop School Pests training out. They all represent target markets for training modules.
	+ The group agreed it would be great to invite contacts from the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) to the next call and ask what we can do to help.
	+ NEHA has a national meeting with HUD on June 13th where they will be discussing IPM further.
* The group agreed that results will really take follow-up, and discussed what that will look like.
	+ The primary idea is working with organizations to see if they will start using Stop School Pests training. How are they involved in training now? Can content be incorporated into their current channels. Follow-up and relationship-building are necessary. NC IPM Center grant.
* One thing that the groups requested was presenters – are there subject matter experts who could come educate other stakeholders?
* It was clarified for Gary that the flash drive did not have the ASPRO-produced School IPM guidance document, but it is going through ProTrac (the EPA materials approval channel) now and Frank Ellis said he’s hoping it’ll be over soon. It was mentioned at the roundtable.
1. **Update on Pest Management Strategic Plan (PMSP) (Amanda and Matt Baur)**
* The Western IPM Center informed the group on the current progress of reviewing the PMSP. Amanda is halfway through the document, Matt Baur is all the way through and the document has been sent to other regional centers.
* Next Monday there will be an all-regional-centers meeting. The goal is to have the fully reviewed document out to everyone very soon.
1. **Update on 2018 IPM Symposium (Tom)**
* Tom informed the group of progress on planning the 2018 IPM Symposium.
	+ There’s been a lot of activity over the past month. Attendance went down from 650 to 450 between the previous two Symposiums. Afterwards, the symposium committee did surveying and brainstorming, and one idea hit upon was to potentially collaborate with Meister Publishing, who was involved with the recent biopesticide industry meeting.
* Symposium planning committee members have had conversations with EPA and Meister about holding the IPM symposium the same week of the biopesticide conference in 2018. They said they’d have to accelerate their planning.
	+ The bottom line is that all groups would have to come together on a location to start negotiating with the venue this summer.
* It’s exciting to be doing something different. The committee would continue its focus on the professional audience, on networking for IPM professionals and would collaborate with Meister to bring more IPM content to their Biocontrol focus.
* The planning committee hopes to have some resolution on location and date in the next month or so.
1. **Individual updates (Regions, EPA, others)**
* **Kathy Murray:** There was a recent collaboration with EPA to hold a Structural and School IPM workshop for tribes, including participants from Massachusetts and Maine. The school this group visited has a good IPM program and does all their own monitoring They have not needed to use pesticides in or on buildings except to control active wasp nests
	+ There was a recent IPM STAR inspection on Friday with Tom and the Health Resources in Action team who accompanied the evaluators—they were very interested and appreciative.
	+ There is a turf workshop that will be held July 26 to showcase the overseeding project the group has been working on. We’re starting to see an impact of the overseeding at the schools, with bare patches filling in with grass. A bunch of schools in the Northeast are participating—they are applying grass seed at a high rate to encourage thick healthy turf. Instructions are not to water or apply compost topdressing to see how this low-cost approach works.
	+ At this one school, the ground was hard and compacted. The school had a lot of ant pressure and the contractor has been baiting and noting where it’s occurring. One lawn next to the building was very heavily infested with ants, and was really more ant mound than lawn. The recommendation was to do overseeding in that area and get more grass established.
	+ Another perfect illustration of how pest management needs to be prevention-focused.
* **EPA:** Thanks to Tom and Kathyfor all the work you’ve done in educating HRiA.
* **Lynn Braband**: The next NE School IPM Working Group call is coming up, there will be a presentation on the ongoing project addressing nuisance geese.
	+ The Cornell IPM program will also be advertising for three positions. One is to replace the retiring field crops and livestock coordinator, Keith Waldron. Another is for a biocontrol specialist (cross commodity) and a third is for the director position for the Northeast weather association web network.
* **Shaku Nair:** The University of Arizona team is eagerly looking forward to Tom’s arrival for the IPM STAR visit.
* **Carrie Foss**: In the Washington state/Western Region, Juliann Barta (EPA region 10) is moving to Vienna, Austria with her husband. UPest – the Urban Pest Strategy Team – has been a great opportunity to provide outreach, as well as a good model for other states/regions.
	+ EPA is working hard to fulfill Juliann’s position, but it is an entry level position. They are hoping to have someone who could be trained by Juliann, but now that may not happen.
* John, Tim Stock, Dawn Gouge and Carrie met in Scottsdale for the Western Region meeting. They will be resuming more formal meetings, reaching out to other partners within the region.
* **Tim Stock**: Beginning Jun 29 to the first week of August, Tim will be in the field doing School IPM coordinator trainings.
* **Tom Green**: In the North Central region, the IPM Institute is in the process of interviewing a candidate for the school IPM manager position, and hopes to have that filled soon.
	+ There will be IPM STAR work through July. One common observation seen in IPM STAR audits: problems with the booster food service areas. . At the school we visited in Maine, the new booster snack shack was built and overseen by volunteers. The district’s IPM program does not include it in their responsibilities. the football snack stand door was built without a door sweep. The mice moved in, ate everything. Employees left the fryers full of oil all winter long, which went rancid and fed lots of mice.
	+ A less common observation: in an old vinyl floor in kitchen, under the steamer there was a perfect little ecosystem for springtails – they’re rarely seen living in buildings.
* Matt relayed Dawn Gouge’s observation that the Zika scare has freed up much vector funding in Applied Research and Development (ARDP), and this may be a good place to focus efforts. The group discussed and agreed that tick management for schools would be a good focus.
* **Joe LaForest**: Update on behalf of Janet Hurley. Their group will be applying for an ARDP grant as well, focusing on sustainable pest management technology .
* **Fudd Graham**: If anyone wants a iSchool Pest Manager bookmark, please contact Janet and she will Fedex them ASAP.
1. **Any suggested agenda items for next month’s call? (group)**

**Next month’s call**: Monday, July 11, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM CST