



## North Central School IPM Working Group

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### Participants:

- Alina Freund, IPM Institute of North America
- Frank Laufenberg, IPM Institute of North America
- Ricardo Zubiato, Salt Lake City School District
- Frannie Miller, Kansas State University
- Clyde Ogg, University of Nebraska
- Gail Zeheralis, Indiana State Teachers Association
- Seth Dibblee, EPA
- Lynnae Jess, Michigan State University
- Otto Oemig, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture
- Marc Lame, Indiana University
- Ruth Kerzee, Midwest Pesticide Action Coalition
- Marcia Anderson, EPA
- Mark Leshner, EPA

### Agenda

1. Presentations on Implementing School IPM: Ricardo Zubiato – Salt Lake City School District
2. Presentation on Stop School Pests: Alina Freund
3. Working Group Member Updates or Suggestions

#### **1. Presentation on Implementing School IPM**

- Ricardo Zubiato is the Director of Facility Services for the Salt Lake City School District. Under his supervision the district has achieved and maintained IPM STAR certification. In addition to supervising a large (approximately 24,000 students) and diverse school district Ricardo has become an acclaimed School IPM presenter.
- The Salt Lake City School district was introduced to IPM in 2005. Ricardo's predecessor, Greg Smith (Director), attended a children's health conference where he met Dr. Marc Lame.
  - Greg was impressed with focus on children's health and IPM in schools.
  - Marc helped secure an EPA grant for IPM pilot.
    - Provided on-site training and guidance
    - Served as a mentor
  - Pest professional company said they were using IPM, after the pilot school staff realized they were not doing IPM.
  - Pilot changed to district wide. Started to learn that IPM was something that needed to be embraced as a department and district.

- Pesticide applications were previously used on a monthly schedule by the pest company.
  - Pesticides were applied monthly, often times without documented need.
- Shifted towards an in-house IPM system, supervisor delegated to Ricardo, who became the first IPM coordinator.
- Ricardo was promoted to custodial supervisor which helped him drive and develop the IPM program.
  - They focused on the most important part of IPM, education.
  - Continuous education is vital to a successful IPM program.
- Hired pest professionals were not sold on the program and technicians were undermining the system.
- In 2007 they decided to get staff certified as pest applicators, to eliminate the need for a pest control company.
- In 2013 Utah adopted a school rule that an IPM program is mandatory.
- Utah School Employees Association (USEA): new rule is difficult for low funded or rural schools – it's an extra task with no extra funding.
  - USEA met with Ricardo regarding the Salt Lake City School District's IPM program.
  - Representatives of USEA liked that their IPM program empowered employees to protect student health.
  - IPM training and education improves knowledge and understanding of importance of custodial staff.
  - Utah Custodial Managers Association has helped improve training and IPM implementation.
  - Programs near cities have been easier to establish compared to rural regions (proximity to conferences etc.).
- Training and education improves knowledge, builds confidence and results with a better custodial staff performance.
  - Multiple trainings a year serve as a reward and refresher that improves implementation.
  - Created a certification program within the Salt Lake School City School District, empowers employees and gives them drive to pass a certain test.
  - Certification provides a backbone to program.
- Example: Cockroach infestation
  - Licensed custodial staff realized that the problem was out of control.
  - Started applying pesticides in areas of concern.
  - Problem spots included the home economics class and kitchen
    - Home econ teacher was bringing in roaches with produce.
    - Teacher called health department because cockroaches were still an issue.
    - Health department was in collaboration with custodial staff.
      - They warned the teacher about the condition of her classroom
  - New principal and new superintendent did not communicate with custodial staff, but were concerned about the cockroaches. Questioned IPM program.
    - A new barrier of having to educate administrators, who are technically above custodial staff.
    - The executive director was also new and unaware of the positive IPM program that the district has built.
      - Superintendent required the school custodial management to hire a company to fumigate the cockroach infested areas.
      - There was only one component that the professional pest company wanted to change, otherwise the custodial staff was already performing recommendations.

- Lesson: It's hard to anticipate employee turnover and how that will change the program.
  - To resolve these issues, additional communication within the custodial team and with the new members of administration who do not understand the program.
- Marc: Ricardo—great presentation. IPM is always a process. The problem that Ricardo talked about regarding program sustainability. Maybe it is most important to be able to work with superintendent's associations. Try to make the time when the superintendent come in to discuss the IPM program.
- Stop School Pests modules could be used as a resource to help train new administrators and staff members about school IPM.
  - SSP is a great resource, however, extra resources are not going to be reviewed without an individual on the ground acting as a change agent—needs to be person involved.
- Seth Dibblee: Are you or one of your colleagues a member of the Utah's business association, those folks are vested in compliance? Business officials are often a good way to access superintendents. The national organization is the Association of School Business Officials (SBO).
- Marcia Anderson works closely with someone from Maine who is a great business official contact and may be useful for talking to administration. She will share this contact with Ricardo.

## **2. Stop School Pests Update**

- The name Stop School Pests refers to a training package that includes 9 different modules.
- Each module consists of a training that is tailored to a specific role of school employees and outlines how IPM is part of their day to day work and how they can use IPM in their school.
- Individual training for custodians, facility managers, administrators, teachers, landscape and grounds staff, school nurses, maintenance staff, food service professionals and a basic introduction to IPM that is suited to anyone.
- The trainings have already been used for a while as an in-person training version in different trainings, for example Janet Hurley used them for several trainings for school IPM coordinators this year, Tom Green has been training different state groups of National Education Association (NEA) members as part of their Education Support Professionals professional development.
- In another instance someone working on School IPM in Maine is using the school nurses training to train different groups of school nursing staff throughout the year.
- Different training modules are being used by different people for several groups of school employees and we are looking to expand the number of trainings each year.
- We offer support and a guide for trainers, so anyone interested in using the training is welcome to, it is free and can be adjusted to fit any local context.
- At the same time, we have adapted the training for online use and set up a Learning Management System to offer each training to school employees online to take in their own time.
- We issue certificates for people taking the training, and anyone can access the website soon. We are finalizing it and will email you when it is done – we are heading into testing later this month and then depending on the findings will launch soon after.
- If you or anyone at a school you work with is interested in helping out with testing please email Alina at [afreund@ipminstitute.org](mailto:afreund@ipminstitute.org).

## **3. Working Group Member Updates**

- The National Steering committee just updated their priorities via a survey of School IPM Working Group members. You can review the updated priorities at this link: <https://ipminstitute.org/projects/school-ipm-2020/priorities/>
  - We are currently reaching out to bring more people from the North Central area into this Work Group please send contact information of people you think would be a good fit to [flaufenberg@ipminstitute.org](mailto:flaufenberg@ipminstitute.org)
- IPMI will write a short article on Ricardo's presentation for the School Newsletter.

- The Midwest Pesticide Action Coalition will be working with NC IPM to see how they can use the Stop Pest modules to provide ongoing online training to Illinois schools and childcares in fulfillment of the 6 hours of IPM training required if they are not currently implementing IPM.
- Midwest Grows Green Lawn & Land Forum on Monday November 13<sup>th</sup> in Des Plaines, Illinois: a platform that fosters peer-to-peer learning of best Integrated Pest Management and Natural Lawn Care policies, strategies, and practices for park and school district staff, municipal policymakers, and other large turf managers.
  - Does anyone have suggestions for school district practitioners to present on either of the following two topics "Recordkeeping, evaluation, and improvement of IPM/NLC policies" and/or "Cost Factors".
  - A person with expertise on golf courses could also help with this presentation.
  - Panelists present for 7 to 10 minutes on their practices pertaining to the respective topic and then participate in a Q & A session.
  - If you have recommendations please share them with: [randerson@pesticideaction.org](mailto:randerson@pesticideaction.org)