**North Central School IPM Working Group**

Conference call 21st of October, 2016

**Participants:**

* Alina Freund, IPM Institute of North America
* Clyde Ogg, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
* Clyde Wilson, US Environmental Protection Agency, region 8
* Frannie Miller, Kansas State University
* Mark Lesher, US Environmental Protection Agency, region 7
* Ruth Kerzee, Midwest Pesticide Action Center
* Tom Green, IPM Institute of North America

**Agenda:**

1. Update on Stop school pest training
2. Working group objectives for 2017 – 2018
3. Mini grant opportunity to introduce and promote stop school pest training in the North Central region

Note: **Action items are marked in red**

1. **Update on Stop school pests training**
* Stop School Pests is a free training package aimed at educating K-12 school staff on IPM strategies.
* will be launched online in early November in improved website on eXtension, currently available on <http://stopschoolpests.org> already.
* Developed by a team of IPM experts, training will benefit any K-12 school district that wants to improve their school’s environmental health by reducing hazards from pests and pesticides.
* nine modules of the Stop School Pests training provide individualized, standardized and scientifically-tested training for Facility Managers, Maintenance Staff, Administrative Staff, Teachers, Food Service Staff, Custodial Staff, Landscape and Grounds Staff, School Nurses, and Technicians or Pest Management Providers.
* Training to be widely promoted in early November
* **Please share any organizations/ contacts with me that you think would be good channels to share the announcement of the training with in November! Do you manage any lists or groups that you would be able to share our press toolkit with in November?**
* Ruth Kerzee: introduced Gateways to Opportunity online training platform in Illinois that she has hosted trainings on before as a potential 3rd party host website. We will follow up with Ruth for details.
1. **Working group priorities and objectives for next year**
* Currently call for applications from North Central IPM Center open, closes November 18th.
* **Draft proposed objectives for the working group were sent to the group – please send any feedback you can give to** **afreund@ipminstitute.org** **or call!**
* Letters of support are needed from those wishing to support the group in 2017 – 2018. **We will send more information soon, but also let us know if you are willing to write a letter!**
1. **Current objective: help launch stop school pest training through mini grant funded activities**
* Call for proposals for mini-grants to fund individuals to conduct an activity to launch and promote Stop School Pests training with constituents in the school districts of the North Central region.
* Participation is limited to the states of the North Central region: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.
* Funding is available from the North Central School IPM Working Group which is funded by the North Central IPM Center.

Examples of activities are:

* giving a presentation
* hosting a webinar or call
* leading an in-person training of trainers
* training school staff
* holding a workshop
* we provide full training materials and guiding documents on how to use them. All training materials are available online, packaged into 9 modules that can be used for in-person training as well as for a presentation or a webinar.
* Each module is created for a particular school role, includes one or two power point – presentations that can be downloaded and modified as needed. In addition, exam questions and certificate templates to be issued to participants are provided for any in-person training or workshops.
* The training is currently available online at <http://Stopschoolpests.org> and will appear in an improved interface in early November 2016.
* **Please share this opportunity (full requirements attached) with others who you think may be interested!**
* **Funding must be used and invoiced by February 28, 2017.**