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

Monday, April 4, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM CST

Dial-in number: **1-302-202-1116**

Conference Code: **219049**

1. **Roll:**

* Sherry Glick, Carrie Foss, Janet Hurley, Dawn Gouge, Lynnae Jess, Herb Bolton, John Guyton, Joe LaForest, Kathy Murray, Fudd Graham, Stacey Chacker, Heather Nelson, Annie Rushman, Tom Green, Matt Neff

1. **A Request For Guidance on EPA-Funded *Economics of School IPM* Grant -- Stacey Chacker of Health Resources in Action (HRIA)**

* Stacey Chacker, Annie Rushman and Heather Nelson from Health Resources in Action (HRIA) joined the call today to ask for guidance in assembling their RFQ for their Economics of School IPM project which was funded by EPA.
  + HRIA said that they realize it’s a process to change from conventional pest control to IPM. Original thinking was that 3-18 months is a safe timespan to predict to change over but now there’s a concern that’s too short. What is the shortest time period that is appropriate for a pre-IPM period?
  + The group discussed that the issue is a pre- and post-IPM period. They could look very similar. There isn’t always an easy answer. Buildings may not have pests, but they may have mold, asthma triggers. HRIA may want to reconfigure how you ask that question of a school.
  + HRIA asked if the group knows of questions they could ask of schools?
  + The group said that some people don’t even know they’ve made the switch. Administrators don’t really understand the difference because they get service tickets in, read those and they go off that.
  + The group said that there was a questionnaire to measure where on the IPM spectrum the school is. HRIA asked if they’d be able to see that. HRIA and members of the group agreed to discuss off call.
  + The group acknowledged the process of confirming true IPM has evolved and that it’s messy at best. How does one ask questions without prompting the “correct” answers? Does there have to be a defined amount of time to transition to IPM?
  + HRIA is struggling over the ability to get past records to show schools have transitioned to IPM. The group acknowledged that schools will have very little in the way of records, unless it’s mandated by the state. Some don’t have cost records at all and some have partial records.
  + The group offered to provide HRIA with IPM STAR before-and-after evaluation data analysis.
  + The group asked whether HRIA’s economic analysis will correct for inflation or geographic location variables? HRIA said yes, the project will use case studies and compare geographic locations to themselves – HRIA won’t be comparing Tucson to NYC.
* HRIA asked if one month is enough time to get the RFQ out and recruit schools to participate in project. The goal is to wrap up selection process by June, be working with people in earnest by September.
  + The process includes getting in applications, having people fill up follow-up questionnaires, then going back and doing interviews with interested districts, then selecting three participants. The geographic range is national, aiming to get one rural, urban and suburban district, and a Northern and Southern district. School grounds will not be evaluated.
  + The group predicted HRIA will be able to get an urban district easily, and rural may be more challenging in the summer. The group offered to promote materials to networks of school districts.
  + The group encouraged HRIA to reach out to ASBO and the National School Manager Plant Association. EPA offered to share contacts for the Association of Plant Managers. The group mentioned that ASBO has been not the greatest in getting school IPM materials out.
* HRIA asked how to differentiate or capture costs that are related to better management of energy, sanitation, security, etc.  Should they go into measures more specifically?
  + The group discussed how that’s going to be highly variable and how it’s unlikely it’s not having an impact. Lots of classrooms don’t have door sweeps and have big door gaps leading to energy loss
  + Janet has asked that question in TX and the people responsible say it’s so minimal it’s not quantifiable.
* HRIA emphasized they are trying to balance cherry picking the best IPM schools vs. selecting a school for data that really represents what’s going on nationwide. Does it make sense to go to districts that are doing IPM the best vs. whoever applies?
  + The group offered to send the business case for School IPM document and emphasized the danger of an end-result report that skews the data if the districts involved had to spend a lot more money, and emphasized that there is an existing body of data on this, and asked HRIA to be careful to put their work within this context.
  + HRIA agreed, said it’s a priority, and said the goal is for school districts to read the report and recognize themselves (rural/urban) and be able to make more thoughtful decisions.
* The group agreed they should invite the HRIA team back to help them.
* Sherry said that HRIA has an advisory group and EPA has just added her on to their team to be sure they are provided with good information.

1. **Individual updates (Regions, EPA, others)**

* Sherry said that the EPA roundtable is on May 25. The IPM Institute will be there, plus Dr. Tom Green, Dr. Dawn Gouge, Ricardo Zubiate, Marc Lame.
  + - * Dawn asked about the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC). A letter was sent out recently. The Public Health and IPM workgroup were sunset. Dawn asked if it was possible to form a standing committee that doesn’t have a limited life. Sherry said she thinks that’s a good idea.
* Herb Bolton reported that USDA-NIFA is expecting the Crop Protection /Pest Management RFA will be out shortly. The applied research and development category will have opportunities for extension grants.
  + - * Herb called attention to the situation with the Zika Virus. The Zika situation was unpredicted and unpredictable. There are so many questions about Zika that are unknown/unanswered. The level of public questions is going to increase significantly. CDC wants every state and territory to tailor their Zika program for local needs. Herb emphasized that the group needs to watch this on a week-by-week basis. The habitat for specific mosquitoes is shifting. In California they are moving into storm drains.
* Dawn reported that Lynn Garland has modified the University of Arizona’s very brief version of the architectural guidelines for IPM document. **(Attached**.)

1. **Any suggested agenda items for next month’s call? (group)**

* Request for news back from Jim Farrar regarding the Pest Management Strategic Plan.

Next call: **Monday, May 2 at 11:30am CST**