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

Monday, September 14, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM CST

1. **Roll:** Carrie Foss, Jim Farrar, Matt Baur, Tim Stock, Dawn Gouge, Gary King, Fudd Graham, Jerri, Lynn Braband, Joe LaForest, Thomas Green, Matt Neff, Shaku Nair, Herb Bolton, Lucy Li  
   Dawn related how her daughter was sent home for head lice recently and was given crazy recommendations by the school nurse, who advocated spraying, spraying and more spraying.
2. **eXtension update (Fudd and Jerri)**

* Fudd described the major upheaval in eXtension that occurred a month ago when a copyrighted image was found on the site, and someone sued. They are currently going through every image on the entire eXtension site to make sure they have the proper metadata to prove ownership or permission. Jerri’s about 90% completed with checking their own materials.
* They are also currently going through FAQ page hits, checking whether the pages are actually visited – they may be taken down if they’re not. Short answers to FAQs don’t get ranked highly on Google, so they could use expansion. Jerri invites anyone who wants to create content to do so, as they can host it. Article expansions may help prevent pages from being removed.
* Fudd mentioned that eXtension will be meeting at ESA, probably going to go through the FAQs there. He explained that eXtension is working through understanding copyright issues, and in the future the individual who personally uploads a copyrighted image may be liable.
* Jerri’s goal is to have stock images and non stock images complete for the month of October. Thanks everyone for answering those emails.

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

* **Dawn**: Trainings are coming up that focus on school nurses for half a day / everyone else for half a day. CEUs will be broken out into different batches, so people can come for the number of hours they prefer. There will be 4 trainings in the next 4 weeks.
* There’s a letter writing campaign aimed at rallying support for School IPM from Arizona agencies and state/municipal departments. U of AZ requested a letter from EPA to go out to districts – 2/3 of the student population in AZ resides in Maricopa County. IPM Coordinators in Maricopa are providing letters to encourage the County Board of Supervisors to get behind School IPM and expand the effort. The AZ Dept of Environmental Quality is providing their own letter. It’s hoped that the AZ Dept of Health will provide one, but it’s unlikely the AZ Dept of Education will provide one. These are all separate, independent letters.
* **Carrie**: A rodent academy was held here again for School Districts and PMPs. Bobby Corrigan came out and taught, and it was exceptional: great attendance and energy.
* On October 1st, Tom Green is coming out along with Jim Jones from EPA. There are 3-4 newly IPM STAR certified schools for the event, so the program will be showcased. EPA is working on a SIPM recognition project, but haven’t launched it yet. The project will be over at the end of November.
* **Tim**: Several recent School IPM Coordinator trainings, 59 attendees from 30 districts. IP grant – training on campus and off-campus.
* **Gary**: Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO) has developed a model contract that pest management companies can use with school districts. There were concerns that it was being called a contract, so they’ve asked us to go back and change it to “guidelines.” Once it’s an official document, EPA may adopt and use in their IPM rollout.
* **Lynn**: Overseeding project, 3-state collaboration: NY, ME, CT. NY and CT have “thou shalt not” laws, which means “do not apply pesticides on school grounds” – Lots of good local research on repetitive overseeding. Overseeding brings back the turf, which outcompetes the broad leaf weeds – recruiting 50 school district to experimentally use fields – organize workshops to teach schools how to manage school grounds without pesticides.
* State School IPM Committee meeting coming up in Albany area in November.
* Recently released RFA from NE IPM Center – there’s some interest in reviving the working group, but it’s unclear if there’s enough enthusiasm. The key people who moved it along mostly before were Kathy Murray and Carol Westinghouse. The Center doesn’t just want people to get together to get together—they want a focused project that benefits the region.
* **Tom**: Partnership grant could be used for outreach to get the word out. If proposal submitted to EPA isn’t funded, Donna Ellis and her colleagues could help out or collaborate.

1. **PMSP update (Tom)**

* New version was posted last month, Tom is currently going through line by line to fix final typos.

1. **Using Educational Networks to Increase Adoption of IPM in Schools – EPA Proposal (Tom)**

* More than one proposal was submitted. This proposal is to use Stop School Pests training with 10 networks around nation – individuals will volunteer to coordinate each network. The announcement whether it was accepted will be next month.

1. **Economics of school IPM, what’s known and unknown (Tom)**
   * Janet’s recent grant proposal centered on thoroughly documenting the cost/benefits of IPM in schools. There were lots of questions about whether the project was really needed. Results of Tom’s past month literature review: we don’t have a solid financial case for School IPM. Janet’s grant proposal incorporated what we know and what we don’t know. **Details on this are attached**.
2. **Planning for upcoming IPM Center Working Group RFA (Tom)**
   * **Tom**: Each of the Centers has put out an RFA or will soon. We should be thinking about those if we haven’t yet. Timing is good in terms of using the Stop School Pests training. Last month’s proposal can be shared with the 10 networks. NE is out, NC will be out by Sept 21st. In the West, the 1st week in Oct. In the South, the timing is similar, hopefully something by the end of the year. It’s going to be competitive.

* Jim emphasized that success for proposals submitted on the same topic to multiple IPM Centers, e.g., school IPM, will be enhanced if they propose collaboration, i.e., will be working together, sharing resources, improving efficiency, not duplicating effort.
* Tom suggested Dawn appear in a Youtube video to promote Stop School Pests.
* **Tim**: October 20th EPA webinar on managing head lice in schools by Harvard expert Richard Pollack. Would be good to promote. Registration is not up yet, but it should be soon.
* **Tom**: Early October, National IPM Coordinator committee meeting. Put on by the Association of Public Land Grant Universities. Washington DC, USDA Waterfront building. **Details attached – please review and let Tom know if you have comments, questions, issues to bring up at the meeting.** Group rescheduled next call due to travel occurring on October 5th.

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

Please send us any items as soon as you think of them – THANKS!

Next call: **Tuesday, October 13th at 11:30am CT**