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

Tuesday, October 13, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM CST

1. **Roll:** Sherry Glick, Lynn Braband, Janet Hurley, Fudd Graham, Russ Noratel, Tim Stock, Carrie Foss, Joe LaForest, Dawn Gouge, Matt Baur, Tom Green, Matt Neff
2. **Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee (PPDC) report (Dawn)**

* EPA is organizing a stakeholder meeting in March – movers and shakers in School IPM world – the invitation list is not yet complete. There will be more to report next month.
* Sherry reports that EPA has been doing interviews with lots of different organizations. Today Jim Jones is visiting with one. They’re working on getting a huge group of decision makers and key influencers invited/engaged. Invitations have not been sent out yet, and there isn’t a final date yet.

1. **Pest Press Focus Discussion (Dawn)**

* Dawn discussed how to get the most out of monthly newsletters being sent out. Should the group get more strategic and coordinated in terms of who’s producing what content and when?
* Hot topics such as super lice could be covered successfully when coordinated.
* Several people requested far more in depth information regarding head lice for distribution through their own networks –a new document was made, but there is a six-month review period, and Dawn is worried there’ll be problems in the interim.
* The group discussed creating a monthly digest of links, stories and resources. The group agreed everyone could coordinate better to reduce duplication of efforts.
* Tom agreed to present ideas on this on the next call or the call after that.
* Sherry added that since EPA is in contact with many organizations and NGOs, they have a huge EPA mailing list to use.

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

* **Sherry**: EPA is working on reaching out to national groups and organizations. Thanks to everyone who helped with the activity/event in Seattle celebrating School IPM implementation. The listserv will be out soon, so you’ll have an opportunity to sign up. No update on the School IPM grants yet, but there should be one soon.
  + Matt Baur asked about continuing resolution that ends December 11 and sequester for the next 8 years. Sherry could not comment, as EPA is waiting to see whether the government will be shut down and whether a new Speaker of the House will be selected.
  + Tom explained that when EPA doesn’t know what their budget will be, it makes it hard for them to commit current FY dollars to grants given that if they take a budget cut, they may need to reduce funding.
* **Joe**: The Southern Region IPM Center enhancement grant RFA is currently open. The deadline is November 20. Janet is helping someone from the region to submit.
* **Carrie**: Last week’s event in Seattle was really successful. 4 Washington school districts became IPM STAR certified. Tom Green and Jim Jones of EPA attended and spoke.
  + Senator Megan Chase showed up; she is still learning about school IPM but is very excited about it. Each district said something unique about how great School IPM is for their district.
* **Lynn**: The NE Working Group had its call; each focuses on a member of the WG updating the rest on what they’re doing with School IPM. Veronica Carella presented on her work with Catholic Schools in Maryland. Montgomery County, MD passed a county ordinance restricting pesticide use on turf. The next call is December 17th. Kathy Murray from Maine will give an update on Maine school IPM. Lynn plans to submit to NE School IPM Center for proposal to renew funding for the WG. Lynn thanked Tom for his suggestion on focusing the information through the region. Lynn reports that he’s not having his door knocked down by people looking to collaborate, so it will likely just be Lynn and Kathy.
  + Tom emphasized that the Centers think it would be great if all regions could indicate if they are collaborating with other groups. Tom will circulate a para that each region can adapt for their proposal to describe the national working group collaboration.
* **Gary King**: His group agreed that the model contract they are currently have and are working on is okay, but there are better documents out there. Thanks to everyone who agreed to be on the subcommittee, it’s very helpful. Looks forward to working together to create an improved document.
* **Dawn**: Arizona has produced a new newsletter, extension publication (<http://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/docs/Head-Lice-vF.pdf>) and education event on super lice.
  + Collaborations are underway to plan for a 2016 Rodent Control Academy in Phoenix 2016 (taught by Bobby Corrigan).
  + Progress on Letters:
    - Advocacy letter request from EPA for our school districts (currently being reviewed by R9)
    - Letters of support from school district IPM coordinator superstars went to District Supervisors in Maricopa County (we have 5 districts in Maricopa county and 2/3rds of the total student population of Arizona)
    - Separate letters of support have been received from AZ Department of Environmental Quality and AZ Poison and Drug Information Center (waiting for one from Office of Pest Management), these will go to School District Superintendents.  Again AZ Dept. Ed responded that they do not wish to be involved.  However, this is the first time anyone actually responded so periodically we will keep trying.
* **Janet**: The Texas Department of Agriculture has put out proposed rules for pesticide applications.  Groundbreaking: School IPM is getting its own divisional section within the rule – not mixed in with compliance/enforcement/licensing, so School IPM will have its own section within the law codes.  It should go into effect after public comment, in January.
  + For School IPM it defines the required curriculum of the six hours of continuing education required for IPM coordinators.
* The annual school IPM statewide conference will be held in Waco Nov. 11 and 12, 2015.  This meeting is conflicting with the TASBO Facility Masters meeting with is direct conflict with the statewide meeting. Apparently a board member on the TIPMAPS board has been taking info back to the Facility Masters group.  At the statewide conference, SchoolDude will be present to talk about their pest reporting system. At the same time, Dr. Blake Bennett, project assistant and David Lewis, Plano ISD have been working on a Microsoft product reporting system that allows info to be transferred from system to system. This is in response to not having the use of iPestManager from Salt Lake.  WE are hoping that we can get several schools to pilot the Excel/Word documents so we can make it available on the <http://ischoolpestmanager.org/> website.
* ISchool PestManager grant – the document review has stalled.  Twelve people( 3 are from EPA) have reviewed the documents 139 out of 1300 documents have been reviewed.  A workday has been scheduled with EPA CoE for November 4, 2015.
* Lynn asked whether it’s unrealistic to depend on volunteers to get the review done.  Janet argued that she doesn’t want to be the only person going through and reviewing documents. This project was to be a collaborative project like the Stop School Pests project, but so far the collaborations have been lacking.
* For the current Southern School IPM workgroup grant <http://www.sripmc.org/index.cfm/center-projects/working-groups/school-ipm-working-group/> it has taken a little time but we have a survey tool that can look at gathering data for measure the cost of doing IPM. This project  was to develop the metric, test it with a few school systems. Once we feel it’s a tool that can be used by everyone, it will become part of the School IPM 2020 PMSP document. We had a webinar on Monday, October 12th to explain the IPM continuum survey and the budget survey that Change Agents will use with school IPM coordinators. The You Tube video can be found here:  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yfb4mNXuePM>    Janet would like to get as much data from as many states as possible; therefore, this is not just a southern region workgroup project. There are travel funds available through the IPM Institute similar to the PRIA project days.  Right now we are asking each state to collect data from one school system. The deadline for all the data collected from a school system is January 15, 2016.

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

Next call: **Monday, November 2nd at 11:30am CT**