**School IPM 2020 Steering Committee Conference Call Notes for November -- DRAFT**

Friday, November 18, 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM CST

1. **Roll:** Tom Green, Kathy Murray, Alina Freund, Sherry Glick, Dawn Gouge, Amanda Crump, Joe Laforest, Fudd Graham, Seth Dunlap
2. **Stop School Pests update (Dawn/Alina)**

* Dawn: All-hands module included four introductory learning lessons that were 3.5 hours, which was decided to be too long. Dawn has been working on a version that will cut it down to under one hour. Certain images and messaging need to be made more concise, too.
* **Please let Dawn know whether you want to be credited for work on the modules.** Dawn sent an email out with an excel sheet with listed credits and only received one response back. The Excel sheet will be sent to Jerry before Thanksgiving so Jerry can ensure everyone is listed online who contributed. After December 1, Jerry’s work on this project ends.
* Joe explained that author profile pages contain a blurb, picture, logo, link to website and all the content authors contributed.
* Alina: all of the training modules that are finished are on the eXtension website now.
  + Last 2020 call included Meryl Bloomrosen, a follow-up call with her and Alina is scheduled.
  + Alina is talking to Vanessa from NEHA about including stop school pests in their online toolkit.
* Tom Green presented on Stop School Pests (SSP) at the NEA meeting in October in Washington DC. The group received a request for SSP training at an upcoming regional NEA conference in Indiana in February 2017.

1. **Regional/EPA updates (group)**

* Update Sherry on EPA:
  + The rat book that has been revised has been submitted to EPA’s Protrac and is in revision. It’s going to be a great resource. Thanks to everyone.
  + EPA is working closely with NEHA in their project. They have a number of health departments that they are talking to now. EPA is excited to see the potential partnerships.
  + The call between the regions and EPA has been scheduled for February 17, 2017. Update: a new date will be coordinated due to changes in participants’ schedules.
* Sherry Glick, EPA had an initial call with Rachel Riley, HUD.  After the call, she discussed HUD/HH with Frank Ellis, EPA.  Frank indicated that at this time, EPA/OPP will not be able to commit resources to this effort.
  + Dawn reported an increase in tribal funding and said the number of requests for tribal events in our states has increased. Is that happening everywhere or is it regional?
    - Sherry said she was unaware of that, but can check into it.
  + Dawn also asked whether there was any new information from EPA on the bed bug response white paper by the Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC)?
    - Sherry was unsure, but it may be coming from Susan Jennings. She will investigate and report back.
* Joe LaForest reported on news from the Southern region.
  + The Southern region’s enhancement grant program has closed.
  + The Friends of IPM program is open: if members of the group know someone in the Southern region who’s doing awesome work in IPM, please nominate them. The award is presented at a venue of their choosing. The program is looking for the unsung heroes of IPM and aims to help people realize the impact of IPM in their communities.
* Kathy Murray reported news from the Northeastern region.
  + The members of the Northeastern School IPM Working Group continue to keep in touch with each other.
  + **Update on grant applications was removed here**
* Amanda Crump reminded everyone that the Western region’s grant proposal request for applications (RFA) closes on December 9.
* Tom Green presented on a webinar that was held at the beginning of this week with Marcia Anderson at EPA.
  + Over 100 people were on the call about how to create an IPM plan. Raul Rivas presented – he feels his IPM program is responsible for turning around attendance and performance rates in his district. They had a difficult situation and were able to turn it around.
  + Francine Locke from PHL schools also gave a great presentation.
  + Sherry thanked Tom and apologized about the technical issues, EPA has an audio bridge issue. A solution is currently being sought.
* **Information on grant applications to the North Central IPM Center was removed here**
  + Alina explained details on the need for a tool to distribute stop school pests training, Dawn agreed that this issue came up often. It’s hard to find a platform to host materials on at an affordable price.
  + Alina: much research has been done on finding a good platform, with low- cost options ranging from $10,000 to $30,000 per year, which charge a fee per user still. This would exceed any means of the project as it is just starting out, which is why a custom-solution for the training materials has been identified as the best option.
  + Tom said that the group hopes all the school districts in the region will be using this in ten years. It’d be an enormous sum that would have to be raised to support that for a commercial LMS.

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

**Next call:** Friday, December 16 at 1:30 PM CST