**School IPM 2020 Steering Committee Conference Call Notes for August 2016 – DRAFT**

Monday, August 1st, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM CST

1. **Roll:** Gary King, Matt Neff, Sherry Glick, Matt Baur, Amanda Crump, Fudd Graham, Alina Freund, Lynn Braband, Tim Stock, Marc Lame, Dawn Gouge, Margaret Cellucci, Shaku Nair, John Connett, Kathy Eiden, Tom Green
2. **Discussion on School IPM with Margaret Cellucci, Director of Communications of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN)**

* Margaret introduced herself and her organization.
  + NASN is a nonprofit membership organization with 16,000 members. Their mission is to optimize student health and learning.
* Margaret asked for an overview of IPM, as her predecessor Shirley was the one who was more familiar.
* The group defined IPM as a science-based decision making process that aims to manage pests in the safest, most sustainable, cost-effective way, focusing on why pests are there in the first place. A briefer description given was: how to better manage pests while reducing risks.
* The group noted that school nurses get excited about IPM when they learn what it is. Initially, they don’t think it involves them, but once they learn they become some of IPM’s strongest champions. IPM is all about health and safety and reducing risks. It also covers everything from head lice to cockroaches to rodents and bed bugs. It’s all very relevant to what school nurses deal with on an everyday basis.
* The group discussed with Margaret how it wants to leverage school nurses’ support. The group’s teams want to make school nurses’ lives easier and furnish them with skills and knowledge that will make them most effective.
  + The group explained some background history: many times in schools, pests were addressed with pesticides that didn’t necessarily reduce the risk, and sometimes increased the risk. IPM practitioners still use pesticides when they have to, but by and large they have a more holistic approach – they go to the root of the problem instead of applying a band-aid.
  + It was noted that IPM also deals with other issues of concern to school nurses including sanitizers/cleaners, rabies, bats, bed bugs, vector issues with Zika and many other diseases (tick-borne diseases for example).
* The group asked Margaret whether she has any suggestions on how the group can engage with her stakeholders. Margaret responded that all these topics are great and are things NASN focuses on. NASN has a weekly digest that goes out to 36,000 members—Margaret offered to place the group’s School IPM messaging in there. NASN also uses social media and communicates through its online community SchoolNurseNet.
* The group explained the Stop School Pests training module for school nurses and asked for the best way to present it to NASN and promote use (the opportunity for further review is over).
* Margaret responded that NASN’s nursing team can take a look at it and see if it’d be something the organization would want to endorse. If it meets organizational needs and aligns with our mission/framework, it’s very easy to pass on and promote it. She also noted that school nurses love getting tools. The group agreed to pass along the module with an intro to the Stop School Pests program.
* It was further explained to Margaret that there are four different regional workgroups represented on the monthly Steering Committee call. There are four regional pest-presses that are produced each month. Each one of those has a hot topic, nationally or regionally. NASN can utilize these resources.
* The group asked if EPA has other ideas about ways NASN and the group can facilitate each others’ goals and objectives. Sherry responded that she did not have specific ideas at the moment. However, since she had the floor, she commented on the earlier discussion on Monday regarding NEHA. NEHA has a list of their staff who have attended courses on Integrated Vector Management and reported that NEHA had no plans to reinvent the wheel on resources. They’re moving forward at a good pace.
* The group explained how they have engaged with Robyn Gilden, who distributed the training module to a group of school nurses who gave great feedback.
* School nurses are so busy, they want the most concise tools possible. Nurses who used the modules found it was information they didn’t know. In that regard the modules have been made as concise and relevant as possible.
* Marc Lame pointed out that CDC put together a school IPM workgroup that has some other online modules that are free that NASN’s membership could use as well. The CDC modules are also housed on-line and should be available in the New Year.
* Margaret thanked the group and said she would share that information.

The group also pointed out that several of the committee members have school and IPM childcare blogs. It was agreed to include Margaret on those communications.

1. **Discussion on School IPM with Meryl Bloomrosen, Senior Vice President Policy, Advocacy and Research, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America**Meryl could not make the call today.
2. **Regional updates**

* **Kathy Murray’s update** (submitted via email):
  + Maine Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry’s School IPM Program held a School and Sports-field Turfgrass Workshop July 26th at Messalonskee Middle School in Oakland, ME. The workshop was offered as part of the overseeding demonstration/research project lead by Dr. Jenny Kao-Kniffen at Cornell University. Other speakers including Dr. Frank Rossi and Dr. Kyle Wickings (Cornell University) and Victoria Wallace (UCONN). Break-out sessions in the afternoon included insect sampling methods, turfgrass seeding, weed management, weed identification tools, and the very popular Nuisance Bird Deterrents demonstration (thanks to Lynn Braband from NYSIPM for the loan of the equipment and the nicely formatted bulletin accompanying them!).
  + Nearly 100 people attended and were able to see visible positive impact of overseeding—the overseeded half of the fields were greener and less weedy than the unseeded half! It was a great day, great presenters, good feedback from participants and terrific weather.
  + We nearly completed revisions to the Maine School IPM Toolkit. The new revised version will be posted on our website this week and we will send an announcement about that on Schoolbugs listserv.
  + We also did School IPM workshop for school IPM coordinators at the annual Maine School Educational Plant Maintenance Association conference. About 70 people attended. Topics included general IPM, wildlife management on school grounds, and managing bees and wasps.
* **Tim Stock’s update** (submitted via email):
  + School IPM Coordinator training at on-site (i.e. at a school) locations throughout Oregon. Locations: Bend, Medford, Ontario and Myrtle Creek. Total attendance: 108. Designated school IPM Coordinators trained: 72.
* **Lynn Braband**: The Northeast Working Group has its bimonthly conference call coming up on August 11. The call will explore how the working group can be refunded, attendance on the call will be used to gauge interest.
* **Marc Lame**: Marc requested upcoming Pest Presses focus on bee and wasp stings. He pointed out that it’s a high level concern for schools when they return to session and yellowjackets are the most common offenders. Marc also asked whether Jimmy Roberts, a pediatrician from South Carolina, is a part of the group – it was determined he wasn’t and that Sherry and Marc would reach out to him. He displayed interest in staying informed about SIPM happenings at the EPA roundtable event.
* **Gary King**: Gary said he received an email from EPA region 5 concerning a new video from MPIC on reducing disinfectant exposure in schools. Everyone on the call said they were aware of this video.
* **Fudd Graham**: Janet Hurley has the smartphone app just about ready for beta testing. Some of the group may be asked to take a look at it.
* **Dawn Gouge**: Dawn requested that once a year a call could be held with EPA regional school IPM contacts, including any of the tribal project officers and the Center for Expertise. It could serve as an information exchange once a year. She suggested January for the month of the call. Kathy Eiden said it seems fine to her, but that Frank Ellis would like to be in the loop. It could be a good way to inject energy and keep the conversation going. We might hold a second roundtable next year in the spring.
* **Matt Neff**: The day of the steering committee may be changing, please respond to the upcoming Doodle poll that will be sent out.

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

Next call: **TBD at 11:30am CST**