**National School IPM 2020 Steering Committee Conference Call Notes for February 2017**

Please additions, omissions or other corrections to mneff@ipminstitute.org or afreund@ipminstitute.org

The Steering Committee meets via conference call on the third Friday of each month at 1:30PM CST. The following notes are for **February 17th, 2017.**

 **Roll**

* Alina Freund, Community IPM Manager, IPM Institute of North America
* Dawn Gouge, Professor and Specialist, Urban Entomology, University of Arizona Maricopa
* Janet Hurley**,** Extension Program Specialist – School IPM, Texas A&M Dallas Agricultural Research and Extension Center
* Lawrence “Fudd” Graham, Research Fellow IV, Extension Specialist, Auburn University
* Matt Baur, Associate Director, Western IPM Center
* Matt Neff, Program Coordinator, IPM Institute of North America
* Matthew Powell, Custodial Supervisor, KEA/KESPA Board of Directors, Director ESP at Large, National Education Association
* Seth Dunlap, Mgr. Commercial Pest Control Section, Arkansas State Plant Board, Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO)
* Shaku Nair, Assistant in Extension, Community IPM, University of Arizona Maricopa
* Tim Barchak, Senior Program Analyst  ESP-Quality, National Education Association
* Tim Stock, Associate Director and OSU School IPM Program Coordinator, Integrated Plant Protection Center, Oregon State University

**Agenda**

1. Welcome to New Committee Members
2. Stop School Pests (SSP) update
3. Regional/EPA updates
4. Article writing request
5. Suggested agenda items for next month’s call
6. **Welcome to New Committee Members Tim Barchak and Matthew Powell of the National Education Association (NEA)**
* Tim Barchak: NEA is currently integrating IPM into educational support professionals’ training curriculum
* Focusing on making custodial and maintenance people more aware and educated.
1. **Stop School Pests (SSP) update (Dawn/Alina)**
* Alina visited Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) last Friday to speak with the operations manager and lead pest control technicians. Former facility manager Mike Gutierrez retired, so got to know his successor in person. Both are conducting all IPM related training for the whole district themselves.
* MPS is doing all training in house after budget cuts for public schools in WI, they are very excited about the SSP modules as it would fill a gap.
* Want to integrate SSP into their in-house training. Needs to be approved by district administration and decided on a central level – may be a lengthy process.
* IPM Institute has been funded to develop a learning Management System (LMS) website for SSP over the course of the year. Joe LaForest to provide technical services. Kicks off March.
* This site will host all SSP training modules and visitors can take the training, take the exam online, receive certificate. Currently the modules are on two websites: The University of Arizona site and eXtension, which serves as the public facing site where people can take the trainings. They cannot take exams on eXtension or get certificate - new website will fill this gap. Part of the original grant had been to identify and implement a cost-effective LMS, but that work exceeded the grant timeframe.
* Dawn is the contact for SSP on eXtension. Domain Stopschoolpests.org is currently redirecting to U of A’s site, but will become the new site’s URL.
* Janet: eXtension is an open platform. Supported by USDA-NIFA.
* Janet: SSP Powerpoints that you see on eXtension site are currently in the background all hosted on a site called Bugwood, [Bugwood.org](http://www.bugwood.org) is an invasives plant network site (Center for Invasive Species & Ecosystem Health) where all the images are hosted. Run by the University of Georgia.
1. **Regional updates**
* **Janet:**
	+ Northeastern Region got funded for a communications grant which will be supporting SSP for school nurses in the Northeast.
	+ Janet has been working on a couple things out of need such as posters for teachers, custodians, maintenance – additional educational things for IPM coordinators to use. In TX it’s a mandate that schools have an IPM program and that they educate. Janet has worked with communications staff to develop an 11x17 poster and related handout which the IPM coordinator can hand out. Third component is a set of instructions that the instructor working for the school district can follow.
	+ TX has categories of pesticides: green, yellow and red. The green category is very much in line with LEED. Agrilife is working on an official publication on the categories that can be downloaded and can be placed anywhere else.
		- Question Tim Stock: Turning the green list into a publication – isn’t that going to be challenging because it changes so often?
		- Janet: Yes, but it is digital.
		- Tim: OSU’s list is getting up into the hundreds now.
		- Janet: It hasn’t changed that much. TAMU always puts a disclaimer that it’s not a complete list, and they want users to understand active ingredients, formulation, use pattern.
	+ The Urban Community of Practice eXtension workgroup will meet at the Entomological Society of America’s (ESA’s) annual meeting in November 2017, on Tuesday, November 7 from 8:30 to 9:30 AM. With all materials TAMU has developed, they still have the eXtension platform at their disposal. It’s still there and easily referenced for keeping materials online.
	+ Smartphone app: still in progress.
* **Matt Baur**:
	+ 9th international IPM symposium is in March, 2018 in Baltimore. The call for sessions is open—if this group is interested in putting out a session for School IPM, the deadline is April 24, 2017. Proposals should include title, slate of speakers, 250 words.
	+ George Norton at Virginia Tech is putting together a mini-symposium for IPM Symposium on social and economic effects of IPM on communities.
	+ Janet: The Quantifying the Cost of SIPM grant should be included in his discussion. Janet can’t do the awards committee and a symposium as well. Thinking Tom Green will want to present on this.
	+ Matt B: If this group had sessions on social/economic effects of IPM in schools, it would probably take up 2 or 3 slots.
		- Tim Stock shared a list of potential session topics he brainstormed:
		- What difference does a school IPM law make?
		- IPM: Systems approach, not a list approach.
		- Hidden costs of using pesticides in schools that people don’t look at, such as storage costs, costs of maintaining a license, environmental and health costs.
		- Top vectors in schools, mice, mosquitoes, ticks, etc.
		- Matt: Those are good ideas. Steve Young at NE SIPM Center thinking of putting together a session on “Why IPM?”. The topic may fit into a broader session idea. Idea of looking into hidden costs is a good idea to suggest to George.
		- Fudd: Careful with hidden costs, in some states without IPM laws, costs are different. Pest control is externally provided, not in-house.
		- Janet: AZ is working on a survey, talking about Qualtrics and sharing information. Mike Merchant and Janet did a survey before the International Congress on Entomology (ICE) to the schools. There’s only been a 20% response rate, but the results weren’t that far off from earlier more comprehensive surveys. Our schools are mostly to completely satisfied that they have IPM programs and they’re happy with IPM.
		- From 1993 to 2016, there hasn’t been a significant change in cost. Small schools (less than 1000 kids) spending less than $5000 per year. Big districts spend into the millions.
		- This can probably be replicated more.
	+ **Seth**: Re: ASPCRO endorsing Stop School Pests, the meeting is still on March 27, it’s the two-day midyear meeting and the SIPM committee is meeting. Seth will be bringing this to them, and will do his best to attend. Meeting focuses on planning.
	+ Hasn’t had a lot of response —doesn’t seem to be a whole lot there.
	+ Janet suggested putting a poll in for doing a type of school IPM site audit. School IPM could be demonstrated in TX for the 2018 meeting.
* **Matthew Powell**: What’s the status of the SSP certificate?
	+ Alina: SSP offers a general certificate of completion/attendance for people who don’t need any specific CEUs. Since it has a national scope, we are submitting trainings for CEUs state by state per request or as we are doing trainings.
	+ If you need to know about CE’s in a particular state please contact Alina!
1. **Article requests**
* Seth repeated his suggestion to work together on an article on organic pesticide safety/efficacy from one of the Centers, since it’s a recurring problem he sees.
* Lots of people using DIY pesticide solutions they find on social media.
* The group discussed producing an investigative reporting article and presenting it.
1. **Suggested agenda items for next month’s call**

The next conference call will take place on **Friday, March 17th**. Future calls will continue to fall on the third Friday of each month at **1:30 PM Central time**. Please send Alina or Matt updates, announcements or other agenda items for March’s call.