**National School IPM 2020 Steering Committee Conference Call Notes for January 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 **January 20th, 2017.**

 **Roll**

* Alina Freund, Community IPM Manager, IPM Institute of North America
* Allie Taisey Allen, Director of Certification, National Pest Management Association
* 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
* Kathy Murray, IPM Entomologist, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
* Marc Lame, Public Policy and Environmental Science Expert, Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs
* Matt Neff, Program Coordinator, IPM Institute of North America
* 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
* Shujuan (Lucy) Li, Assistant in Extension, Public Health IPM, University of Arizona, Maricopa Agricultural Center
* Tim Stock, Associate Director and IPM Education Specialist, Pesticide and Farm Safety / IPM in Schools, Integrated Plant Protection Center, Oregon State University
* Tom Green, President, IPM Institute of North America

**Agenda**

1. School IPM Success Stories
2. Stop School Pests (SSP) update
3. Regional/EPA updates
4. Suggested agenda items for next month’s call
5. **School IPM Success Stories**
* Alina is collecting school IPM success stories from the past year for the North Central School IPM (NCSIPM) grant.
	+ If anyone has publications, experiences to share, stories featured in a newsletter, etc. please share with Alina or Matt.
	+ Successes directly from schools or higher level victories, like successful trainings.
* Marcia Anderson’s recent PESP newsletter includes stories that could be used as well as any unpublished interviews from Marcia.
* Janet suggested using data from recent STAR schools or the Maine inspections, including experiences of putting things into the SIPM calculator. She offered to do a write-up in several weeks. Note: IPM STAR is a joint workgroup collaboration.
* It was suggested to contact Improving Kids’ Environments (IKE) because they recently had a joint school IPM grant for Michigan that may not have been completed but may have yielded some good results with schools.
1. **Stop School Pests (SSP) update (Dawn/Alina)**
* Dawn has been in touch with Fudd and Janet about the eXtension hosting of SSP and who can make changes to the website when there are problems with links etc. Jerri who worked on setting the pages up is no longer responsible and has moved, leaving a gap in the administration of the pages.
* Alina started to research continuing education unit (CEU) credit question. Dawn, Janet and Allie Allen have sent her information. This is a bigger research project since there is no national alignment of the credit systems.
* Three state affiliates of the National Education Association (NEA) requested SSP trainings for their state conferences for education support staff. The planned Indiana training was canceled on short notice due to low pre-sign up numbers and internal differences of opinion whether the training should be included or not.
* Another training is scheduled for March in Michigan and Tom Green will lead the trainings for custodians, maintenance staff and food services staff. Alina, Tom and Dawn worked on text describing benefits of the training to be listed in the course catalogues. Another training is potentially scheduled for Washington state in March, depending on if pre-sign up supports the training.
	+ An IPM coordinator and school teacher in Texas has requested to take the SSP training online and take the exam and receive a certificate. He will be the first trainee using the online exam and getting as certificate.
* Marc suggested to include additional information about pesticides in the SSP training description. He also suggested getting written endorsements from the American Academy of Pediatrics or Jimmy Roberts, to particularly appeal to administrators. He suggested encouraging a top down strategy. Officials would pay attention to it, and it creates a political liability if they don’t pay attention to it. Where is the group with working with pediatricians?
	+ The group agreed they should be quoting EPA and looking into other endorsements.
* **Marc will contact Jimmy Roberts to ask for an endorsement. In Indiana and in other states, the group could contact state pediatrics associations and ask if they’d do something.**
* The question was raised whether ASPCRO’s SIPM committee could endorse the existing materials once the Pest Management Professional (PMP) module is in place.
	+ **Seth will pass that on and see what they say. He speculates that they’d want to do that when all the material is ready so they could review everything.**
	+ The ASPCRO SIPM committee meeting is March 27th, 2017. Conference call option is not listed, but Seth will check if one is available.
* Janet informed the group that the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is finally looking at allowing online CEU credit for structural applicators every other year, with an in-person training required every other year. Part of this material has been developed not just for structural PMPs but also for custodial, food service, grounds and turf maintenance workers. TDA is talking to all of ASPCRO about it.
	+ Seth thinks that that’ll be on a state-to-state basis depending on how CEUs are set up.
	+ Tim Stock informed the group that a limited license for SIPM in Oregon is still moving forward; he’s anticipating that’ll still be used, and the curriculum will be based on the manual the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is creating.
* Alina is working with Milwaukee public schools district. They’re interested in using the SSP training and the group is hoping to get an endorsement from them once they’ve implemented it.
* Seth offered to share the SIPM program bid and contract guidance from EPA from August 2016 (**attached**). This document is also on iSchool Pest Manager. ASPCRO has been working on getting bid and contract guidance moving forward.
1. **Regional/EPA updates**
* **Tim**: ODA is creating a SIPM manual. They emailed asking for reviewers on specific pest topics. Does anyone know a good spider expert? The group concurred that Rick Vetter at UC Riverside is excellent.
* **Janet**: The IPM Experience House is almost ready to open for training. It’s Mike Merchant’s goal to have an urban training grounds to teach apprentices and technicians in Texas rather than via on-the-job training. Janet would like to do the Rodent Academy like Robert Corrigan in NY, who is coming down in September/October to do TAMU’s first annual three-day class.
	+ Booking for 2017 trainings has been difficult: getting the right dates and getting locations. They all have to be lined up before announcing dates. Janet has been trying county agents.
	+ Janet is getting creative with SIPM in 2017. She has no major grants or budget stuff to keep up with. She had a conversation with Scott Cummings, Agrilife’s Director of Organizational Development.
* **Dawn**: A teacher’s workshop was held recently. A variety of school professionals showed up, but mostly teachers.
* **Kathy** set up a conference call with Marcia Anderson of EPA and Colin Walsh, a Maine school IPM coordinator/school business manager who is active in the state and regional associations of school business officials, to discuss ideas for getting school business officials more engaged with IPM. Timing is good because of the upcoming EPA webinar on school ipm contracts and bids. There may be an opportunity to get on the program or set up a display at 1 or more upcoming state and regional conferences. The 2018 TriState ASBO (ME, VT, NH) conference will take place in Portland, ME and Scott is on the program committee, so there is a good shot at getting onto that program. Kathy plans to submit an article on IPM for publication in the MeASBO quarterly magazine and will share the article widely. Update: Scott will share his perspectives with the NE School IPM Working Group at their next conference call (Feb 9th, 11am Eastern)
	+ Maine began publishing a monthly Maine school IPM newsletter in Nov. For those wishing to subscribe to the Maine School IPM News monthly newsletter. [www.maine.gov/schoolipm](http://www.maine.gov/schoolipm) -- look for the blue box on the upper right side of the home page, enter your email address and voila! To browse archived newsletters go to: <http://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/integrated_pest_management/school/newsletters/index.shtml>
	+ The group discussed potential school IPM newsletter topics. Ants will be a problem soon and are the pest that schools spray the most for.
	+ It would good to educate SIPM officials that just because something’s labeled as organic or safe or 25b exempt, they can still be harmful. Research on the safety/efficacy of those. People are using homebrews to treat pests and some of them are dangerous.
	+ Janet suggested getting IPM Center people to help work on an article for this.
* Marc suggested that people producing newsletters and Pest Presses include IPM-focused information on ants in their February and March issues, because these pests will soon be active and engender more insecticide applications than any other structural pest.
* The group discussed the upcoming EPA call, scheduled for February 3: status, anything prepared?
	+ The draft agenda will be present to everyone for review.
* **Allie**: Alina and Allie have touched base to be sure they’re not duplicating effort in producing the QualityPro LMS. NPMA will be reaching out to ASPCRO. NPMA is working on getting states to award CEUs for online learning courses. Allie working on that with NPMA and will be reaching out to big pest management companies who do in-house training.
	+ The study guide is still in progress, all the suggested changes will be made, NPMA just has to pay the bill.
1. **Suggested agenda items for next month’s call**
* Asking IPM Centers to write an article on “organic” pesticide safety/efficacy and the dangers of DIY homemade pesticides

The next conference call will take place on **Friday, February 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 February’s call.