



## National School IPM Steering Committee

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### Participants:

1. Julian Cooper, IPM Institute of North America
2. Madeline Zastrow, IPM Institute of North America
3. Tom Green, IPM Institute of North America
4. Janet Hurley, Texas A&M Dallas Agricultural Research and Extension Center
5. Shaku Nair, University of Arizona
6. Eric Denmark, California Department of Pesticide Regulation
7. Lucy Li, University of Arizona
8. Dawn Gouge, University of Arizona
9. Fudd Graham, Extension Specialist, Auburn University
10. Joellen Lampman, New York State Community IPM and Cornell
11. John Connett, University of Wyoming
12. Tim Stock, Oregon State University
13. Lynn Braband, Cornell University
14. Matt Bauer, Western IPM Center

### Agenda:

1. 2019-2020 North Central IPM WG Grant Results
2. Member updates

#### 1) **2019-2020 North Central IPM WG Grant Results**

- Competition was fierce this year – \$200,000 vs. \$300,000 for 18 WGs.
- IPM submitted five total proposals
  - Tick IPM WG – Funded
  - Organic vs. IPM WG – Funded
  - Midwest Grows Green – Funded
  - School IPM – Denied (we requested \$16,500)
  - Midwest Grows Green (\$50,000) – Denied
- Strengths provided by grant reviewers:
  - This is a good proposal, sound, not exciting, but very important work.
    - For the future, it will be important to emphasize the public health implications and other more exciting points to get grant reviewers invested in the school IPM cause.
  - The proposed work is well-thought out and the proposal is easy to read.
  - Budget is appropriate for scope of work.
  - Evaluation plan is thorough.
- Weaknesses provided by grant reviewers:
  - The biggest weakness is that there seems to be only one 1994 land grant representative on the working group and insufficient outreach to tribal schools in the proposal and in the plan. How many

tribal schools are there in the area? There is a potential to miss schools if they are relying on only the EPA affiliated members of the Working Group. There is nothing in the proposal that indicates that the tribal schools know about this proposal. How about involving BIA and Bureau of Indian Education in the work?

- For future grant applications, IPM Institute will try to have one person from each land grant university in the North Central region.
- Most of the objectives are not intensive; thought there could have been more substance.
  - Hosting calls
  - Monthly newsletter
  - Quarterly special topics series through Pest Defense for Healthy Schools website
    - Landscape management, glyphosate hot button topic
    - Partnered with Harvard School of Public Health to identify topics
  - School IPM training on Tribal lands/reservations, in EPA Regions 5, 7, 8
- The budget has more salary than other WG proposals, heavily weighted to staff costs.
  - A lot of staff hours and travel time to coordinate trainings, webinars, etc.
  - Try in the future to cut staff hours to allow time for more actionable items, to reach more schools, etc.
- Biggest takeaway: grant reviewers want to see concrete partnerships and community involvement to accomplish objectives.
- We have applied to 8 other grants to try and secure continued funding for our school IPM projects. Many are based in Wisconsin and the Chicago area and have funding for the NC WG included as a project objective. Blue Cross Blue Shield, SC Johnson, Milwaukee Brewers, etc.
- Currently working on the EPA Environmental Justice grant for school IPM work in Milwaukee. Have been speaking with a grant specialist from the Milwaukee Public School District (MPS), grant emphasizes community partnership so MPS will determine if we continue pursuing or not.
  - \$30,000
  - Due March 8<sup>th</sup>
  - MPS is IPM STAR certified and has an IPM Coordinator
  - Part of the money from this grant would be to continue working group conference calls
- Questions comments or concerns about the grant?
  - Dawn Gouge: the first criticism about the proposal not being exciting is about the proposal not being NOVEL. It's not new. I couldn't agree more regarding public health.
    - Working with Tribal communities is a long-term investment. It would have been good to capture all the benefits of this work, but it would have gone over the word limit.
    - Need to find a contact with existing contacts in the region to create concrete relationships.
    - Salary dollars: who wants to work for nothing? Be creative with the amount of money you're getting for small grants. We need to leverage salary dollars.
  - Shaku Nair: I've run into that problem before, that people view the issue not as exciting because it's not new.
  - Matt Bauer: There is no question that a group of this size and complexity requires dedicated staff to organize and coordinate activities. There's no way that staff hours/salary should be considered a weakness.
  - Tom Green: Our big mistake was not getting concrete confirmation/partnership with a Tribal school for the grant objective. In the future, we must think about it earlier and set internal deadlines to move to a different grant objective if another one fails.
    - Dawn Gouge: We (U of AZ) have yet to receive/achieve a confirmation letter of commitment from a Tribal school. It takes too much time. There are other ways of documenting commitment. Get an event under your belt and use the agenda.
    - Matt Bauer: John Connett in Wyoming successfully submitted a grant proposal that incorporated Tribal school IPM, without a letter of commitment from the Tribe.

- John Connett: I developed enough of a working relationship with the Tribe to get letters of commitment in the future. It's been a very slow process of relationship building with various entities on the reservation.
    - Lynn Braband: There's some sort of advisory or working group called the TPPC, Tribal Pesticide Program Council. Could be a potential partner.
    - Shaku Nair: Tribal Council of Arizona worked with us to organize Tribal events. We don't directly contact the Tribe, we go through the Council. They are a huge help.
    - Matt Bauer: There was a group with the NC IPM Center and Sue Ratcliffe for food sovereignty with Tribes, that is another potential contact.
    - Julian Cooper: We were going through the EPA, they have a Tribal contact in each EPA Region. NC SIPM WG also provided us with the Head Start grant program for early childcare center intervention and Indian Health Service as possible contacts for Tribal objectives.
  - Tom Green: We need to diversify our funding.
- Result:
  - We at the IPM Institute believe in the value these calls have. We propose switching to a bi-monthly call format to share updates. There will be no guest speakers. Alternatively, if another organization would like to keep the calls going in their present format, we would be happy to join and assist indirectly in any way possible.
  - Lynn Braband: This is essentially what we've done in the Northeastern region. Working group has not had funding. We used a line provided by EPA Region One and now we use Cornell's Zoom account. We meet every other month.
  - Dawn Gouge: Why don't we just focus on national efforts? For example, the northeastern region is focusing on rodent cleanup right now and that should really be a national issue rather than regional.
  - Tim Stock: We don't have a western region call anymore but isn't that more to do with grants and ability to collaborate?
  - Julian Cooper: Hopeful we can get an EPA line to continue bimonthly calls for the North Central working group. Will know more next week.
    - We are going to pursue increasing member involvement, especially from each land grant university in the region.
  - Dawn Gouge: Several of us are at academic institutions that have access to Zoom accounts. We could connect monthly or bimonthly over Zoom.
  - Tom Green: IPM Institute could continue hosting, but we could rotate the responsibility every month of who sets the agenda.
    - Dawn: I don't recommend every month, we could rotate quarterly.
  - Julian Cooper: Do we want to invite/open the National Steering Committee to regional groups?
    - Yes!
    - Lynn Braband: Concerned with participation from EPA because a good majority of regional callers are from EPA regions who would probably not join a national call, but instead would go through Marcia Anderson, or another national point person.
  - Janet Hurley: We discontinued southern calls because of low participation. We need to merge school IPM and home IPM.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of pest problems in schools comes from home. Overwhelmed with staff turnover. We cannot draw an economic impact from school IPM. School administrators think of student safety in terms of active shooters or similar threats, not pests. It's hard to compete when there are invasive species or diseases with more economic pest threat. I'd like to see the National School IPM Committee merge school and home IPM and focus on how to get more school nurses involved.
  - Julian Cooper: We will have to work to make this group more impactful if we are pursuing resources to make a merged national group.
    - Maybe we can have a representative from StopPests in Housing collaborate with school IPM working group.
    - Northeastern IPM Center StopPests Program Coordinator: Susannah Reese

- Lynn Braband: We are working in New York State to use school IPM as a trojan horse to expand IPM into the community.
- Janet Hurley: Connected El Paso contact with StopPests in Housing and relationship blossomed. StopPests is now doing a training in El Paso in March. A big problem with schools is that pests are coming from home, especially bed bugs and other pests that come in on humans. School IPM Coordinators do not know what to communicate and to who (admin vs. health services vs. maintenance). How do the four regional IPM centers work with us? It seems like we are preaching the same message repeatedly.
  - Shaku Nair: StopPests in Housing has their own agenda; how do we collaborate?
    - Janet Hurley: I am just trying to bridge gaps and make sure information is out there and after the training is done, the people in apartment complexes know that they have a resource in their own state, i.e., Extension, to contact if they have continuing pest problems.
- Matt Bauer: Janet – what do you envision the relationship to be between regional IPM centers and national group?
  - Janet: What messages need to be consistent to different school professionals? We should have ONE national resource for people to distribute well. Merge eXtension resources, newsletters, etc.
  - Matt Bauer: Seems like there are components to the problem that are regional and national. Different groups are better suited to solve each component.
- Tom Green: We should bring up bridging the gap between school IPM and StopPests on a future call and we should have another call on rodent cleanup. Are there other topics that people want to discuss on future calls?
  - Lynn Braband: receive feedback on update to best practices from school IPM NE IPM Center website.
  - Dawn Gouge: extend invitation to representatives to each regional center. Invite Susannah Reese from StopPests to a call.
- Conclusion: We will continue monthly conference calls. IPM Institute will continue hosting conference calls. We will rotate responsibility for developing agenda quarterly. IPM Institute will develop first agenda for next call with Susannah Reese from StopPests in Housing.

## 2) Working Group member updates

- a. Julian, IPM Institute
  - i. TG gave a Pest Defense training in NM. Was able to speak for 3-4 minutes to a group of 150 NEA members in Santa Fe. New Mexico has a new Democratic governor and a budget surplus and is looking to increase wages for those working in schools by at least 6% and at least a \$12/hour minimum wage. Several state legislators spoke briefly at a reception last night at the NEA office.
  - ii. Future trainings at NEA ESP conference in Las Vegas and with Women for a Healthy Environment in Pittsburgh.
  - iii. IL IPM Training – Our contact Dr. Colwell retired, but we resubmitted our trainer application to his replacement and are waiting to hear about results.
- b. North Central Region:
  - i. Ruth Kerzee, Midwest Pesticide Action Center:
    - 1. MPAC will be dissolving as of March 31st. Ruth can provide additional information regarding how she will be working to sustain the mission of MPAC going forward. If there are any questions about the dissolution, folks can still reach Ruth at rkerzee@pesticideaction.org. Her MPAC email will be up and running for at least one month post-dissolution.
  - ii. Bethany Olsen, EPA Region 7:
    - 1. Planning training with Missouri facility managers

2. Partnership with Johnson County Health Department to provide daycare IPM training
  3. Talk on bed bug protocols
- iii. Seth Dibblee, EPA Region 5:
    1. Worked with Illinois Green Alliance to nominate three schools for Green Ribbons Schools. Loyola, Grayslake, Bloomington
- c. Northeastern Region:
    - i. Lynn Braband:
      1. Partnership Grant proposal to NE IPM Center to update best practices on school IPM website was accepted.
      2. Received money from state to have a state-wide outreach program on reducing risk of being bitten by a tick. Don't Get Ticked NY.
      3. Project by Lynn Rose from MA to develop guidance on rodent cleanup (cleanup after rodent infestations). There's a lot of gaps and conflicting advice on the topic right now, so we are working to develop consistent guidance documents.
      4. Kathy Murray finishing up her funded project on outreach to school nurses.
  - d. Western Region:
    - i. Dawn Gouge: Xcluder representative sent samples of their products and Dawn did research on their products. She will share the results on the Xcluder product research.