

## Community IPM Leadership Team Conference Call

Where: Maricopa Ag. Center

When: Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014: 9 am – 10:30 am



**On the call:** Dawn Gouge, Lucy Li, Dave Kopec, Kai Umeda, Ursula Schuch, Paul Baker, Shaku Nair, Peter Warren.

### Call Notes

**Brief update from Paul:** Paul will continue to be active for at least another year, and is most willing to help and serve as a resource even after retirement. He will do the Pima County Parks and Rec event, most probably in March 2015. He will keep us updated when he submits paperwork towards official retirement. Meanwhile, the team still has to discuss about writing a letter to Jeff Silvertooth, about Paul's position. Paul has been informed his position will not be refilled.

### **SIPM&O: Potential new school district – TUSD:**

*Inputs from Peter Warren:* Peter has been in touch with a school teacher at Santa Rita High School in Tucson, who felt that their landscape personnel need training because of the way they prune and do other maintenance. So Peter contacted Ursula, who gave him an overview of our program. He is very interested to participate when we visit the school site later, to do an audit.

*Dawn:* It is good that they are interested. However, we will have to ensure a district-level participation. We have worked with TUSD several years ago, and that was to address a mold problem in an elementary school site. The issue was successfully resolved, but there was little involvement of the district after that. So we have to ensure that this time the district is fully aware of what our program involves.

Dawn has sent Shaku a number of old contacts from TUSD. Dave has a good contact person in grounds maintenance at TUSD, he will make contact and let us know. Meanwhile, Dave has also forwarded contact information for the Chief Operations Officer at TUSD to Shaku, and Shaku has emailed him about the possibility of a brief informal meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Dave, Ursula and Shaku will be visiting the Catalina schools for a follow-up on Oct 7<sup>th</sup> morning, so that will be a convenient day. Shaku will also inform Peter Warren about the meeting.

*Peter Warren:* Informed the group about a grant he is interested in submitting to the state Forestry Department. The grant will support any work related to trees in schools, and so it is well aligned to our team's objectives. Deadline is towards end of October. Peter will send us a draft of his proposal for review. He is welcome to leverage our experience and expertise. Dawn will send him a copy of the logic model for our EIP grant, and other grant related documents – that might be useful for Peter to understand our objectives with regard to community IPM.

### **Update on Stop School Pests Meeting in TX:**

*Dawn:* The meeting went very well. 18 people attended (7 from EPA). The grant objectives, completed modules and stakeholder feedback received were reviewed.

Pilot testing of the modules, and exam formats were discussed.

*Ursula, Dave and Kai:* What is the status of the landscape and turf modules, did we get a lot of edits and feedback?

*Dawn:* Yes, lots of edits were made to suit different regions.

Dawn has sent out the current versions of the modules to the Team for review.

**Centennial event:** Dawn, Shaku, Lucy, Al and Kai will be attending.

**Sprinkler Irrigation seminar and demo at MUSD on Oct 10<sup>th</sup>, and Tree Irrigation Field Day at MAC on Oct 21<sup>st</sup>:** We have publicized both events well, and hope to have a good turnout.

*Dawn:* Shaku to inform Vince Craig and Ron Walker at OPM about these events. They have expressed interest to be informed about any community IPM related event that we do, and they want to participate. This is a very good move, and we should keep up our contacts with them.

**Other issues to inform the team:**

WIPMC RFA has been released. Due date for proposals is Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Dawn received an anonymous call from a teacher at an east valley school district, about an unauthorized pesticide application conducted when children were present at the school. She is following up with the concerned people and will let us know if any action is needed.

Peter Warren informed the team about an invasion of large bark beetles (pine engraver beetles, *Ips pini*) that they are encountering lately in several Tucson neighborhoods. They are suspected to be brought in with firewood from northern AZ, which was not an issue earlier. The beetles are very different from other wood-boring beetles commonly observed. They are also spreading the blue stain fungus. Ursula mentioned that the presence of large numbers of unhealthy trees with poor watering may attract these beetles, and the problem is likely to get worse.

Shaku will inform Peter Warren about our future Community IPM meetings/calls, and he is welcome to join us.

**Next meeting:** Conference call: 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014, 1:00 – 2:30 pm.

Shaku will send out a Doodle for a possible conference call in December or January.