

Community IPM Leadership Team Meeting

Where: Maricopa Ag. Center

When: FRIDAY, 29th August 2014: 9 am – 2 pm



Present: Dawn Gouge, Lucy Li, Al Fournier, Dave Kopec, Kai Umeda, Paul Baker, Mike Wierda, Shaku Nair

Meeting Notes

Program updates: 5 minute briefing of team member activities since our last conference call on May 20th

Dave: Participated in Plant Health Practicum at Maricopa, Shade Conference, Desert Hort Conference, Weed ID and weed management in Landscapes.

Did Smartscape presentations: Weed control in Landscapes, Landscape Irrigation Management.

Presented at Master Gardener programs in Sierra Vista and Graham Counties.

Presented at Desert Hort Conference on "Native grasses for Turf".

Presented at Wilbur Ellis Show, Tempe on *Poa annua* biology.

Attended and presented AZ State Report at WERA-11 work group, Salt Lake City.

Presented on *Poa annua* biology and PGR treatments at *Poa annua* control seminar with Cactus and Pine.

Dawn: 3 major school pest issues faced this year are bed bugs, scorpions and pigeons. Bed bug problems continue to increase, at least 3-5 calls/emails per day (7 days a week) about bed bug issues related to schools, homes, travel, second-hand furniture. There are more low income homes with chronic bed bug infestation and students are bringing them to schools. There is interest in facilitating the development of a bed bug protocol for schools. TUSD and Kyrene school districts need help with bed bugs and turf issues.

Working on "Lessons Learned" in school IPM: EPA regional school IPM coordinators see some of the same issues and therefore a need has been expressed to present these as a document that EPA Regions may use as they develop 2015 school IPM program commitments. Two documents are appended with these notes.

There is a potential for new funding coming to UA from EPA region 9, related to Inter Tribal Council of Arizona work EPA is doing. We have completed a tribal school IPM plan template (part of previous EPA contract). Shaku also created a generic version that we can use for public schools. EPA may adopt it as an endorsed official document.

EPA School Health and Indoor Environments Leadership Development (SHIELD) is the umbrella around which stewards of school environmental health and indoor air quality link together to improve environmental health in schools. Dawn has been invited to participate in these efforts and the group is interested in using StopSchoolPests materials in the EPA webinar series.

Stop School Pests: Making good progress. Plan to complete all training modules by the end of this year, so that we can concentrate on piloting the modules next year. AZ OPM will be involved in SSP training events, and later to use the modules too.

Plans to revise School IPM PMSP are now in progress. Steering committee requested that Lucy feature the revision in her School IPM newsletter in December or January.

Program with Tohono-O'odham nation in June: 3 day program with only 17 participants. Disappointing turn-out. They have bed bug and Rocky Mountain spotted fever problems, but it has been challenging to get events planned and well attended. EPA Border Program has new opportunities to support IPM work along the border. Is there an Extension agent involved? Contact Trent Teegerstrom to get suggestions or

someone at FCS – Shaku will contact Trent. Paul suggested doing pre-registration to ensure you get the minimum number of participants you need.

Lucy: Working on updating Extension publications. Already updated a bat publication and have 4 more that need to be reviewed and updated: How to Pest Proof Your Home (Shaku will take the lead on this); Drywood Termites (Paul will do this); IPM Practices for bed bugs (Lucy and Dawn); and IPM: The Most Effective Way to Manage Pests in Your School (Dawn will contact the other out of state authors to decide on this).

For August SIPM newsletter, Shaku suggested we do an article on turf. It was a big success. We are considering making it the basis of a new Extension publication.

Apache School District school nurses requested head lice training – Lucy will present. Univar has requested speakers at their training, Lucy and Shaku will both present. Lucy helped to coordinate a MAC program that was part of an ITCA training for pesticide inspectors. Next year, Mike may coordinate the program. Spent May and June working on grants. Participated in CDC training in Tucson.

Kai: Annual Maricopa County Short Course held 8/28/14 on the topic of weather and irrigation management. About 35 participants. USDA has funding available to support training related to weather. The National Weather Service wants to get information out the public. Kai is working with Mike Wierda on PSEP Leadership Team. Spoke at the Shade Conference. Field trials looking at weed control with a new herbicide. Assisted USGA program in July in Flagstaff. Participating with Cactus and Pine board, working with Dave and the board to describe the performance of the turf program over time. Looking for funding opportunities through this channel. Hosted an intern from SMCC over the summer. Did a project on herbicide safety in Bermudagrass. Serves on Special Local Needs committee with Jack Peterson at ADA. Kai attended WERA-011 meeting this June. We will host the meeting in Phoenix next year. Working with Rick Gibson on tree health initiative, for which he will be presenting workshops in Tucson and Yuma this winter. *Poa annua* control seminar with Cactus and Pine 2 weeks ago; both Dave and Kai were involved. October 4 UA Centennial event at Phoenix Zoo. A number of people are being honored at this event.

Idea: present a poster for this event or in the future: A community IPM display board with changeable components under it: SIPMI&O; highlight new publications, etc. It may not be possible to meet this deadline, but something to work on moving forward. Start small with 2 or 3 panels. Can expand later if desired.

Paul: Planning retirement at the end of this year. Paul will do a CEU class this fall with Parks & Rec. It got delayed because of changes at OPM – participants would not have earned CEUs if held in April. Paul will be in touch with team members and Mike about presenting on the program once scheduled. Working with a company on termite research (Termatrx?). His grad student is supposed to finish by December.

Would like the Community IPM Team to write a letter to Jeff Silvertooth. There is a possibility that Paul's position could be retained. Support for an extension position on campus (or not). What is industry's response to Paul's departure? He is not sure. He has suggested to his contacts that they should approach the Dean or Jeff Silvertooth. Not sure if they are organized to follow up. That industry endorsement is important, particularly if the pest control industry could support part of a position. Paul talked to Jeff about it already. Because of available Extension funds, there is a possibility to pursue this. Paul will provide some statistics on the value of the industry to include in the letter. Dawn suggests we carefully review what we need. It could be an AiE position as opposed to a faculty position. An academic position through the Entomology Department would likely be a "non-starter". We need to leverage industry support for this. Termite industry is important as are bed bugs. Dawn: it does not have to be a

campus position. Dawn suggests scheduling a conference call involving Peter, dedicated to this topic. Shaku has contacted Peter, and is waiting for his reply.

Shaku: Has been working on Stop School Pests Modules and the WIPMC Handbook project during the summer. She has been contacting collaborators and stakeholders about the scope of the book. Has followed up with all of the SIPMI&O districts.

SIPMI&O:

New interested school districts: Casa Grande, Kyrene and Tucson Unified. Phoenix Union wants to add a new site Camelback school. Shaku has good data from all the schools from most people (rules), but is still following up on a few details. Anand is collecting data on economics from the school districts. Need to work with AI to review our initial data.

Dave is running an irrigation seminar on Oct 10 in Maricopa, 8 am-12 noon; will invite people from other school districts. Kai: it would be good to invite all the schools we are working with, just the irrigation people. May need to do early registration to ensure there are not too many participants.

Dawn: Received several requests from schools for training on the new OPM laws related to qualifying parties, etc. Dawn wants to have a meeting with OPM representatives and some of our team members, to get up to speed on the new laws. Mike should be involved. Is Office of Pest Management working on new certification exams? Dawn received a question whether we would help revise the OPM exams. Paul thinks they are working on this because he has been asked to work on the wood destroying insects exam.

Handbook: Shaku has prepared a report on work done so far, has arranged the second conference call on Sep 5th. Work is progressing well.

New grants awarded or pending

We have been awarded the following grants:

- Extension Implementation Program (EIP, formerly EIPM grant): \$286k per year for 3 years. Will fund 50% of Shaku, Wayne, Lydia and Marco, about 41% of AI and 33% of Mike Wierda.
- Gouge-Li led Applied Research and Development Program (ARDP) grant: \$124k per year for 2 years. Will fund 50% of Lucy and 4% of AI.
- Westerns IPM Center, Crop Pest Losses Signature Program: About 80k per year for 4 years. Will fund 15% of AI and Wayne, 20% of Lydia and 20% of temp wages for IT/database support., IPM Center, ARDP:

Dawn and Lucy submitted a proposal to HUD with Washington State University (lead). The team has been invited to submit a full proposal.

Pesticide safety update

Mike Wierda, new AiE Pesticide Safety was introduced to the Team – Mike reviewed his program objectives with the group.

Mike has connected to a national stakeholders group that includes 89 different agencies and universities. The focus of the group is to help sustain pesticide safety education efforts nationally, making good training resources available nationally. His position will have 3 focuses: (1) Developing a business plan with stakeholders to make AZ PSEP sustainable (funded through PSEP-IMI grant); (2) developing and delivering pesticide safety training in the state to diverse audiences and also expanding the audiences we are reaching (funded through traditional PSEP and gifts); (3) interfacing with our IPM programs and personnel to integrate pesticide safety education training into IPM and IPM training for pesticide applicators (funded through 2014 EIP grant).

He has become aware of some states where IPM and pesticide safety are not working well together.

Dawn: in the past year, question came up on a conference call: What percentage of your IPM program is dedicated to pesticide safety?

Mike mentioned some confusion following a call he had with Carol Somody regarding the requirements of PSEP-IMI reporting and the status of our activities. There was some confusion about a “Core Advisory Committee” that needs to be convened prior to submission of a progress report (due 9/15/14). The Core committee was described in the proposal as including Jack Peterson, Jennifer Weber, Peter, Al, and Jeff Silvertooth’s designee (Paul Brown). Last week, we convened the first meeting of Mike’s PSEP Leadership Team which includes most of these people, but Extension Administration was not represented at that meeting. Carol indicates we can get a 30 day extension on the Sept 15 deadline. We need to review the language we are using to describe committees versus the language in the contract and ensure that we are meeting all grant obligations.

How can the Community IPM Team help you in your position? How can you help us? Mike came today to learn more about the group and what they do. Through this group, he hopes to reach out to more non-traditional audiences: schools, Home Depots, HOAs, etc.

Plant health seminar for larger group

This might be similar to Dave’s irrigation seminar, but needs more content. Let’s talk about this in next meeting.

Kai informed the group that tree seminars have been planned for the fall in Tucson and Yuma (Rick Gibson and Stacey Bealmear).

Golf superintendents want information on pesticide use, similar to what Paul does with Parks and Rec in Tucson each year including pesticide use, new products and their safe and effective use. Kai: we need to do this for all different audiences. He suggested a few large programs targeting a broader audience. Could potentially be a quite large audience. Time it just before license renewals. Hold it at MAC or Mesa School District. Twice a year: once in Tucson and once in Phoenix. Include Peter Warren in Tucson event. November or early Dec? Shaku will check with Paul about possibility of broadening Parks and Rec meeting.

A policy for cost recovery at training events

Consider seeking sponsors to help pay for lunch, etc. Printing costs for handouts is another expense. Recent meeting, Kai charged \$10 registration, which pretty much covered the costs of the meeting. Could you suggest a donation as opposed to charging for registration? Worth looking at this.

Dawn: for schools, registration costs do not work well. She was told that if people say they are destitute she is still required to train them for free. If the school is hosting the venue, probably better not to charge participants. If we have a grant to fund an activity, we may not need to charge participants. When participants cannot pay, sometimes you can get a company or organization to sponsor the event. Another suggestion: make handouts available to participants online prior to the meeting. They have the option to print it or not. We have at least 2 audiences. Our school audiences cannot pay. But many other audiences will pay. Sometimes people will not show up when a program is free, even though they registered. Sometimes we have both types of audiences in the same meetings. Kai: starting last year, he has requested a gift to his Extension program (undefined amount) when he is invited to speak, particularly when it is only targeted at a single company. He normally pays people a \$500 honorarium when he invites a speaker in, plus travel expenses. The way the university handles credit card registrations now, they charge about 11%. If you get donations, you have to provide people a receipt and then you can deposit the funds. CALS takes 9% of fees collected, no matter how small. There should be a minimal threshold.

Recent/Upcoming events in AZ

- ITCA training just completed – Aug. 27, 28
- Turf event – baseball turf overseed seminar – Sep 29 (Kai)
- Irrigation seminar and demo at MUSD – Fall break, Oct 6-10 date TBD (Dave)
- Univar event – October 29, 30 (Lucy and Shaku will speak). Univar only agreed to pay for their mileage and lunch. Next year, Dawn will consider charging them.
- Pesticide license training, Casa Grande (October, date TBD) (Kai, Shaku and Mike will attend)

Fort Huachuca involvement

Dawn visited with DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) representatives in Tucson. People on campus want this relationship with DOD (Department of Defense) because they see potential for future funding coming from DOD to the university. Dawn is providing a one-page description of Extension activities with schools and public health. Fort Huachuca has a problem with pests, including bed bugs. We would likely be invited to do a site visit there in the future and to conduct an audit.

Next meeting: Conference call, October 1st 2014: 9 – 11 am – might need to reschedule. Shaku will contact the group.