

## Notes from Western School IPM PI Conference call on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2011

Members on call: Tim Stock (OR), Dawn Gouge (AZ), Carrie Foss (WA), Tess Grasswitz (NM)

1. Informal discussion of re-directed funds from the EPA's Strategic Agriculture Initiative in WA & OR.

2. PRIA 2010

i. Collecting asthma-related metrics. Dawn is currently preparing a relatively short document on asthma triggers; all the outdoor ones are derived from allergenic plants (which will differ somewhat in different parts of the country); Carrie agreed to review this section. An inspection checklist will be made available as ways are found of assigning values to different levels of triggers.

Kelly Chambers of the IPM Institute has found some under-utilized tools that may be helpful in collecting asthma data. There is free software available from the American Lung Association (Asthma Incidence Reporting (AIR) Database) for school nurses, etc, to track asthma incidence in their schools. While it is site-specific and not collated across sites, it is possible that some schools might be willing/able to share their data to help show reductions in asthma incidence following adoption of IPM.

ii. Question from Carrie as to how the PRIA 2010 funding is going to be disbursed; Dawn informed us that sub-contracts will be set-up for each PI on the grant.

3. Discussion as to how the Western School IPM Working Group should proceed & expand, specifically on how to get other states moving ahead with implementation of school IPM. In the next 2-3 weeks, personal contact will be made by the 4 PI's with suggested contacts in each of the following states: Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, California, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Montana, and Wyoming. It was agreed that we should also invite one person from each of the Western EPA regions to join the conference calls.

4. Discussion of resource-sharing sites (including the details of the state contacts who agree to participate in the working group following our calls (see 3, above). It was suggested that someone from the IPM Institute might be able to set up a 'Google Docs' site for us to upload our material; they could also be invited to join our conference calls & take notes.

5. It was agreed that we would aim to set up the group's next conference call in April; Dawn will set up a Doodle<sup>®</sup> survey to check everyone's availability.

6. Tim sought clarification of the difference between a school IPM workshop and a "change agent practicum". Dawn said that the latter was intended to engage representatives from many different groups and levels (e.g. from state lead agencies, extension, environmental services, county officials, pesticide applicators, school administrators, etc.), so that they all get an opportunity to see and understand each other's roles & perspectives. (Compared to a standard training workshop for e.g. only facilities managers).

7. Brief discussion of reporting requirements for WIPMC grant. Tim agreed to check with Linda Herbst.