

Turfgroup Meeting #2
May 17, 2007 – Karsten
3:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Present: G. Towers, K. Umeda, M. Pessarakli, D. Kopec, D. Young, A. Fournier, J. Silvertooth, P. Baker.

All contacts had previously received minutes from meeting #1 in April and a copy of Agenda for meeting #2.

Al Fournier needs to be placed on the list (Kopec).

Items discussed:

UA offers module style classes where 16 hours of contact = 1.0 UA transcript level credit. There have been developed already in entomology and well science.

This could be done for turf, either through the above channel, or for just outreach training (no UA credits).

Module sessions outlines by Kopec could include a multitude of topics for both basic and advanced topics. Internally, this is possible, and the mechanisms to process program fees as cost recovery are in place. Deb Young noted that cost recovery in extension is now a standard item.

Other options include “summer classes”, which retain a larger share to the proving program.

The UA is working with A.W.C. in Yuma for 3+1 and a 2+2 program. No other community colleges are linked with soil programs yet. Perhaps M.C.C. schools could be linked with piggyback programs before other schools do.

Jeff Silvertooth has contacts at the UA for investigating these options. The key item is to get students to take the core courses in mathematics and chemistry, before their junior/senior years (Tom/Mike).

A student career day has never been focused at Karsten (Turf). It was tried in the late 1980's but never accepted. Probably on “parent/student visitation day” in the fall semester would be the most efficient. This could be combined with a turf/ornamental visit the same Saturday.

Also, the University College needs to be tapped; there are 6,000 students with undecided majors on campus. Kopec/Silvertooth/Cox should look into this option.

Silvertooth suggested a one hour UA colloquium course associated with the 4 year degree program with guest speakers for management specific topics. A tentative list was devised. This would be for C/P turf managers.

A new poster for Turf School '08 was made by Gabe/Kai. The proceeds from 2007 are not clear. Silvertooth suggested an FRS printout of Kai's accounts if tracking is an issue.

Funding opportunities for working groups (2k) and SIN projects (up to 10k) are available. This could be used for agent in service updates.

Al Fournier and Kai discussed the option of developing an IPM PMSP plant for turf, for developing a Pest Management Turf Strategy plan. This would include 1) group meeting with stakeholders, extension, research people in turf; 2) mutual agreement of pests 3) formation of research projects, educational support outline and (4) final report. This is a cohesive document that can be used elsewhere for funding opportunities as well. Al can formulate most of the report (volunteer). Silvertooth suggested that the Western IPM Center will have a

“cotton” model upcoming, and we could pattern that template, including “water” issues in the plan as well. A turf PMSP was done in the southern U.S. last year.

Active stakeholder participation is a must if “a plan” is to be successful. An upcoming cotton meeting will be at MAC.

Regarding the changes of Bio for turf page, two submissions made.

Pessarakli
Gouge

Please submit a two paragraph interest/Bio statement to Kopec. The statement should be different from that of any existing “dept page” listing.

Paul Baker offered to get more directly involved in Entomology if asked and the need arises.

The two positions for turfgrass scientists at the USDA water lab are still in the upcoming budget.

Gabe and Kai have grubs covered for any extension/research event. Deb Young and Silvertooth said that the USGS has two administrators (no worker bees yet) for the new Phenology Lab at the UA. Silvertooth said that insect and plant information for turf should be included with simple temperature threshold models (GDD, or similar as required).

Kopec will check with Robert Cassler for all existing turf publications. These are seriously out of date and updates and new extension bulletins are needed badly. Kopec will do 4 or 5 in the next 12 months:

- 1) Seeded Bermudagrass Lawns
 - 2) Overseeding Lawns
 - 3) Lawn Fertilization (Walworth/Kopec)
 - 4) Principles of Mowing a Lawn
- Others
- 5) Weed Control in Lawns (Umeda/Kopec)
 - 6) Turfgrass Insect Control (Gabe/Kai)
 - 7) Grass Management in Shaded Lawns (Kopec/Pessarakli)
 - 8) Fairy Ring Control (Gabe/Kai MMO)
 - 9) Basics of Lawn Irrigation (Gilbert)

Meeting ended at 5:15 pm.

Next meeting will be August 28, 2007, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon at Karsten. Please send your requested information as noted previously.

Thank you.
Kopec//out