

**Community IPM Leadership Team
Pinal County Extension Office
January 6, 2012**

In attendance: Bryan Stevens, Dawn Gouge, Al Fournier, Dave Kopec, Ursula Schuch, Paul Baker, Kai Umeda

I. Metro Tech Update

We started with our initial meeting with the school district personnel in September and did the site assessment. Since then, Bryan has had difficulty communicating with them. The district contact, Tony, is easy to reach, but the local school personnel are unresponsive. Kai, Bryan and Jeff Gilbert visited the school before holiday break for a follow-up irrigation tour. Bryan's assessment is that if we are to move ahead with this school, we would have to do everything on site or nothing will happen. We have invested time and energy into this, but have been unable to motivate personnel even to communicate back to Bryan. Bryan has been in touch with the district grounds manager and he put him off. We need to communicate with the school personnel, indicating a deadline for setting up a follow up meeting where we would present our findings from the assessment. What if we combine our assessment debrief with an education event involving other schools as well? We could do some hands on stuff with the trees and irrigation with perhaps half of the site or less. But put the onus on them to organize a date for this. Bryan expressed questions about whether, even if we do this, Metro Tech should be included as one of the sites that we come back as assess later. Should this be part of the data we collect? He is concerned that we could teach them things now that might not stick or really cause change at the site. This would be a practicum. We will let them know we will highlight all the good things they are doing right to their peers from other schools in the district (maybe also other school districts). This is a good time of year to do such a practicum, for tree management and probably for turf. To plan a practicum some scouting will be needed. We hope that this approach will bring the metro tech personnel in and increase their interest in interacting with us on this program.

Potential topics:

- Renovating beds
- Amendments
- Pruning trees and shrubs
- De-staking trees
- Irrigation: how the clock works

Bryan will approach Tony or someone at the district level to plan this. Approach the metro tech administration first – Dawn will contact the PR guy. We've done the assessment and we want to share results with you. First we need to, as a team, fill out the assessment instrument and score it. Be prepared to share this with them. Set a deadline for meeting with them. If they cannot meet, let's do it on a bigger scale as a workshop practicum. Dawn will submit for CEUs. Time frame of sometime in Feb would be good. Feb 17th or 21st. Dawn called Tony and he said these dates are okay and he is okay with inviting his district personnel and people from other school districts. Ursula: try to keep the group relatively small, around 20 people.

Before we visit the next school. What have we learned here? What should we do differently? Dawn suggests we do a debrief on the same day that we do the site assessment. Leave them with something tangible on the same day of our first visit. During the site assessment, do something

right there and then. Bring the pruners. As a team, we could go through the assessment questions that we've developed right now for Metro Tech and score them.

Action Items:

- Bryan will send Metro Tech a letter: option 1 is setting up a date for their assessment review; Option 2 is doing a larger scale practicum that will involve the full district (and possibly beyond). This will involve a letter to someone at the district level. During the meeting, Dawn called Tony and moved ahead with option 2. "Tony has already been contacted and this will be a great opportunity to showcase all the great things you are doing." Tony says that Metro Tech personnel will love this idea. Letter will have a deadline. Bryan will send a letter this afternoon to the Principle and key players should be copied on it.
- Dawn will put a promotional flyer together for the practicum and send to team members for review.
- Dawn will remind Tony about doing the indoor assessment at Metro Tech.
- The team needs to complete the assessment instrument for Metro Tech prior to the visit.
- Dave will have to pre-visit the site with Jeffery prior to the practicum to be prepared for this.

II. Catalina Foothills School District – Site assessment on Jan 27

Orange Grove Middle school and another middle school, will do site assessments Jan 27. Both will be done on the one day; ~2 hours for each school. Meet at Orange Grove MS: Bryan, Dave, Ursula will be there.

Bryan and Ursula met with district personnel and their pest control company and they showed great interest in our program. The next meeting, Bryan did initial interviews with school personnel and Ursula, Dave and Paul also participated. School principals are also on board. They are a very proactive school district.

III. Gilbert Unified Update

Bryan will send an email to Mark, the athletic fields manager for the district, making initial contact to set up a date to visit Highland HS. Bryan will keep us in the loop on this.

IV. Google Calendar

Kai and Bryan uses it, but others don't. We all have access to it. Let's start using it.

V. Blog (www.azipm.blogspot.com)

Bryan has made revisions based on input from the group. He has a turf page, urban pest page under construction, video page, and a school IPM page. He has added a tip-of-the-week page, in part to respond to the questions he fields each week. Bryan wants to start promoting the blog now. How can he get it linked and sent out? We suggested adding the link to his business card, doing a flyer or a bookmark that can be passed out.

Ursula will provide Bryan with some tips on roses. The team should put together a calendar: timely topics for the season. In some cases older pubs can be used or linked to, in some cases new information from team members will be needed. Team members should each look at what is important for each month. Last Sept as a group we discussed that we would develop a

calendar of what things happen when for turf, trees and school IPM. This would have value for the blog and beyond. Calendar should be statewide, because outdoor issues vary by location.

Calendar Development – brainstorming.

Any month – cockroaches, post emergent weed control, refill mulch,

- Jan – head lice, rodents, freeze protection, pruning, post emergence weed control for winter annual weeds in turf.
- Feb – pre-emergence weed control for turf and landscape, freeze protection and pruning.
- Mar- April – fertilizing and planting trees, shrubs, annuals and perennials, ant problems, effect of winter rains on insect populations, change irrigation clocks, poa annua weed control in all turfs, crane flies
- April – bugs exploding, termites, scorpions, carpenter bees, tent caterpillars, blister beetles, mesquite bugs, harvester ants and fire ants, paper wasps, spring grass green-up for non-overseeded turf, also post-emergent control of nonoverseeded weeds, fertilizer for overseeded turf, weed control of emerged summer annuals
- May – scorpions, paper wasps, false chinch bugs, pepsis wasps, outdoor cockroaches, grub beetle adults, brown dog ticks, all ants mentioned in april, adjust irrigation, fertilizing of annuals and perennials, prune spring flowering shrubs,
- June – Adjust irrigation, switch from rye back to Bermuda grass, high elevations summer turf maintenance begins, fertilizing of annuals and perennials, cicadas start. Same summer bugs, kissing bugs, prune spring flowering shrubs
- July – Dec will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Next: Bryan will send the half year calendar into an email to the team to identify what of these topics we have information developed for.

Bryan is on the subcommittee for communication for the IPM Coordinating Committee. This group will focus on social media and how to use it to get info out. In the short term it will be developing an approach for communicating impacts.

VI. City of Phoenix outdoor IPM Training session update

City of phoenix is working on getting \$1500 to UA to cover the payment for training. The funds will go into Kai's account. Bryan will follow up on current status. This will be a 6 CEU workshop as discussed in the previous meeting. General IPM, pesticide safety, turf health, emerging issues. Target audience is parks and rec. Dawn is coordinating.

We need to identify a date for this. April 10, 11, 12 and 26. Dawn will contact her contacts at City of Phoenix to confirm a date.

National Association of School Business Officials meeting is in Phoenix Oct 12-15. Dawn will be presenting on Bed bugs.

VII. Review of Last Year

Bryan wants input on how the creation of his position has worked out. How has the group functioned so far?

Dawn – Dawn was struggling to get back into schools, responding to disasters, since 2007. Her focus shifted to other areas. Dawn did little with schools since this time. This new team effort has enabled her to dedicate more time to schools, and it has given her more to report on in her APR. Now she has better justification for doing school IPM and she has reconnected to schools. Dawn and Ursula have always wanted to work together. This has created a vehicle for those collaborations.

Al – The team has come a long way but needs to make grant funding for Bryan a priority in the coming year.

[EPA Region 9 RFA will be coming out. They want to implement IPM in a tribal school. When that comes through, she will send it out to the group. Sounds like a good opportunity. Feb 16 deadline. Al will review the RFA with Bryan and help with the proposal.]

Paul – It has been a good experience. He still wants to see more outputs (for his APR). Plenty of activity, but we need more productivity.

Kai – We have come together and identified a lot of activities. But in between the meetings, there has been a lot of dead time. We are active but not productive. We need to be more proactive and more creative to get the job done. Each of us need to take better advantage of our contacts to move ahead with schools.

Dave – It is an eye-opener for him. There is more to it than the pest management. He is learning a lot. He is glad to be involved.

[Another potential grant opportunity may be the Water Resource Center. RFA just passed and they were all research projects; might not fit.]

Ursula – Expectations for year 1 may have been too high. She is thrilled to be working in the group now. Whenever you are starting something new and different, it will take some time and many steps along the way. We should not expand to other groups such as HOAs until we get going on the 4 schools we said we would do programs with.

Bryan – review of last year: it has been an eye-opener. You can't just tell how you are doing based on outputs. Bryan accepted the position because he saw it as a great opportunity to have impact. He thought he would hit the ground running, but that did not happen: we needed to plan out our goals and potential impacts. It has been a benefit bringing this group of individuals together. He expected there would be more cross-involvement among team members than he's seen. This last year has been difficult, though he enjoys the challenge, and being at the center of this group. This first year has had a learning curve to it. Things have taken longer than he thought. The coming year looks exciting. He is more comfortable with the group. He predicts there will be many outputs in 2012. At times there needs to be more activity or conversations between individual team members.

He would like to get more frequent feedback from group members on how the group is doing.

Paul suggested that when he develops something, a video or other output, send it out to the group for input.

VII. Goals for 2012

Time management: where should Bryan put his efforts?

Bryan will contact us and ask each of us for concrete goals for 2012.

Year Calendar of pest management/landscape care events for the public.

Find or develop funding opportunities for CIPM

VIII. PhD update

He wrote over break. He is looking for a defense date in April.

IX. Meeting Dates for Feb – July

March 6 – 9-1 f2f Pinal Extension Office.

May 4 – 9-1 f2f Pinal Extension Office.

July 2 – 9-1 f2f Pinal Extension Office.