

Community IPM Leadership Team Meeting (Conference Call)

When: Thursday 19th February 2015: 9-11 am



On the call: Dawn Gouge, Peter Warren, Kai Umeda, Paul Baker, Al Fournier, Shaku Nair, Lucy Li

Update on TUSD visit

Ursula and Shaku met with David Wilson, who is the Elementary and Custodial Supervisor at Tucson Unified School District on Feb 11th at Lineweaver Elementary School, Tucson. We gave them an overview of our School IPM Program and what is involved, as well as the Agreement document, and survey questions. We gave several examples of our activities at our other program school sites, and also the types of events we offer. David is new to his current position, so is eager to see how the program works. They have several challenges, being understaffed is definitely one of them. Pest management is currently done by licensed in-house technicians who mainly deal with indoor, and some outdoor issues (e.g., bees and wasps), and what they cannot handle (e.g., wildlife) is tackled by outside vendors. Pima Co. Health has not been able to help them much. They do get some volunteer help from parents and some other organizations, e.g. pigeon-proofing.

David has concerns about how the rest of his colleagues will respond to our program. He will go over the materials we provided, and talk to his colleagues and let us know when they are ready for a second meeting.

Dawn: We can start with areas in which they are willing to work with us, such as turf, landscape, etc. and use an incremental approach.

Paul: It is important to make it clear up front, what is involved in our program, and what the school has to commit to, if not, it may affect the sustainability of the effort.

Al: Try to arrange a second meeting, if possible involving Dave and Kai, so that the school can get an idea about what we can offer regarding the outdoor environment.

Kai: Also try to involve PeterW's contact (teacher) at Santa Rita High, see whether that would help us to get better response.

Shaku will follow up with David Wilson and try to set up the second meeting.

Update on turf painting study

Kai has set up a study using four types of turf paint, on the baseball field at Brimhall Junior High, Mesa. Painting of turf is an excellent alternative to overseeding greens for winter color. Painting dormant bermudagrass on baseball and softball fields could reduce labor, overseed, water and fertilizer costs. The green paint helps to warm up the turf and encourage dormant bermudagrass to start growth in the spring.

The school district staff – Ed Stallard and Micah Williams were present, and were very interested and cooperative. Kai suggested having a two-hour 'Demo event' at this site, for school landscape and turf managers where they can inspect the painted field, and ask questions. Shaku is coordinating with Micah about permissions to hold the event. Kai will inspect the field early next week, and if the paint is holding up in good condition, and the school cooperates, we will go ahead with the event – potential dates are March 4th or 5th. Kai will also develop an estimate of the economics of this technique and let us know.



Some photos from the turf painting study. Note the painted and un-painted areas in bottom right photo.

Handbook bulk printing

Several options for bulk printing the handbook were discussed.

Paul: First, we should print a set of good, bookstore-quality copies, after making necessary formatting or technical edits. Then we could approach several companies such as BASF, FMC, Dupont, etc. to see if they would be willing to underwrite the printing costs. The fact that the book is already completed would be an advantage. Paul has contacts, and can help us to showcase the book.

Shaku: Since the book has WIPMC/Coop extension associations, we will check with CALS CE for any objections/problems.

Al: Will bring up the subject on his call with WIPMC next Monday. Shaku to send at least the online copy to Jim Farrar by then. WIPMC may have some funds that can be used for printing, especially if those funds need to be used within a certain time frame. Would lack of management measures be an issue?

Paul: We should check with CE to see whether funds are available, and if not, if we may approach external agencies for printing.

Dawn: We should submit the book into our system for a number (CALS CE publication). We should also mention that the book is being recognized as a resource by the ADA-OPM for their exams, and the exams are in September, and this makes it important for bulk printed copies to be made available.

Paul: Grants may also be available specifically for this purpose.

Dawn: We have received requests for addition of management information to be added to the online publication. If we are submitting a grant, including this request, it should be a 2-year project, not 1. Potential sources might be EPA via ADA – contact Paul Brown/Patti B regarding inclusion of management information.

Upcoming events

- School nurses training, Apache Junction – Feb 25th
- Stop School Pests event – March 3rd
- 8th IPM Symposium – March 22-27th
- ITCA School IPM Training – May 6, 7th: The event has now been moved to Ak Chin, from Scottsdale. Agenda is still not finalized. May 6th clashes with the Annual Turf Field Day event – this has been informed to them.

Next meeting/call: April, Shaku will send out Doodle