

## Southern Region IPM Center Advisory Council Meeting Report

April 20, 2005 Raleigh, North Carolina

### Attending:

John Anderson, Robert Beach, Amber Davis, Jonathan Edelson, Larry Elworth, Mike Fitzner, Tom Fuchs, Jennifer Gillett, Debbie Hamrick, Carrie Harmon, Ames Herbert, Jennifer Hodorowicz, Clayton Hollier, Ted Holmes, Sara Hoffman, Steve Hopkins, Jimo Ibrahim, Doug Johnson, Mark Mossler, Steve Muench, Pat O'Leary, Lane Price, Earl Tryon, Jim VanKirk, Debby Weschler, Eric Young

### Wednesday, April 20, 2005

#### Updates from last meeting

- Grants programs
  - IPM Enhancement Grants Program (formerly Center Grants). Approximately 50 percent of SRIPMC budget, this grant is open for anyone to apply to. Application deadline was April 1, 2005, and the review panel will meet in May. Jim wants to move the timing of this grant up so that the review is complete before the spring Advisory Council meeting. The Center implemented an electronic submission system and will continue to use it.
  - S-RIPM: The Center manages the competition for USDA with \$835,000 available. FY2005 competition: Deadline December 1, 2004. Had 47 proposals submitted and funded 8 which spanned 5 states.
  - Other projects we support- IPM Center Network in Puerto Rico (Mossler, FL), Mating Disruption for Management of Lesser Peachtree Borer in the Southeastern U.S. (Horton, GA), Multi-state Methyl Bromide alternatives training (Louws, NC), Regional fire ant management publication (Fuchs, TX), Soybean Rust Tour Participation for AG Consultants, National IPM Symposium support
  - Other grants we have submitted – Pink Hibiscus Mealy Bug (National critical issues, subcontracts to Florida, Illinois) IPM CRSP (US AID\$ for International Work, Planning grant for invasive species, Data management project)
  - Website – not done yet, but working on it
- **State Contacts**
  - Discussed in last steering committee meeting – are the funds being used appropriately? The question was - there are approximately \$300K for State Contacts, is it being used to its highest advantage? For FY04 we awarded approximately \$175K to State Contacts.
  - AC charges the Steering Committee (SC) to discuss the expenditure if Center funds for the response to regulatory questions, and consider if this money is being used appropriately and to the highest value to the Center. Need to consider the cost versus the value.

- **Recap of the fall Steering Committee meeting**
  - Discussion – need for members to better understand how the Center operates and what its priorities are. The SC looked back over the SWOT analysis and determined the biggest weakness is a lack of priorities and priority setting, and a lack of defined goals of the Center. Took action to remedy this by establishing subcommittees including a priority subcommittee, bylaw subcommittee and website subcommittees. Have made substantial progress since last meeting with these subcommittees. In addition, the SC approved \$4,999 to support the National IPM Symposium.
- **Federal Budget Overview**
  - [Link to budget table](#)
  - Biggest changes this year that could have profound affect on the Centers:
    - Hatch Act – proposed 50% cut for 2006 with proposed 0 in 2007.
    - Special Research Grants – cuts
    - NRI and State Ag – received a big push, more money
    - Section 406 – all zeros
    - Smith-lever – funding still good.
    - Total line for agency looks pretty good.
  - It currently looks like the money is moved to either NRI or the State Agricultural Experiment Stations Competitive Grants, so it isn't gone, it is just moved.
  - There are some dangers with the proposed budget, i.e. Congress approves 406 zero out but doesn't increase NRI.
  - If Hatch is decreased 50% and then 50% again the next year the land grants would be in a lot of trouble. Researchers and others in real danger if this happens.
- **SERA003**
  - This group been around for a while, and are a very tightly knit group used to determine extension and research programs. The group is primarily made up of IPM Coordinators from states and researchers.
  - At the last meeting the SERA003 group recommended the following to the SRIPM Center:
    - Allow 60 days between RIPM grant announcement and the proposal due date.
    - Include more information in RFA to help potential submitters to determine if potential projects fit within SRIPM priorities.
    - Provide a listing of previously funded Extension project.
    - Develop and/or enforce reporting requirements.
  - SERA003 participants also recommended funding priorities for the SRIPM Center. The following priorities were selected as the top priorities from a list of 12 suggested priorities but are listed in no certain order:
    - IPM evaluations/assessments (economic, environmental etc)
    - Community IPM including school/landscape/structural IPM
    - Invasive species

- Biologically-based IPM
    - Emerging pest problems in agricultural systems
  - These recommendations will be brought to the Steering Committee meeting for review.
- **IPM Florida Structure**
  - [Link to handout](#)
  - The goal of the program is not to own something, but rather they are trying to build partnerships and bridge gaps. Want to optimize opportunities for others to get together.
- **NRCS – Conservation Security Program**
  - CSP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy, plant and animal life, and other conservation purposes on Tribal and private working lands. Working lands include cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture, and range land, as well as forested land that is an incidental part of an agriculture operation. The program is available in all 50 States, the Caribbean Area and the Pacific Basin area. The program provides equitable access to benefits to all producers, regardless of size of operation, crops produced, or geographic location.
  - <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp>
- **Soybean Rust and Brazil Tour**
  - [Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)
  - Planning a soybean rust short course during the first week of June. Hands-on to train the trainers.
  - Questions to consider – is this course smart? Who should go? Should this be implemented?
  - Should the Center help sponsor individuals to go to this training? Think there will be enough going into this from every direction so we shouldn't have to fund but Center should be connected to it in some way (logo etc)
- **Setting SRIPMC Priorities**
  - Priorities Subcommittee met yesterday and came up with the following priorities (Red = Advisory Council Recommendation)
  - IPM Roadmap: We should focus strongly on agricultural IPM, address Community IPM but at a somewhat lower priority. IPM for Natural Areas will not be a priority of this Center at this time.  
**At this time we rank them as 1. Agriculture, 2. Community, 3. Natural Areas.**
  - IPM Roadmap: We will address all 3 risk issues mentioned in the roadmap (economic, environmental, health), without focusing on one in particular  
**Agreed**
  - RIPM – include or add a strong emphasis on the impact of IPM programs  
**Agreed**

- Academic support: we will continue to support “Extension education” – CEUs, distance learning, etc. We will **not** expend significant resources on IPM education in the traditional, on-campus, degree-related sense.

Agreed and will de-emphasize the academics section of the website.

- Multi-state/single state: We will allow single state proposals in the IPM Enhancement Grants Program. Core resources can be used for single state, at staff discretion.

Agreed

- In RFAs, we won't make particular distinctions on: other sources of funding; if it is a crisis (other than in the critical and emerging funds); major crop/ minor crop, etc.

Agreed

- PMSPs – do we support them with “points” in IPM Enhancement Program?

In granting programs we don't want to award additional points for citing PMSPs as evidence of stakeholder identified needs. The grant writer needs to have language in the RFA that cites strong evidence of stakeholder identified needs and the Center needs to provide guidelines on what is considered to be acceptable stakeholder identified needs.

- **Generating a Less-Restrictive Funds Account**

- Want to get funds to support items such as marketing, outreach etc.
- AC advises the SC to encourage Center staff to pursue additional funding opportunities and unrestricted funds.
- Need to consider where the money goes if the Center moves, does it go with the Center or does it go to NC State? The Center needs to set guidelines and regulations for these accounts and then discuss with AC and SC again.

- **SRIPMC fy2006 Proposal and Plan of Work**

- Budget was submitted and will go into effect on Sept. 16, we don't envision any particular changes from the past year.
- Center review in March 2006 – will have a self study put together by each individual Center, and will have a panel brought in to discuss and review.

- **Publication Strategy**

- Current: Southern Exposure a monthly publication. Distributed to over 200 individuals throughout the southern region and across the country. Includes CSREES, Ag Experiment Station Directors, IPM Coordinators etc. On average receives 300+ hits per month (excluding Center staff) Available on SRIPMC website.
- Proposed Changes: Move Southern Exposure to a quarterly publication rather than monthly. Benefits: more in depth articles, possible printed copies, more feature and success stories, more individual profiles, more opportunities for individual states to submit stories and articles. Will remain online, and looking into printed copies available upon request

- Introduce News Flash. Distributed Monthly, continually update with current news, available online, contains hard news only, shorter.
- Examples of information included in NewsFlash: Budget Updates, Deadlines (i.e. IPM Symposium), Invasive species updates, Grants updates, Director's updates.
- Council approves this change in the publication strategy.
- **Next Meeting:**
  - March 15, 2006
  - Will consider rotating location of meetings. Center will look into other options and if there is a benefit to going somewhere else we will consider it.
  - Tentative fall meeting: October 19, 2006
- **Grants Review Program**
  - Recommend a stronger reporting process for those awarded grants.
  - Suggestion – a one-pager put on the SRIPMC website so that people can review it and determine if they have further interest in the program.
  - Will make a one-page report, submitted electronically, a condition of the grant. If it is not completed it will show as No Report.
- **Advisory Council Membership Guidelines**
  - [Link to working document](#)
  - Motion to accept the working document approved
  - Norm Leppla moves to current Chair
  - Carrie Harmon voted as Chair Elect
  - SERA 003 suggest their chair, chair elect and secretary automatically be part of council, and SERA 003 will recommend 4 other individuals from the group. Also recommend a minimum of 2 permanent positions on the SC. Recommend: Pat Parkman, Clayton Hollier, Henry Fadimiro, Ames Herbert, Norm Leppla, Jonathan Edelson, Tom Fuchs
  - Advisory Council makes a recommendation to the Steering Committee to set the guidelines of the steering committee and consider the recommendation of SERA 003
  - Center staff will draw straws or look at list and decide the 3-year rotation with rotation starting now instead of January 1.
- **Regional Conferences**
  - Is there an interest? Should we look into this more?
  - No strong interest now, and need to have an interest before we can pursue.