

**Advisory Council Meeting  
November 27, 2007**

**Attending:** Henry Fadamiro, Sherry Glick, Robert Beach, Harold Lambert, Pat O'Leary, Ples Spradley, L. Washington Lyons, Clayton Hollier, Steve Muench, Eric Young, Earl Tryon, Ames Herbert, Pat Parkman, John Mayne, Carrie Harmon, Harold Coble, John Aselage, Carol Somody, Bob Bellinger, Mike Weaver, Steve Toth, Jim VanKirk, Yulu Xia, Ron Stinner, Rosemary Hallberg.  
**By phone:** Dave Close, Norm Leppla. **Wednesday:** Dave Monks

**“What I Need from the Center” Activity**

Jim asked attendees to give one sentence about what they needed either from the Advisory Council meeting. Following is a list of the responses:

- Learn how the Center and its funding works
- Make sure USDA realizes the priorities for cotton and get ideas from non-cotton experts to see about cross-pollination
- Learn about funding opportunities for IPM for minor or nontraditional crops and to see how Arkansas' state IPM program can be more involved with the Center
- Learn about the hot IPM topics at USDA and EPA, what is being funded, and to introduce a new product to see if there is interest
- Learn about collaboration and opportunities for grants and sustainable programs; help the Center move ahead with collaborations
- Help communicate to the PDNs what is new and important for the region for diagnosis, and help for developing funding
- Continue and expand IPM facilitation and representation to and from the federal government and the stakeholders; to pick everyone's brains about what to do with the transition of CIPM
- Keep abreast of what's happening from an IPM perspective to make sure we're not duplicating services and research
- To find out the approach that sustainable programs can take to IPM
- Find opportunities to become more involved in funding; learn more about regional priorities
- Get ideas about a focus of information on IPM in the region; get an update on Center projects
- Want the Center to be a regional coordinator for IPM and an information source for priorities; learn about priorities for IPM in the region and the future direction for SRIPMC.
- Need help capturing and putting out impact statements; stay updated on issues and means for addressing those issues (funding opportunities, getting the job done)
- Get a general update on issues and directions on a national level, what the Center is doing and how we can guide it
- Help develop priorities, learn from other members what their needs are; learn about grant funding and gather information to capture advances in IPM
- Have continued funding and provide logistic support to promote IPM in Alabama; have a productive meeting that accomplishes its goals and priorities
- Represent stakeholder groups; get feedback on current activities and direction on future activities
- Need a conduit of information to the field
- Want information about grant funding and information about other types of grant funds, and access to IPM promotional materials
- See how the Master Gardeners can partner with SRIPMC to go beyond traditional crop pests to pests on home gardens and landscapes
- Develop more coordination with other states, find other needs and finance work; bring people together from different groups

## **Center Progress Overview**

*Personnel changes:* Jeanne Bachelor retired October 1. Yulu Xia, who has been with CIPM for several years, has taken her role. Ron went into phased retirement July 1.

*Membership rotation:* Jim mentioned that there were some issues about AC member rotation that the committee would discuss later in the meeting.

*USDA Grant for the Regional Center:* Jim reported that our proposal to keep the Southern Region IPM Center was successful and that it was the highest rated proposal. We are funded until September 14, 2011 unless Congress decides to stop funding the regional Centers.

*Grants programs:* Contracts for the Regional IPM grant (S-RIPM) were finalized in September. For the first time, an IPM evaluation type was funded. For our Center Enhancement Grants, we are moving up the deadlines for submission to the end of January.

*IPM PIPE:* There is a competition for new components for the PIPE, new this year. The due date for proposals is December 7.

*Project accountability:* We now have a cradle-to-grave project management system. The system actually holds data on a project from the release of the RFA to the publishing of impact reports. The state contacts were the first to use this system to submit progress reports.

*Grantsmanship workshop:* We had a successful grantsmanship workshop at Clemson last year and hoped to do another one around the Gulf Coast. However, due to scheduling issues, we have postponed it indefinitely until we find a more convenient date.

*School PMSP:* This PMSP workshop was led by Tom Green and funded by a grant from USDA.

*IPM Training in Public Housing:* The four regional IPM Centers are collaborating on a project with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The project involves training in each region on pest management in public housing. The Northeastern IPM Center is in charge of administering funding, and we are providing a list of potential trainers. This is an exciting opportunity to collaborate with a federal agency that we have not had much interaction with before.

## **Regulatory Activities**

Steve presented a Powerpoint presentation on the region's regulatory activities.

In response to a question about the production of PMSPs, Steve explained that PMSPs can be directed by anyone who submits a proposal. Last year, several researchers coordinated PMSPs. However, state contacts are in charge of setting priorities for PMSPs based on feedback from people in their states. State contacts are also in charge of setting priorities for crops in their states.

State Contacts have also been providing a list of experts in their state, which has been very helpful when we are looking for people to put on grant panels.

## **CIPM Transition Update**

Ron Stinner discussed the history of the NSF Center for IPM, the entity that manages the grant for the Southern Region IPM Center. The Center for IPM, or CIPM, has been around since 1961. CIPM has managed several grants, including the Southern Region IPM Center. CIPM manages about \$20 million dollars, some of which come from the IPM PIPE.

CIPM responds to an industry advisory board and is also a department in the College of Agriculture. CIPM serves as a repository for pest information and receives funding to set up information networks in several countries. One of the projects that had the potential to be assigned to CIPM was EPA's Strategic Ag Initiative, but EPA has kept the project and assigned new team members.

Last year, CIPM started the "Communications in IPM," meetings to bring together people who have differing perspectives about a given topic. So far there have been two Conversations: IPM and Risk Management, and Food Summit or production with Tom Green. Two Conversations coming up this year include IPM as part of strategies for corporate responsibility, and Pesticides in the Urban Environment.

Because Ron will be retiring in a couple of years, CIPM is in transition. Ron asked for people to serve on a strategic planning committee for CIPM to look at where CIPM is going and how that will impact the Southern IPM Center.

### **Project Management System**

Ron talked about the project management system in detail.

The system begins with the RFA. Once proposals are in, panel members can be entered and can view and score the proposals online. When the project is over, the system sends out an e-mail asking for a report. The PIPE is using pretty much the same system. The system is secure, so that only the grants managers can see who was on the panel and the comments they made on their proposal. The system is being used by all four IPM Centers, but each Center has its own system on a separate server.

All of the Center's systems link back to an interagency database ([projects.ipm.gov](http://projects.ipm.gov)).

### **Friends of IPM Nominations**

The Advisory Committee enthusiastically endorsed all six nominations. A subcommittee was formed to meet that evening to decide on the categories of awards each would receive.

Several committee members made some suggestions to encourage more entries next year:

- Release the Call for Nominations at least two months in advance
- Reconsider self-nominations?
- Make the categories more specific

The subcommittee that was formed will also meet in 2008 to make a set of recommendations for the next competition. Those recommendations will be presented to the Advisory Council in the summer meeting.

The subcommittee consists of Clayton Hollier, Mike Weaver, Bob Bellinger, John Mayne

### **Wednesday, November 28, 2007**

#### **SYSCO**

Jim explained that the IPM Centers are involved in discussions with SYSCO about sustainability. The directors of all four Centers have been invited to a training in Florida February 20, co-hosted by SRIPMC.

The ultimate hope with our relationship with SYSCO is that SYSCO will become more involved in supporting IPM and possibly in supporting the Centers financially. Some of the other

representatives from the Southern Region involved in assisting SYSCO with the meeting are Glades Crop Care and Norm Leppla at the University of Florida.

### **Communications Report**

Rosemary reported that the Center is collaborating with the other three regional IPM Centers to produce a National IPM Centers publication. This is in response to several suggestions that have been made during past Center reviews. USDA representatives also like to have things that they can hand out to people.

#### **Discussion:**

- Length of document should be determined by audience. For policymakers, the document should be brief.
- The writers should consider the motivation behind doing the publication: to promote the Centers to Congress or to try to keep Center budgets intact.
- Deans and directors need to receive this document. David Monks suggested sending it to a group of deans and directors who meet every year. According to him, if we feel we have a real need, they will take that message to Washington.
- After a few members raised concern about possible funding issues for the Center, Jim reassured everyone that the Center funding is not currently in jeopardy.
- The AC agreed that the Center should continue with the publications project, keeping in mind the advice given during the meeting.

Another publication issue mentioned was the article in the newsletter written by Norm Leppla and Ames Herbert about the responsibilities of IPM coordinators. Several on the committee felt that the article should be sent directly to Extension directors, perhaps with an introductory paragraph by Marty Draper. Ames suggested that a few administrators, such as Eric Young and Dave Monks, should look at the survey and the article before they are released to anyone else. The other IPM Centers may be interested in the survey as well.

#### **Updates from Committee Members:**

**EPA:** Sherry Glick from the EPA Office of Air Quality in Las Vegas sat in for Tom Brennan. She represents the EPA in the western region but also works with the regional school IPM workgroups, including ours. She reported on a couple of funding opportunities:

- The Community Action for Renewed Environment, [www.epa.gov/care](http://www.epa.gov/care), and
- the Office of Children's Health, [www.epa.gov/ochp](http://www.epa.gov/ochp).

**Southern Plant Diagnostic Network** (Carrie Harmon): The Plant Diagnostic Networks have been approved for another 5 years. They are streamlining information from all of the PDNs under [www.npdn.org](http://www.npdn.org), and the southern portal is [www.sepdn.org](http://www.sepdn.org). Carrie reported that the PDNs are also working with the Bugwood network to add images on pathogens and pests that have been studied in the past year. Bugwood will add them to their current image database, which is searchable. The database will also expand to include international diseases, some of which are not currently in the US. Bugwood is also working on a fungi list.

**VA State Contact** (Mike Weaver): Mike's group had their first experience putting together an IPM elements document. He decided to try IPM elements because he saw them as a resource that growers can use. Besides IPM Institute and SYSCO, other states are doing elements as well, such as New York and Massachusetts. The elements document includes pre-plant practices, pesticide practices, insect, disease and weed management and then education. Groups that want to work with them on elements include beekeepers, Christmas tree growers, wine grape growers and turf growers.

**Comments:** Carol Somody commented that 70-80 percent of the elements document is not state specific and asked if elements documents were a national effort. Jim replied that there was no organized national effort, but individual efforts have been led by Tom Green of IPM Institute and SYSCO Corporation. Carol expressed concern that these efforts may not be supporting growers as much as they could be.

**Earl Tryon:** Earl has invented a plastic film that can become an IPM tool. As of July 24, the film has a US patent. He explained that the film is impregnated with pyrethrum and so has significant impacts in agriculture and as a termite barrier.

**VA IPM Coordinator (Ames Herbert):** Ames' group has counted 6 pest species in Virginia and are working on managing them with less toxic insecticides. They also hope to develop an ID guide of stinkbug adults, nymphs and eggs.

### **Opinion article**

Suggestions on topics for the opinion article, to be incorporated in the next newsletter:

The three topics suggested for next year's newsletters were GMOs, the ultimate goal of IPM programs, and buffer zone issues between neighboring residents and growers.

Genetically modified plants and public concern: Sherry will send note, Dr. Bill Moar, John Anderson, Leanord Geonessy, Chuck Benbrook

Ultimate goal of IPM Programs: Tom Fuchs, Dale Betraytus, Tom Green, Mike Fitzner, Tom Brennan

Buffer zones: perspectives of growers and their neighbors: Mike Weaver

### **IPM Enhancement**

Jim explained that the Center was moving up the dates for IPM Enhancement Grant release so that the grants would start at the same time that the Center grant starts. So, unlike previous years, proposals would be due in January, and contracts would begin in March.

Jim raised two questions:

1. Should the RFA change, or stay the same?
2. Should we adjust the state contact cap for inflation above the current \$25,000 limit?

Issues with raising the cap:

- NC State takes indirects out of the first \$25,000 of subcontracts, so raising the cap would mean fewer state contacts.

### **Discussion:**

How are the funds used in other regions? (Carol Somody)

Answer: the North Central region has no state contacts, the other regions do; however EPA has more requests of western and southern regions.

The program is a good one, and while raising the limits has the benefits of keeping up with salary costs, there are also fewer funds going into it. (Ames Herbert)

One suggestion at the state contact meeting was to fund projects for three years at a time, but NC State's administration will not allow more than a one-year contract.

The final decision was to keep the limits as they are currently.

### ***ipmPIPE***

Because of additional funds granted by Risk Management Agency for soybean rust this year, \$1 million will be used for a new competitive grant program for this year. Proposals are due December 3. Proposals should be for a new component for the ipmPIPE and must cover the costs of programming and other material costs.

The issues with the ipmPIPE include:

- Risk Management Agency funds only development and not maintenance, so there is no certainty that they will fund soybean rust in 2009.
- There was money allocated in an Appropriations bill, but Congress voted it out.

### **Suggestions:**

- CIPM is planning to organize a summit with presidents of agriculture, presidents of the soybean board, and perhaps Congressional aides.
- Harold Lambert suggested concentrating on overwintering of soybean rust, as that is still being researched.

### **Steering Committee Membership**

Jim asked for advice on what to do about the IR-4 seat. The problem is that no representative from IR-4 has ever come to the Steering Committee meeting, so when we need a quorum, we have to factor in that seat; yet Jerry Baron has asked us to keep the seat.

### **Suggestions:**

- Keep the seat but leave it vacant (Ames Herbert)
- Find someone who will show up (Steve Muench)
- Make the position an ex-officio member so it doesn't factor into the quorum (Harold Coble)

**END OF MEETING**