

**Advisory Council meeting
June 14-15, 2010**

Present: Lora Lee Schroeder, Tom Brennan, Carlos Bogran, Don Parker, Ames Herbert, Doug Johnson, Keith Douce, Harold Coble, Clayton Hollier, Tom Royer, Jim VanKirk, Steve Muench, Mike Weaver, Steve Toth, Bob Bellinger, Russell Duncan, Fudd Graham, Rosemary Hallberg, Danesha Seth Carley, Paul Smith, Sandy Sferrazza, Uttara Koranne, Caydee Savinelli, L. Washington Lyons, Charles Allen, Jeff Tomberlin, John Mayne, Dave Close (by phone)

Center Update

Enhancement Grants: Slides are available in the handouts.

RFAs were released on December 14, 2009, and deadline for submission is February 15. For Part 1, funds awarded were \$224, 482; for part 2 it was \$114,623.

Regulatory Activities:

- Continue to be involved in methyl bromide CUE process.
- IPM Documents

406 Issue

CAR, RAMP, Methyl Bromide Transitions, IPM Centers, and Organic Transitions make up the “IPM Suite” in Section 406 of the Congressional budget. The programs were in response to the Food Quality Protection Act.

When the President’s budget came out, the 406 line was zeroed out. Money was moved into AFRI without the programs.

Responses:

- Jim sent out an e-mail to stakeholders
- Several stakeholders have been supportive

Last week, as part of the IPM Center Directors’ meeting in Washington, DC, we met with three representatives of NIFA’s leadership. The Director of NIFA has received calls from the deputy administrator for Agriculture and the Director of the EPA concerning the loss of the 406 programs.

The President’s budget is created within the agency, so this change is part of USDA’s long-range plan.

Center’s last year will be September 2010-Sept. 2011. After that, the Center will get a no-cost extension through August 31, 2012.

IPM Voice

IPM Voice has started sending e-mails. There is a Steering Committee now, and within that there will be an Advisory Board. There are talking points on the back of the handout. We're hoping that our private sector partners will speak up for us.

Mike Fitzner suggested that we come up with a dream house plan. If NIFA had a good idea presented to them about IPM, they might use it as a starting point. Jim V. and Harold Coble are tasked to come up with a list of bullet points to start out with.

Homework assignment: if you had \$35 million to build an IPM program, what would it look like? Think about the functions that need to be done more than the present structure.

This dream house document is going to decision-makers deciding on the AFRI budget. The time is right for a reorganization of the IPM structure. Think about this in terms of what outcomes should be achieved, and what it would take to get to those outcomes.

ipmPIPE Update

Risk Management Agency has granted \$1.5 million to the ipmPIPE. About \$1 million will go to Oregon State to Western Specialty Crop PIPE. About half million will support the legume PIPE.

A new Onion PIPE was funded by Specialty Crops Research Initiative.

The new AFRI RFA has a section for Wide Area Pest Monitoring that appears to be written for a PIPE-like project.

OPMP Update (Harold Coble)

OPMP has a new director, Dr. Cheryl Kunickis. She has on-the-ground experience and more of an environmental approach to issues.

OPMP is continuing to work with EPA on registration review. They are also working with EPA on spray drift and herbicide resistance and NPDES.

Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) Update (Danesha Seth Carley)

NRCS put together a survey of conservation practices on cropland across the US. The survey contained several IPM questions that were added to the original surveys. The IPM questions are included on the yellow sheet.

The report on the Upper Mississippi River basin report has been completed and will be posted this week.

NRCS wants to look at IPM practices within a regional cropping system. Evaluations are based on a rating scale of "high," "medium" and "low."

The questions are the ones that NASS used in the last survey of IPM practices. Danesha hopes to get into the dataset and dig out data that will produce results.

ACTION ITEM: Harold and Danesha will look into what is involved in pulling out data by state.

Homescapes Initiative (Danesha Seth Carley)

The idea for this initiative started a couple of years ago when Jim V was wondering what to plant in his yard that didn't need a lot of maintenance. The grand plan was that someday everyone would be able to punch in their area code and find out what to plant in their yards.

Progress so far:

- Danesha has contacted everyone who said they had wanted to be involved.
- They have a draft and will have phone conference to ratify what was in the draft.

Success Story: Mosquito Resistance program and Education (Jeff Tomberlin)

There were two programs: one to develop mosquito abatement program, and the other to develop educational materials.

Background: overuse of insecticides resulted in mosquito insecticide resistance.

Objectives were to monitor mosquito resistance and determining proper timing for alternating chemistries. By getting people on a rotation schedule, they were able to reduce resistance by half. With a PCR test, they were able to tell which ones were resistant.

The educational team developed a booklet for schools. The team also developed placemats that some restaurants used for children. The team developed booklets on fleas, insects, spiders, ticks and creepy crawly creatures.

Some of the impacts they have measured so far include:

- About 150,000 people who came to the display at the San Antonio Rodeo
- About 4,000 students have been taught through the educational program
- Elementary Insects websites has videos for teachers to download, and there are almost 20,000 downloads per year.

Jeff is working on broader impacts with the program. He is trying to get other videos from extension that would be resources for teachers.

Website: mosquitosafari.tamu.edu.

Evaluation of IPM

Danesha will look at the projects we have funded and tease out impacts.

Jim V. is considering requiring logic models in grant RFAs. Ames: the most difficult part of the logic model is measuring the impacts. Some is not possible to measure in a 12-month period.

Friends of IPM Award

Call for Nominations is in September; awards are made in November. Awards are presented in front of peers.

The awards have a “multiplier” effect as often there are groups at the award ceremony that are not involved in IPM and learn more about the IPM program and the Center.

June 15, 2010

Tomato and Pepper PMSP (David Riley)

David R. wanted to apply for a RAMP grant but realized that a PMSP was a requirement. There was no PMSP for either tomato or pepper in any states from Florida to North Carolina. Tomato spotted wilt virus causes thousands of dollars in losses every year.

He drafted the documents so attendants at the meeting could go through it quickly.

Documents were posted August 2007. Pepper PMSP was posted later because pepper specialists thought that pepper hadn't been given enough attention and they needed to get more input.

The incentives to go after the RAMP grant were good for the program. Growers like to hear that you're looking at the bigger picture. The good will after that could not be measured. He formed good relationships with the other specialists as well.

One of the reasons to combine the two was to extend those dollars. Doing both separately would have been more difficult financially.

Having the meeting at the Fruit and Vegetable Growers meeting meant there were more growers.

If there's a way to increase funding for PMSPs, the benefits are huge. It's the perfect Extension activity.

NIFA Update

Open Funding Opportunities:

- Organic Transitions (July 1)

- Expert IPM Decision Support System (July 6)
- Wide Area Pest Monitoring (August 11)

There is almost \$6 million that comes through NIFA and goes out to their partners.

The general environment at NIFA is “the great transition”: big outcomes, consolidating programs and big projects. Congress is way behind, so there is a talk of a continuing resolution lasting for a whole year. In that case, we would revert back to the previous year’s budget.

The Center Directors met last week with the deputy directors at NIFA, and Merle Broussard asked the group to ask about what would happen if we reinvented the IPM funding line, what would it look like so NIFA could best address the needs of its stakeholders.

Questions: how far should that plan go, who should have input on it, and whom should it go to? The ideas should flow through the Center and come to Mike Fitzner directly. They could also structure a formal listening session as they had for the EIPM program. For the moment, suggestions could come to Mike directly.

Work through APLU, Extension Directors and research directors on this.

Input Needed: Marty Draper presented a proposal to move the Extension dollars in RIPM to the EIPM program. There is \$653,000 that currently go out through the RIPM RFA. Several groups, including some IPM Coordinators and APLU suggested that the funds be moved. The original reason for putting the funds into RIPM was to have research and Extension faculty work together. Now the problem is that the research members of the community aren’t as interested in RIPM, and NIFA has a lot of programs that offer integrated funding, like 406 and AFRI.

Comments:

- The idea of merging CAR, RAMP, and other IPM funds makes a lot of sense. (Ames) Centers allow for local flavor in terms of stakeholders and assessing and managing the grant funding. Merging funding for 406 programs would absorb what is offered through RIPM. Mike: the movement of Extension funds into RIPM is independent of the IPM restructuring.
- Reason to keep the Extension dollars in RIPM is to keep the local flavor. Otherwise, it will be handled nationally.
- If the dollars are moved to EIPM, they would be used to support the coordination part, not the support. How important is it that every state in the region have an IPM Coordinator?
- This is the only source we have to develop Extension products.
- Question about 1-year vs 3-year proposals: the money in the 2011 budget will be used to fund the 2nd year of the projects that applied for 3 years.

- The argument for doing it is that diverted money looks bad when you're asking for more money from Congress.
- There is a new system to go online for reporting: REport. It will allow the ability to make stronger reports in there.

Input Needed: NIFA is looking for input on whether or not it is important to maintain the network of EIPM projects in every state or not.

Other partnerships include:

- Pesticide Education Project
 - HUD partnership
 - National Plant Diagnostic Network
 - Mexico is developing SCOPE, their version of the ipmPIPE.
 - Citrus greening
 - Organics
 - Haite earthquake response: Kitty Cardwell is looking for people who know French or Creole.
 - Herbicide resistance
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- Grantsmanship workshop is being planned for the SCRI grant in September.
 - There were 100 people who attended the AFRI listening session and 100 written comments. There will be a record posted on the web in the next month or so and will be a summary.

EPA Update

Types of projects funded by PESP: There are several IPM projects within that program. Land grants and tribal entities qualify. PESP has funded projects involving agriculture, school and urban IPM. They have a new website called PestWise:
www.epa.gov/pestwise.

EPA has four grant vehicles that they manage:

- SAI for minor crops
- PRIA2 – covers ag and non-ag
- PESP – covers ag and non-ag.
- Biodemonstration grant: field demonstrations of registered products.

Grant announcements: to pest managers,

ACTION ITEM for EPA: Add everyone in the Advisory Council to the mailing list for PESP.

Quarterly reports are required for PESP.

SERA-3 Update

SERA-3 is one of the Center's priority stakeholders because IPM Center priorities come directly from the SERA-3 priorities.

The last meeting was in the beginning of March in Knoxville. The last priorities were developed in 2007. They will update the priorities at the next meeting, which will be in Puerto Rico next year in conjunction with the Southeastern Branch meeting.

New leadership: Chair, Wanda Almodovar; Chair-elect, Carlos Bogran; Secretary, Tom Royer

They discussed funding issues such as EIPM and 406. Minutes will be distributed when they are approved.

IPM Center Director meeting issues

406 Symposium: Gather 406 programs in one place and discuss the impacts the projects have had. It could be a mid-term review: what have we learned?

Would non-IPM programs be invited? Possibly.

Comments:

- You won't be able to separate the IPM projects between funding lines (Ames)
- If you want to combine with IPM Symposium, you have time (Carlos)
- If you piggyback on another meeting, you have program people who could do the logistics (Doug)
- Who is your target? (Clayton) If it's aimed for decision-makers, you need to plan strategically.
- If you want to gather impact, you should look at the reports (Ames)
- You could pattern it after the ipmPIPE summit (Harold C)
- This could work into a project directors workshop for NIFA (Jim V) But we need to be bigger than that
- There is a national meeting of food coalitions sometimes next year. Perhaps we could link what we're doing to how it's serving sustainable agriculture.

ACTION ITEM: Follow up on this last bullet item.