

## Southern Region IPM Center Steering Council Meeting Report

April 21, 2005 Raleigh, North Carolina

### Attending:

Mike Fitzner, Ames Herbert, Jennifer Hodorowicz, Steve Hopkins, Jimo Ibrahim, Steve Muench, Pat O'Leary, Dave Roberts, Steve Toth, Jim VanKirk, Eric Young

### Thursday, April 21, 2005

#### Recap of the Advisory Council meetings

- See Advisory Council Meeting report located [here](#).

#### Membership Issues

- Advisory Council
  - Want to set up a 3-year rotation
  - Organizations that represent numerous groups (i.e. SERA003) can appoint their own representatives, but individuals that represent one organization (i.e. NC Strawberry) will rotate off and the Center will decide the next organizational representative.
  - Will have specific organizational seats – seat remains, but person can rotate out based on what the organization votes. Person serves 3 year term, then the organization votes in a new representative. If necessary, this can be the same person term after term.
  - Can have a grower group slot – after 3 years it is up to Center staff and the Steering Committee to find another organization, and then the organization votes on a representative.
  - Need to work the membership list out better and put some numbers down for representation – Center staff will compile this list and run it by the Steering Committee electronically.
  - Need to address if members of the Steering Committee are automatically on the Advisory Council, Center staff will include this with the list and run it by the Steering Committee.
  - Motion for approval for Center staff to work along these lines, put a policy together, and then poll the Steering Committee electronically (Center staff will set a deadline for voting, if we don't hear from you by the deadline we will count your votes as a yes) – Motion approved by Steering Committee.
- Steering Committee
  - Need to come up with guidelines. Follow a similar process as the Advisory Council.
  - Want a similar list of organizations for the Steering Committee
  - Proposals for member representation:
    - Proposal A Large: The Steering Committee comprises representatives of organizations, programs, or perspectives that are

important to the work of the SRIPMC. Its composition, described below, may be changed through an act of the Steering Committee itself.

- Voting representatives:
  - Advisory Council leadership (chairperson and co-chairperson) (1)
  - SERA-003 IPM (1)
  - Grower or commodity organization (1)
  - Environment / Public Interest organization (1)
  - 1890s Land Grant institutions (1)
  - Pest Control Operator / Urban IPM provider (1)
  - Food Processors or similar “downstream” stakeholder (1)
  - EPA (1)
  - Southern Region Research and Extension Directors (1)
  - Pest Management materials companies (i.e., crop protection materials providers) (1)
  - Agricultural IPM consultant or consultant organization (1)
  - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program (1)
  - State Contacts funded by the IPM enhancements Grants Program (1)
- Non-voting members:
  - Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP) (1 non-voting)
  - USDA / CSREES (1 non-voting)
- Proposal B Small: The Steering Committee comprises a small group of people who consider the input of all stakeholders in determining IPM Center policies.
- Voting representatives:
  - Advisory Council leadership (chairperson and co-chairperson) (1)
  - SERA-003 IPM (1)
  - 1890s Land Grant institutions (1)
  - EPA (1)
  - Southern Region Extension and Research Directors (1)
  - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program (1)
- Non-voting members:
  - Office of Pest Management Policy (OPMP) (1)
  - USDA / CSREES (1)
- Motion: take this draft for further discussion and send out to the current Steering Committee for comments and input. Jim VanKirk will send out this list. Motion approved.

**State Contact Value (EPA inquired value in regard to OPMP requests)**

- Background information: Steve went up to DC to get feedback on the Information Requests System. The input he received is that each region manages these requests a little differently, and they liked how the southern region manages it

electronically. Four regional directors and associate directors are meeting in June and will discuss with OPMP and EPA to determine if the Center is managing these requests well and what we need to make improvements on. We also hope to get feedback on how useful this information is etc.

- Steve Hopkins is getting a list of what was asked and the answers and then is going to the individuals to see how effective and efficient the questions and answers were to determine if this is a valuable effort. Will have this information before the June meeting.
- We cannot effectively evaluate the value of the State Contacts because the Center does not currently have an accountability system for State Contacts.
- Steering Committee charges Center staff to prepare a report answering the following questions and have the report to the Steering Committee members 14 days prior to the next meeting. Questions:
  - Who are we asking the questions for, what is the real value of these answers and how are they using them?
  - Who should pay for these questions and answers? Is this a good expenditure of Center money?
  - Will these questions be asked and answered if Centers don't pay for it?
  - Are there more cost effective ways to provide the answers to these questions?
  - Is there value to the answers of these questions to anyone besides the original asker?
  - Are there other structures that would be more effective?
  - Are we getting the right amount of money and resources to do this job the best? Or is this money wasted?
  - Need to look at the cost versus the value, before we can have this discussion.

#### **Foundation Funds Account**

- The Center would like permission to pursue unrestricted funds. In addition, the Center needs some help and recommendations for how to go about soliciting funds.
- Need two categories of funds, one non-restrictive and one less restrictive. This will be useful so that organizations can designate funds for specific things (i.e. speakers, refreshments etc.)
- Need a system to manage these funds so that the same people are not constantly contributing, and we need a way to acknowledge these sponsors.
- All approve a working group to set a plan to give staff an operating procedure to set up these funds.
  - Working group: Jim VanKirk, Larry Elworth, Jennifer Gillett or Norm Leppla, Ron Stinner, Pat O'Leary.

#### **Publication Strategy**

- Need approval from the Steering Committee to move the newsletter to a quarterly publication with NewsFlash coming out once a month.
- The newsletter will move towards covering more feature and success stories while NewsFlash will be more hard news.
- Approval granted.

### **Priorities Subcommittee Recommendations**

- SRIPMC will focus on IPM Roadmap areas of concern in the following order: 1. Agriculture, 2. Community, 3. Natural Areas.
  - Steering committee consensus – all approve above.
- SRIPMC will address all 3 risk issues mentioned in the roadmap (economic, environmental, health), without focusing on one in particular.
  - Steering committee consensus – all approve above.
- RIPM – include or add a strong emphasis on impact of IPM programs – in RFA. (not looking for impact analysis of a specific program but methodology – i.e. not data on strawberry IPM, but the methodology used to get this data)
  - Steering committee consensus – all approve
- The Center 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. SRIPMC will also de-emphasize the education section from the website.
  - Steering committee consensus – all approve
- The Center will allow single state proposals to IPM Enhancement Grants Program. Core resources can be used for single state, at staff discretion. Multi-state is encouraged, but single state is allowed.
  - Steering committee consensus – all approve
- In RFAs – we won’t make particular distinctions on: other sources of funding, is it crisis (other than in the critical and emerging), major crop/minor crop etc.
  - Separate issues – name needs to change from emergency or critical and emerging issues. Need to have guidelines for timeliness spelled out so that they can prove they need the money now instead of just waiting for the next RFA. Look at it as an opportunity or opportunistic funds. Need to address the whole issue with the year-round RFA, naming etc. need to have in their write up why this needs to be done now and explain why it fits in this opportunity
  - Steering committee consensus – all approve
- PMSPs – do we support them with “points” in IPM Enhancement Program?
  - Advisory council voted no. It is the grant writer’s job to provide the data to support the case that this is quality stakeholder identified needs. May want to say we support PMSPs and other strategic planning and stakeholder identified needs, but PMSPs are not higher than others.
  - Agree with Advisory Council

### **IPM Enhancement Grants**

- Move application date up? Possibly to March 1 to make management of grants better and easier.
- Move to let the Steering Committee approve that Jim set up a schedule that works best for him as grants manager.
- Motion approved.

### **S-RIPM Grants**

- See below in SERA003 recommendations

### **SERA003 Recommendations**

- These suggestions were discussed. The SERA003 group did recommend the following to the SR IPM Center:
  - Allow 60 days between RIPM grant announcement and the proposal due date
    - Approved
  - Include more information in RFA to help potential submitters to determine if potential projects fit within SRIPM priorities
    - Approved
  - Provide a listing of previously funded Extension projects
    - Approved
  - Develop and/or enforce reporting requirements
    - Approved
  - SERA003 participants also recommended funding priorities for the SR IPM 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 don't seem to fit with what we voted on as our priorities (see page 80 in handout for rankings from last year's RIPM RFA)
      - Will rank Agriculture 1, Community and Urban 2, and Natural Areas 3 as recommended by priorities committee. Include "Biologically-based" in place of innovative methods and approaches. Will include invasive/emerging pest issues as a priority and will include the evaluation assessment.

### **1890s**

- Want to invite 1890s to a meeting to discuss Center activities and what they can apply for versus what they can't – more of an informational meeting to get them more involved with the Center.
- Possible agenda: explanation of the Centers and the grants programs, have grant writers on hand to give presentations and examples etc.
- Jim VanKirk, Jimo Ibrahim, Eric Young, Roy Bullock, Jennifer Hodorowicz, and Mike Fitzner will work together to plan this meeting and get the details in order. Ad-hoc discussion group until the meeting plan is hammered out a bit more.

### **Meeting Dates and Location**

- We need to set the membership and membership guidelines before we can set the next meeting date and location.
- Here on out we will set the Steering Committee meeting date first and then set the Advisory Council meeting for the day before.
  - For the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting we may not follow the Advisory Council meeting because we need to get as many Steering Committee members to show up as possible.

- If the meeting follows the Advisory Council it will be in Raleigh. If it is a separate date it can be in a different location.

### **Elections**

- Chair – Jimo Ibrahim
- Chair Elect – Pat O’Leary

### **Reporting**

- All in agreement that Center staff needs one-page reports from PIs and staff will move forward in getting these reports.

### **State IPM Web Pages**

- The Center can make structures and templates that can be passed around and used, but staff shouldn’t create and manage the site.
- We can house a site and make it look like it is coming from their location.
- Center staff will be available to help individuals with their sites, but we will not build and maintain it for them.

### **Center Facilitation of Planning Grants**

- In general the Center shouldn’t have to go to individuals and tell them that they should apply for a particular grant.