ICCSD Integrated Pest Management Task Force

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 14, 2015
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
Educational Services Center,
1725 N. Dodge St., Iowa City, IA
Professional Development Center, Room C

Meeting Facilitator: David Dude

Present: Ryan Adams, Jeff Barnes, Terry Coleman, Carol DeProsse, Caroline Dieterle, Ben Grimm, Phil Hemingway, Chris Henze, Michelle Kenyon, Scott Kibby, Brian Kirschling, Ann Langenfeld, Geoff Lauer, Dave McKenzie, Jennifer Mettemeyer, Joyce Miller, Mike O’Leary, Chris Pisarik, Susie Poulton, Dr. Mary Skopec, Duane Van Hemert, Geoff Wilming,

Absent: John Bacon, Lore Baur, Matt Degner, Alison Demory, Lisa Hall, Dr. Brandi Janssen, Jennifer Kardos, Liz Maas, Mark McBurney, Troy McQuillen, Charlie Stumpf, Dr. Fred Whitford

I. Call to order 4:00pm

II. Review group norms and decision making process
   • Our meetings will begin and end on time
   • We will listen to each other and not interrupt
   • We will support our facilitator’s efforts to moderate discussions
   • We will speak respectfully to each other
   • We will voice any concerns we have before leaving the meeting
   • We will come to meetings prepared and will actively participate
   • We will take actions to limit interruptions by cell phones, email, and other such distractions

III. Review and approve minutes of previous meeting
   Approved with no changes

IV. Review Board decision regarding interim exceptions recommendation
   The board was supportive of the interim policy that was developed by this committee.

V. Discuss and develop essential elements of a school IPM program and community expectations
   for the ICCSD IPM program

The mission of the Iowa City Community School District is to ensure all students will become responsible, independent learners capable of making informed decisions in a democratic society as well as in the dynamic global community; this is accomplished by challenging each student with a rigorous and creative curriculum taught by a diverse, professional, caring staff and enriched through the resources and the efforts of families and the entire community.
Activity 1: What are the expectations of our community members in regards to pes management?

- (4) Communication of the district’s IPM program
- (4) Notification when pesticides are being used
- Signage for 24-48 hours may not be enough since chemicals last longer than that
- (3) Using the least toxic methods, environmentally benign
  - Set the bar high for non-organic methods
  - Environmental impact quotient (EIQ)
- Long separation time between application and exposure (weekend applications)
- (3) Fiscal responsibility (safety first)
  - District should be utilizing all resources wisely
- (2) Use data to assess and evaluate.
- (2) Reassess on a periodic basis, look at chemicals being used, and research
- (4) Aesthetics, different standards (commercial, parks, playgrounds, hard surfaces)
  - Results (exterior and interior), expectations, appearance, what is the goal?
  - Some schools may prefer to see dandelions, some may think a perfect lawn is great
- (2) Functionality of space—meets the purpose for what was intended
- (2) Setting thresholds for different pests
- Meeting or exceeding public health standards (such as kitchens, food serving areas)
- (4) Safety of staff and students, storage, use, residue
- Herbicide-free playgrounds
- Administrators/coaches meeting with grounds to discuss calendar, zones, expectations
- What extent is “community”? School community? Role of administrators understanding school community.
- Need for training, IPM designated lead, formal training in IPM, supported in CEU on regular basis (emerging best practices)
- Educational component, educate about hazards, could benefit community with strong stance on avoiding pesticides, not just “we’re doing it to keep students safe” but more specific about the hazards, research, etc.
- “Economically feasible” is too broad, could change expectations
- Protecting physical assets, parking spaces and hard surfaces could be sprayed for weeds

Activity 2: What are the essential elements of a school IPM program?

- Monitoring of pests and grounds in general, density of turf
- Recordkeeping and evaluation
  - Progressive level of maintenance leading to pesticide usage
• Reason for treatment
  • Positive identification
  • Readily available to public, on website
  • Data analysis
• Define accountable and responsibility in decision making
• Point of contact in school district for community members
• Compliance with state regulations
• Periodic review
  ▪ Advisory committee
  ▪ Peer review
• Need to define our assets, aesthetics, and safety
• Address hot topics in horticulture
• District responsibility to educate the community, staff and students on new standards
• Clear about the thresholds for all practices (mechanical, chemical, etc)
• Increase our tolerance of pests up to threshold limits
• Physical categories/zones
  • Athletics
  • Grassy areas
  ▪ Highly visible areas
  • Ornamental plants
  • Trees
• Pest categories/types
• Interiors with primary and secondary insects
• Interiors with high profile insects (lice)
• Use of disinfectants and antimicrobials, too much use and it contributes to resistance
• Mold elimination
• Least toxicity, doesn’t mean no spraying, it means no spraying first
• Define our spaces for use
• Have a philosophy that safety is greater than cost
• Education should be our primary focus
• Prevention of things that can be done so we don’t have issues in the first place
  ▪ Be proactive to things that will be a seasonal issue
  • Garbage removal
  • Food in buildings
• Communication to community, schools, parents, students
• Setting goals for safety, aesthetics
• Community participation
• Defining what IPM is and what it is not
• Bring other programs that use the schools, BASP, scouts on board
• Identifying pests
• Right plan for the right place
• Overall plant health

VI. Meeting debrief and next steps
   Options moving forward:
   • Continue large group and this format
   • Start with sub groups and meet on their own and then come back together and hear what the subgroups discussed
   • One session devoted to training—experts come in and train the group
     o Mark Shaur –Iowa State (training on athletic fields)
     o Backyard Abundance
     o Joel Coats—Iowa State
     o Marty Shafer--UIHC
   • Timing, we need to resolve this before Christmas
   • Dr. David Dude will send out a Doodle Poll to identify future meetings dates and times

VII. Adjourn 5:30pm

Next meeting: TBD

Task force website: