

Minutes, November 1, 2013
National Stakeholder Team for PSEP Funding

1. Next Steps/Uses - Position Statement on “The Critical Need for IPM Support of Pesticide Safety Education” (attachment 1)

Almost all proposed edits were incorporated; follow-up occurred and was acceptable on edits not incorporated. Next steps were defined:

- a) Draft 6 to full team immediately, with final comments due 1 PM EST on November 8.
- b) Initial distribution of final version on November 11 to key contacts in those organizations proposed for the national dialogue. Key contacts will be verified by the Steering Committee.
- c) Wider distribution beginning November 12 by members of full team, who will be informed of the initial distribution list in (b) to avoid overlap.
- d) Use of the position statement to comment on IPM RFAs will begin the week of November 11, starting with the mid-May 2013 RFAs whose 6 month deadlines for comment are approaching. Relevant portions of the position statement will be highlighted when commenting on an RFA.
- e) Several variations of the following sentence was discussed as an addition – “This is a consensus opinion among members of the Team but may not represent the opinions of all members or their organizations.” (ADDENDUM: Steering Committee discussed this further. “Consensus” would imply that every member of the Team responded. Although all members that responded support the document, not all members responded. Thus, the decision was made to omit the sentence. Also, “position statement” in the title was changed to “statement”.)

2. Phase 2 - Fund-Raising Campaign to Meet the \$1.5 MM/YR Goal of PSEP IMI (attachment 2)

Spreadsheet distributed to the Team on Oct. 31 proposed a phase 2 fund-raising focus on agricultural chemical companies; and large cooperatives, service organizations (custom application, crop advisors), distributors and retailers. Approximately 400 organizations were reviewed for phase 2 fund-raising, from CLA, RISE, and other lists. Some industry reps will assist with contacting organizations on this spreadsheet; no success to-date in getting several national associations to assist in the distribution. Next steps were defined:

- a) Selected organizations from the February 26 draft “Compiled List of Interested Parties” prepared by the “Other” Workgroup will be added to the spreadsheet.

- b) New spreadsheet will be circulated to the team immediately, asking for team members to volunteer to contact one or more national/regional organizations (Tab 1) where they know an individual. **It is important to volunteer and NOT make the contact, until we ensure no overlap.**
- c) PSEPs will decide what state organizations they want to contact (Tab 2 contains examples).
- d) Anyone can recommend additional organizations for the spreadsheet.
- e) Steering Committee will contact those organizations not reached by volunteers.
- f) "Contact", wherever possible, means sending the Fund-Raising Letter and Commitment Form before or after calling the individual.

3. Federal Workgroup Update

Focus has been on a better understanding of a) PRIA funding and b) civil enforcement/settlement agreements which include fines and Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs).

A legal analyst with EPA's Special Litigation and Projects Division, Office of Civil Enforcement, has been willing to share information on EPA's SEP policy and is willing to open a dialogue on the use of SEPs to help fund PSEP. Approved SEPs must fall into at least one of eight categories, with category 6 (environmental compliance promotion) offering the best opportunity for PSEP funding. Similar to EPA, states such as Illinois allow the use of SEPs to reduce fines for pesticide violations. In Illinois, environmental education and public awareness is actually listed as an acceptable SEP category.

Prior to opening a dialogue with EPA, questions will be drafted by Chuck Moses, reviewed by the Steering Committee, and submitted to the Federal Workgroup, which will meet near the end of November.

In some instances, proposed SEPs must be approved by Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) management, and regional SEPs must follow national SEP policy. Region 6 (and possibly other EPA regions) posts negotiated SEPs, but none of the negotiated settlement agreements listed on the Region 6 site include compliance education. Most of the negotiated settlements that include SEPs in Illinois support programs to directly enhance environmental quality.

4. University Workgroup Update

PSEP data on operations, budgets, and full-time equivalents (FTEs) will be updated by November 8, to support the activities of the PSEP IMI Board.

Information on developing a business plan is posted on psep.us. – please provide comments. This document is designed to help PSEPs start looking at their program as a business (e.g. budget for in-service training).

5. PSEP IMI Update

PSEP IMI activities this month included 3 calls for PSEPs (36 states participated). Development of scoring criteria and contract language is underway by the PSEP IMI Board. November 15 is the RFP deadline, followed by recruitment of applications if necessary.