

Integrated Pest Management Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: May 25, 2012

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Attendees:

Jeff Burgh	CEO
Scott Bucy	GSA
Dean Kiser	GSA
Pam Lindsey	PWA Watershed
James Martinez	Parks
Ed Niedzweicki	Dept. of Airports
Steve Offerman	Supervisor Bennett's Office
Sean Payne	GSA

Background – Sean Payne discussed the County's Strategic Plan, specifically Focus Area #3, Goal 2, Objective 6, which states the IPM objective:

- Reduce the amount of pesticides/encourage integrated pest management on all County properties and facilities (GSA, PWA, Harbor Dept., Dept. of Airports).

and the performance measure specified for the IPM objective is:

- Pounds of pesticides applied on County property/facilities.

Steve Offerman stated that some pesticides are more toxic than others and Sean agreed.

Criteria for Tracking of Pesticides – Sean said the purpose of this meeting is to gain a consensus of what the group reports for pesticide use which will be fed into the Strategic objectives. Sean provided a detailed explanation of the format of the "Tiered Materials" handout and asked Scott Bucy to provide a definition of pesticide Tier categories. Scott said manufacturers are required by law to put a danger warning or a caution label on pesticide products. Tier I on the label equates to "Danger." Tier II on the label equates to "Warning." Tier III on the label equates to "Caution." All pesticides must have at least a Tier III on the label. Another category is OMRI. OMRI pesticides are approved by the Organic Materials Review Institute and are categorized as Tier III.

Sean requested the group submit to him any pesticides they would like added to the "Tiered Materials" list. Sean told the group an objective for GSA Grounds is to track Tier I and Tier II pesticides only and reduce pesticide usage by 20%. Steve said the Strategic Plan could parenthetically be revised to reduce pounds of pesticide use by Tier. Sean asked the group if any of them wanted to particularly track anything greater than Tier II. Steve suggested the tracking could be accomplished in phases, first Tier I and II, then Tier III in future years. A consensus was reached that Tier I and II is the place to start. Jeff Burgh agreed that the Strategic Plan should be modified to include Tier classifications and that this would be expanded County wide. Sean said that the current Strategic Plan only refers to a reduction. A consensus was reached that the Strategic Plan should be revised to require a 20% reduction in pesticide usage and be implemented County wide.

Scott said Tier I and II are more toxic than Tier III. Sean said one of GSA Ground's strategies is to reduce Tier I and Tier II pesticides and use more Tier III pesticides which are substantially less toxic. Jeff said if Tier I and II pesticides are reduced, and more Tier III pesticides are used, the number of pounds of pesticides used will increase but toxicity will decrease. Sean asked the group if a consensus was reached that percentage per tier will be used or does the group need to go back and discuss. Pam Lindsey said she would like to go back and document what pesticides they use and determine which tier category the pesticides are in, then we can meet again.

Unit of Measurement – Sean said departments may wish to track how they are doing compared to other departments. One option is to use pounds per acre to benchmark against each other. Sean asked the group to let him know of any industry benchmarks they are aware of. Steve said Transportation measures pesticide usage using pounds per mile. Pam said PWA Watershed measures pesticide usage using pounds per linear feet. Ed Niedzweicki said the Dept. of Airports measures pesticide usage using acreage. Pam said they could convert their linear feet to square feet or acres. Jeff asked if all the agencies have the same tolerance for rodents. The consensus reached by the group was that agencies have different tolerances for rodents. Sean said there should be a common denominator for measurements. A consensus was reached that pounds per acre per each tier (tiers I and II) will be the pesticide measurement used.

Format of Reporting – Sean provided a detailed explanation of the template format handout. Sean said the template will be modified based on the numerator and denominator.

Frequency of Reporting The current reporting frequency is quarterly. Sean asked the group their opinions for frequency of reporting. Pam preferred to provide a report every six months. Steve recommended the group send Sean their monthly Agricultural Commissioner reports. A consensus was reached that agencies will report pesticide usage twice a year for the periods ending July 1st and January 2nd.

Sean provided a detailed explanation of the GSA F&M pesticide usage Key Performance Indicator (KPI) dashboard (see <http://vcweb/gsa/facilities/docs/grounds/landscape.swf> and click on the "GSA F&M Pesticide Usage" radial button). Sean said a similar KPI dashboard could potentially be prepared for the group on a cumulative basis, updated twice a year and published on the IPM web page. Sean asked if anyone in the group was publishing their pesticide usage differently than this method. Pam said their pesticide usage is not posted. They only post their pesticide application schedules. Sean suggested we could benchmark against each other and data could be published by Department. Steve said our current data only show what County forces are doing. There are other agencies which perform pest control. Sean said our data shows combined pesticide usage by our staff and vendors and does not make a distinction between the two.

Sean discussed an excerpt from GSA Landscape vendor contract. Sean said we contract with vendors to apply pesticides to our outlying properties. These vendors are responsible for reporting their pesticide usage to us on a monthly basis and this data is included in our KPI. Jeff said the Dept. of Airports and the Harbor Department have leased properties and the vendors who operate the properties are responsible for their pesticide usage. To require them to report their pesticide usage to us would require lease amendments. The other option is for the vendors to continue to be responsible for their own pesticide usage reporting.

Sean asked the group if they were aware of any other industry benchmarks and the group knew of none. Jeff said we need industry benchmarks. Pam said there are limits of the amount of product which should be used per acre and did not know of any other benchmarks. Sean said if we do use an industry benchmark, our data format will need to be revised. Steve said even though there are application rate limits, the goal is 20% reduction of pesticide usage. Sean said if anyone in the group encounters a benchmark, please let him know. In the interim we will compare pesticide usage with each other.