

IPM MEETING

BISD Board Room

5.06.16

PRESENT: Dana Coggon, Logan Fenwick, Emily Helgeson, Bernie Mejia, Russell Milbrot, Carrie Morgan, Charles Schafer, Dianne Speers, Dale Spoor

ABSENT: Amber Richards

INTRODUCTIONS Packet of materials distributed included the minutes from the meeting June 9, 2015, the BISD Policies and Procedures 6522, the annual notification to BISD parents and staff (required), background information on Charles Schafer and the EPA alternative to neonicotinoids.

CURRENT DISTRICT PRACTICES, ISSUES and PESTICIDE USE

The challenges to the Grounds department continue at the Wilkes property. Last year 450 man hours were devoted to weeding with an additional 320 hours to spreading mulch. (Spee West Construction was billed for reimbursement to the district for this work.) There is little or no current pesticide use in the district. The threat of using unsafe product is minimized by strict IPM Policies and Procedures that also prohibit the district from pesticide use while school is in session. Horsetail is not considered a noxious weed. The product, *Specticle*, is labelled "caution" an acceptable category according to the BISD IPM guidelines. The committee reviewed the product ingredients and company label information that states it is suitable for educational facility application. The active ingredient is less toxic than vinegar. The use of the product would greatly alleviate the amount of manual weeding at Wilkes as well as at other sites. The committee concluded that the use of *Specticle* should be presented to the board in the monthly update as "information only". Both *Specticle* and Capstone (the treatment for noxious weeds) will be added to this year's Annual Letter to Parents and Staff.

LABELLING PESTICIDES

The US Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) labelling system will be replaced over the next 5-10 years with the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and labelling of pesticides. The worldwide initiative will standardize criteria for classifying chemicals according to their health, physical and environmental hazards. It uses pictograms, hazard statements and two signal words, "Danger" and "Warning" instead of the current three word classification which also includes the word "Caution". The current IPM Policies and Procedures 6522 will be obsolete with the elimination of the word "Caution" to pesticide labels thereby requiring a review and update. We have already received products with the new SDS (Safety Data Sheets - per GHS labelling system) versus MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets – the OPP labelling system). It was suggested that using the PAN (Pesticide Action Network) website to look up product ingredients is preemptive. Biopesticides, often used by the district, are rarely listed on the PAN site because they are inherently less toxic than conventional pesticides. Since biopesticides tend to pose fewer risks than conventional pesticides, EPA generally requires much less data to register a biopesticide than to register a conventional pesticide. (The current application of DiPel Pro DF to treat tent caterpillars at Wilkes, is an example of a biopesticide.)

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Dana Coggon presented an historical background to IPM and the establishment of the Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Program:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B90kMS7xeHAIQ0FtX1VKdTBKWFEE/view?usp=sharing>

Historically, mowing had initially been used to control weeds which spread them further. It was eventually concluded that nothing replaces eradication better than herbicide spraying. Pulling cannot eradicate many

noxious weeds effectively because some weeds require a chemical application to inhibit the spread and ultimately destroy the weed. However, the public use of chemicals has become a major contributor to negatively impacting the environment. The committee members agreed.

Dana also reviewed the methods of her program which include cutting off the flower heads to prevent attracting bees before spraying. The goal is that once a noxious weed is eradicated, the public should reseed the treated area with bee-friendly plants (seed packages were distributed to committee members).

The noxious weed department is educating the public by attending local farmers' markets and by being accessible to individual community members. Property owners are encouraged to contact the department and have their property treated. It is much safer than letting the public treat their property themselves. It was suggested that community members, such as bee keepers, who do not want pesticide treatment sign a contract proclaiming that they will maintain the area in question.

NOXIOUS WEED DISPOSAL

Noxious weed disposal continues to be an issue.

SCOTCH BROOM ERADICATION

The Bainbridge Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) is a five year project of "Let's Pull Together", running from 2013 through the end of 2017. A Cooperative Weed Management Area is a local organization that brings together landowners and land managers to coordinate action and share expertise and resources to manage the common weed, Scotch Broom. The CWMA held their main event in April. Bainbridge Disposal allowed them to set up a tent on their property to receive invasive plants from community members. The group successfully received over 200 square yards of noxious weeds from island residents. They hope to host this event twice next year. In cooperation with the Land Trust, the timing coincides with the Land Trust Native Plant Sale.

Work parties that have organized for a CWMA donation to their group include athletic groups, Scouts and student organizations such the Marching band and Earth Service Core. To date, over 100,000 square feet of land has been cleared of Scotch Broom.

The middle school curriculum includes the study of invasive species. Emily Helgeson plans to reconnect with the 8th grade science department at Woodward next year. The contacts are Greg Colby (gcolby@bisd303.org) and Brennan Moore (bmoore@bisd303.org).

NEONICOTINOIDS

The City of Bainbridge Island has adopted a resolution banning products that contain neonicotinoids. Neonicotinoid use was linked in a range of studies to adverse ecological effects, including honey-bee colony collapse disorder (CCD) and loss of birds due to a reduction in insect populations. In 2013, the European Union and a few non EU countries restricted the use of certain neonicotinoids. The neonicotinoid family includes acetamiprid, clothianidin, imidacloprid, nitenpyram, nithiazine, thiacloprid and thiamethoxam. Imidacloprid is the most widely used insecticide in the world. Compared to organophosphate and carbamate insecticides neonicotinoids cause less toxicity in birds and mammals than insects. The EPA is registering a new insecticide, flupyradifurone that is safer for bees. Capital Projects will propose including in their scope of work that landscape materials not be treated with neonicotinoids. Grounds maintenance will propose the same policy.

POLLINATION IMPROVEMENT PATHWAY

Charles Schafer would like to see a teaching hive at Commodore school. Currently, Carl Lindbloom has a teaching hive away from all school sites but a more accessible site would enhance bee education. Charles

would like to reduce the public's fear of bees, "bees are farmers" and do not sting unless provoked. BISD representatives reminded Mr. Schafer of the risks associated with children who are anaphylactic to bee stings.

SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS

The committee recommends the following;

- Capstone will be applied as a herbicide this summer per the two-year Board approved agreement in 2015.
- The District will purchase the Capstone.
- The Noxious Weed Control applicators will apply the herbicide.
- The herbicide, *Specticle*, will be applied directly following school closure for summer and just prior to the start of school, in late August.
- The use of *Specticle* will be presented to the board as "information only".
- Posting per IPM Procedures 48 hours prior and 24 hours after application.
- The IPM annual letters to parents and staff will include the additional herbicide products.
- Capital Projects will ensure that landscape materials used for school replacement projects will not have neonicotinoids.
- IPM Policies and procedures will be reviewed and changed as necessary to reflect new pesticide labelling.
- The Grounds and Capital Projects departments will no longer purchase products pretreated with neonicotinoids.

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Respectfully submitted by,
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