**WERA 1017 Meeting Minutes, March 3rd, 2025, 1:00-5:00 pm**

1:00 pm Introductions – The meeting began at 1:00 pm with brief introductions. The following individuals were in attendance: Tim Seipel (Montana State University), Brandy Moses Straub (Montana State University), Peter Ellsworth (University of Arizona), Alexa Brown (University of Arizona), Erik Wenninger (University of Idaho), Scott Schell (University of Wyoming), Silvia Rondon (Oregon State University), Ada Szczepaniec (Colorado State University), Joanna Bloese (University of Hawaii), Jim Ferrar (California Cooperative Extension), Al Fournier (University of Arizona), Ivan Tellez (New Mexico State University), Dawn Gouge (University of Arizona), Tim Stock (Oregon State University), Matt Bauer (California Cooperative Extension), Emma Triple (California Cooperative Extension), Mair Murray (Utah State University), Steve Elliot (Western IPM Center), Desiree Wickwar (University of Idaho), Carrie Jensen (University of Nevada – Reno), Megan Andrews (University of Nevada – Reno), Macy Keith (University of Arizona), Karey Windbiel-Rojas (California Cooperative Extension)

* + 1. IPM Priority Areas by State – each representative identified priority areas by topic and state for collaboration exchange

• IPM Implementation in Agronomic and/or Specialty Crops – seems to have the highest number of existing collaborations.

Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Uta, Wyoming

• IPM Implementation in Animal Agriculture

Hawaii

• IPM Implementation in Communities including Housing and Schools

Communities

Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Wyoming

Schools

Arizona, Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming

• IPM for Pollinator Health

Arizona, California, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada

• IPM for Pesticide Applicators

Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah

• IPM Support for Pest Diagnostic Facilities

Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Wyoming

• IPM in Public Health

Arizona, Oregon

The meeting proceeded with Subgroup Breakout Discussions aligned with priority area and the ability to rotate for discussion in a second priority area as well.

1:15 pm 1st Choice Priority Area - Subgroup Breakout Discussions (by priority area) for establishing needs and opportunities for collaboration

1. Needs
2. Opportunities
3. Communications and resources/products sharing
4. Action

2:00 pm Rotate to 2nd Choice Priority Area - Subgroup Breakout Discussions (by priority area) for establishing needs and opportunities for collaboration

1. Needs
2. Opportunities
3. Communications and resources/products sharing
4. Action

2:45 pm Break

3:00 pm Subgroup Summary – the following is a summary of each subgroup collaborations as they reviewed priority area needs, opportunities, and actions.

**Communities/School IPM**

Current collaborative projects include Emerald Ash Borer (Colorado, Oregon, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Arizona); Cultivating Healthy Plants Webinar (Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah); Collaboration with vectors (Arizona, California, Las Vegas)

Needs: Much discussion in the first breakout group centered around School IPM needs. Where there used to be a large working group, funding and support could be improved. Housing IPM is also a large need, especially in public housing. Updated and improved educational fact sheets and teaching/extension materials for urban and communities. Second session needs were outlined as food safety with IPM training, Tribal connections, sustainable community work, connections/collaborations with cities and municipalities, establishing vector abatement districts for mosquitos/ticks/etc., legislative regulation work, growing interest in urban horticulture, pests in homeless encampments and adult care facilities.

Opportunities: Use existing programs to update and expand School IPM. Shared fact sheet on paper wasps. Improving IPM in garden centers. Webinars. Basics for school IPM (could start with the Pest Defense modules at the IPM institute. Second session opportunities were discussed to include funding opportunities with NUREC and NRSP Temp 12 for urban pest funding opportunities and urban ag food systems; connecting research and extension with municipalities; and additional connections with fire/restoration efforts and forest pests in urban/forest interfaces.

Actions: Develop a list of resources and/or centralized resources. Establish a way to keep institutional knowledge and expand on existing materials and basics. Connect California with Emerald Ash Borer collaboration.

**Pest Diagnostic Facilities**

Needs: Better integration of IPM with diagnostic services. Better flow of communication between diagnostic labs and extension. Protocols developed for modernizing intake samples including submitting images and/or accepting credit cards.

Opportunities: Include agents and specialists contact and fact sheets for recommendations after/with diagnostic identification. Would be helpful to learn about standard operating procedures for other institutions.

Actions: Centralized resources and making them easy to find (maybe western IPM center website or a site alone for resources). Collaborate on a youTube video like Montana’s about how to submit a sample. Share intake forms. Develop a network of how diagnostic labs operate in each state, understanding specific state needs with an opportunity to learn from each other and adopt certain aspects/practices.

**Pesticide Applicators**

Current collaborative projects include Pesticide registration comment coordination (Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada); ESA training for producers/publications (Arizona, Oregon, Utah).

Needs:

* Basic pesticide training for those seeking initial certification or licensing
* Qualified speakers for continuing education courses
* Consumer education for homeowners
* Bilingual resources
* On-demand online continuing education courses

Opportunities:

* Sharing demand courses for CEUs. Maybe difficult for existing courses, but if new courses are developed a joint effort could be made to apply for CEUs in different states.
* Interstate webinar series, like Cultivating Healthy Plants, which is tailored to pesticide applicators for continuing education. Each state could handle their own CEU application process with their Department of Agriculture. Hosting the webinars and finding speakers could be a shared or rotating responsibility between collaborating states.
* Some programs like Arizona and Oregon have good resources and trainings for those seeking basic training for licensing. There may be an opportunity to partner with other states that lack these resources, such as Nevada and California.
* Since Arizona, Oregon and Utah are already working on ESA trainings and publications, those new resources could be shared through the Western IPM Center, and they could also host a train-the-trainer workshop for WERA1017 members to introduce the new resources and encourage other programs to share the ESA resources across the other western states.

Actions:

* Al Fournier (Arizona) and Mair Murray (Utah) will share the ESA resources are currently in development once completed
* Carrie Jensen (Nevada) will continue discussions with potential collaborators about starting an interstate webinar series for pesticide applicator CEU courses
* Carrie Jensen (Nevada) will reach out to Oregon (Kaci Buhl), Arizona (Jenny Weber), and California (Karey Windbiel-Rojas) to discuss sharing resources for basic pesticide applicator training courses for those seeking licensure.

**Ag and Specialty Crops**

Current collaborative projects include Vegetable IPM collaboration (Arizona and California); Cotton IPM collaboration (Arizona and California); crop pest losses and impact assessment (Arizona and Oregon); Intermountain Commercial Tree Fruit Production Guide (Utah, Montana, Colorado, Idaho)

Needs: IPM for pesticide resistance, training and/or resistance management, pesticide reduction education, more information on precision ag and economics of new technologies, online CEUs for trainings, facilitator/writer for helping with programming.

Opportunities: Share resources. IPM certification for industry could be developed using the Idaho online module/course as a model.

Actions: Working group for more modern IPM practices especially precision ag – economics and details of precision ag in IPM. Working group proposal for the western UAVs best practices group. Develop better sharing of resources and commit to submittals to the Western IPM Newsletter as a place to start.

**Pollinator Health**

Needs: Resource sharing and connections.

Opportunities: Share curriculum boxes (bee and butterfly boxes, natural enemies box). Website on pesticide hazards for bees from UC IPM Program

Actions: Collaborate on “how to videos” for building bee boxes and promoting pollinator health, etc. Webinar sharing.

**Collaborations and connections with other groups (similar to WERA)**

The WERA1017 members are also connected to and collaborate with the following groups:

National Urban Extension Leaders (NUEL)

NUREC

NRSP – Temp 12 – National Research Support Project

WERA77 – Weeds in winter wheat

W5147 – Microbes in plants

WERA Hemp

Great Plains Diagnostic Network

3:45 pm Communications

1. How to better share resources and communicate with each other
2. Extension Foundation? IPM Basecamp? IPM Connect? Bugwood? Other?

The full group had a thoughtful discussion about communications needs and centralized resources. Centralizing resources is a long-term challenge without an easy solution, but we discussed ways of bringing new resources to the forefront with behavior changes to add new resources (or a Resource Spotlight) to the Western IPM Newsletter or working with a librarian for information organization and a digital repository. We considered the benefit of bringing the most recent resources to our meetings each year and using the listserve more often to request resources and needs from the larger group. While a centralized library brings challenges from individual university systems, the group consensus was that consistency in sharing resources with Steve, the Western IPM Center, and the listserve was a good place to begin. We also discussed finding a way to adapt existing items for CEUs to multiple states (online courses, webinars, etc.) allowing for additional resource sharing and programming without creating something entirely new.

4:30 pm Conclusions

1. Action Items for Subgroups and Reporting

Today, the subgroups expanded on needs and action items within the EIP priority areas that were initiated in the September 2024 meeting in Reno. New connections and collaborations were formed as described above.

We ended the meeting with a discussion of REPORTING and the new survey collection system presented by David Lane and Tegan Walker. There was a historical discussion about why our group began including all western IPM items in the reporting instead of only collaborative projects, and the new survey report aims to streamline the reporting process and provide a way to house consistent data and impacts from state, region, and national level. After some discussion, the group was willing to try reporting in the new survey format, and Brandy will meet with David and Tegan to get an understanding of the survey and pass it to each state for reporting this period. We decided since our reporting period was short (only from September 18 – March 3) that this was as good a time as any to try the new system.

The next WERA1017 meeting will be in Wyoming in September 2026. Hawaii volunteered to host in 2027.