

## ***Meeting summary for Southern IPM Center SERA3 Meeting (03/03/2025)***

### Attendees List

In-person – Ric Bessin (KY), Rebecca Melanson (MS), Heather Kelly (TN), Tegan Walker (SIPMC), Francis Reay Jones (SC), Kayla Watson (SIPMC), Joe LaForest (SIPMC), Roger Magarey (SIPMC), Adam Dale (FL), Raj Singh (LA), Kiersten Wise (KY), Ashleigh Farris (OK), Ryan Adams (NC), Daniel Frank (VA), Ash Sial (GA), David Kerns (TX), David Held (AL), Amy Dreves (VI), Lacey Belanger (SIPMC), Edda Martinez (PR), Dania Rivera (PR), David Kerns (TX)

Virtually (via zoom) - Norm Leppla (FL), Wanda Almodovar (PR), Glen Studebaker (AR)

### 1:00 PM        **MEETING BEGINS**

- IPM Spanish translation - Ric Bessin, KY

### 1:30 PM

- 2023 Reporting survey results and NIMSS report
- 2024 Reporting survey results and discussion
- 2025 Priority document

### 2:30 - BREAK

### 2:45

- Endangered Species Act - workshop/training resources
  - Federal resources
  - NC IPM updates to pesticide labels
  - Workshops

### 3:15

- Updates on 2025 SIPMC funded projects
- Updates on PMSP workshops

### 3:30 BREAK

### 3:45

- Regulatory Science Network review and way to move forward.
  - This is the review of how we facilitate stakeholder response to EPA registration reviews.

### 4:00

- EIP Extravaganza Scheduling (by program area)

### 4:15

- So - you are an IPM Coordinator... what does this mean? Comments on the new “guidebook for IPM coordinators”

### 4:45

- Election of new officers

### 5:00 PM        **ADJOURN MEETING**

### IPM Spanish translation - Ric Bessin

Ric discussed his use of AI for translating pesticide safety education materials into Spanish. He explained that it would approximately effect 10% of all Agricultural Workers nationally through the new EPA Bilingual Labeling Requirements. Ric described his process of using ChatGPT to translate chapters using specific parameters, then verifying the translations through back-translation and review by native Spanish speakers. Ric notes some challenges with inconsistencies and common names, but overall finds it cost-effective and time-saving, especially when doing infographics. Ric emphasizes the importance of careful vetting and acknowledging AI use, while addressing criticisms and considering ways to improve the process.

### 2023 Reporting survey results and NIMSS report – Tegan Walker

Tegan Walker discusses the process of creating and submitting reports for NIMSS (National Information Management and Support System). Heather Kelly (previous chair) has created a detailed document outlining the duties of the SERA3 chair and providing a tutorial for future chairs on how to use NIMSS. Tegan emphasizes the importance of the new survey-based reporting system, which helps standardize submissions across states. She also mentions the challenges of getting buy-in from participants who may not understand the importance of reporting, especially if they are not receiving funding. Tegan suggests creating a one-page fact sheet to explain the purpose of the reporting process to improve participation.

Tegan discussed the challenges of reporting on projects funded by different sources and the need to balance credit for various initiatives. She suggested the possibility of changing the reporting period to align with IP reporting and consolidating surveys to simplify reporting. She also highlighted the importance of accurately attributing funding sources for publications and the potential for duplication in reporting. Tegan proposed a system where collaborators could be identified and their specific contributions reported, to ensure accurate representation of all projects, including those funded by non-EIP sources.

The SERA3 reporting system and priority survey for IPM coordinators were discussed. Tegan presents the results of the priority pest ranking survey, which had a 67% response rate with 231 participants, an improvement from the previous year. The top regional priority pest identified is thrips. Tegan emphasizes the importance of state IPM coordinators following up with their colleagues to encourage participation in the surveys. There is also discussion about including information on unmet needs and problems that require additional funding in future reports.

Tegan and Kayla Watson have created an infographic for the priority document, which Tegan believes will make the report stand out and be more engaging for staffers. Tegan suggests expanding this into a one-page summary at the beginning of the document to clearly explain the purpose and importance of the priority document.

### Endangered Species Act and PMSPs – Roger Magarey

Roger Magarey discussed the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and its impact on their work. He mentioned that the North Central region has a website with updates, labels, and mitigation options, and that the USDA office of pest management policy has funded workshops. Roger asked if more information was needed on ESA and the general consensus was a “soft yes”. Roger plans to compile resources and add links on website. Roger also discussed new labeling requirements protecting Monarch butterflies.

#### Southern IPM Center Updates – Roger Magarey, Kayla Watson, Lacey Belanger

Roger then covered SIPMC grants and 36 proposals were received and a total of eight were funded by the Center. Kayla Watson then congratulated recipients of the 2025 SIPMC awards. Lacey Belanger discussed the Pest Management Strategic Plans (PMSPs) and the importance of these plans in their work. She mentioned that they have published several PMSPs (Strawberries and Cotton, Crape myrtle in review) and are working on others (Macademia, Rice, Mid-south Cotton and Sugercane).

#### RSN Network and EPA Feedback – Roger Magarey

Roger Magarey discussed the process of providing feedback to the EPA and OPMP and the potential for improving this process. Heather Kelly suggested using templates or concise language to encourage stakeholders to provide feedback. The team also discussed the possibility of using a database to archive comments and the importance of providing detailed information about the need for certain pesticides. Roger discussed feedback received on the RSN.

#### PD Feedback and EIP Extravaganza –Kayla Watson

Kayla Watson discussed feedback from the PD workshops. Kayla also mentioned the possibility of organizing meetings around priority areas and hot topics (EIP Extravaganza). The idea of conducting sessions virtually was proposed to facilitate better collaboration across state lines.

Kayla introduced an update and a check-in on the position of secretary in the IPM program, and encouraged new IPM coordinators to share their experiences. The conversation ended with a discussion on potential locations for next year's meeting.

Ryan Adams (NC) is the new Chair and Ashleigh Farris (OK) will be the incoming Secretary.