

## Re: IPM Committee

### Presentation to the Parks and Community Services Committee, city of Regina, Jan 21, 2004

Thank you for allowing me to speak this afternoon. I welcome the process of setting up an IPM committee for the city of Regina.

#### A. Selection of members representing stakeholders

As a listing of committee members was part of the original motion at Council, I see little point in discussing representation at this time. However, I would like to know what the process will be for deciding the representatives of each organization. For instance, how will the University choose its representative? Who will you send the request for a committee member to? Are you specifying background needed, or anything else in order to be considered as representative of an institution? How will the institution publicize the committee to get applications?

#### B. Definitions of IPM

I also have some concerns over the role of the committee. I recognize that the Council motion called for a reduction of pesticide, but nowhere in this document is there anything specific about it. Also, definitions and meaning of IPM are as variable as those of "sustainable development" or "precautionary Principle" and vary according to who wields the term, as you can see in the definitions provided in appendix 1.

Notice that **the industry's definition (3) differs from the others by putting use of lawn and garden care products on the same level as other methods, and not as a last resort.**

Unfortunately, this seems to also be the definition adopted by the City of Regina Park's Dept. as quoted from Mr Ellis's correspondence and the report on pesticides.

"The policy and the principals of IPM are all specified in the report on Pesticides you have been previously sent." (Dave Ellis, corr.; Sep 09,2003)

The report says, (p.10): "IPM is a process for planning and managing sites to prevent pest problems and for making decisions about when and how to intervene when pest problems occur. It is a **sustainable** approach **combining** biological, cultural, physical and **chemical** tools to manage pests so that the benefits of pest control are maximized and the health and environmental risks are minimized." "Once a pest has been identified, the level of intervention, method and the priority given to manage the pest(s) are then considered in a context of: regulatory obligations, public safety, loss of public asset, public nuisance."

I feel strongly that the IPM committee appointees/nominees should know under what definition of IPM they are required to operate. Definitions 1, 2 and 4 have no limits as to how creative approaches can be to replace chemicals. On the other hand, definition 3 and the city's definition, by putting chemicals on the same level as other methods instead of a last resort, limit the ability of this committee to find real solutions. Under those definitions, it could also be argued, if perchance a miracle option or approach is found that eliminates all chemicals (wishful thinking!), that it is not the mandate of the committee to get rid of pesticides but only to reduce their use, whether they are needed or not.

I am sure you can appreciate the difference in what this committee could accomplish under the two different models. I strongly support models 1 (U.S. EPA's definition), 2 (World Bank definition) and 4 because they are open ended and allow thinking outside the box, which would go further towards the intent for which this committee is established as defined by the Council motion.(Bylaw 8813?)

I am interested in applying as a citizen member of the committee, but would like to know what definition the city's IPM committee will use, so I can judge whether my contribution would be useful and appreciated, or a total waste of time.

Sincerely yours,

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## Appendix 1

The following definitions of IPM are quoted from their respective web sites. They are provided so you can judge the scope of variation of what IPM means to various stakeholders

1. <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/main.html> search site: IPM definition go to: Texas  
**STATE SCHOOL PESTICIDE LAW**

Integrated Pest Management

A good integrated pest management (IPM) program can eliminate the unnecessary application of synthetic, volatile pesticides in schools. The main elements of a good IPM program include:

- 1) monitoring to establish whether there is a pest problem,
- 2) identifying the causes of the pest problem,
- 3) addressing the cause by changing conditions to prevent problems,
- 4) utilizing pest suppression techniques, if necessary, that are based on mechanical and biological controls and
- 5) only after non-toxic alternatives have been tried and exhausted, use the least toxic pesticide.**

An IPM policy should include a written policy guide and a prohibited and acceptable materials list. Material that could be considered after using other methods include boric acid and disodium octoborate tetrahydrate, silica gels, diatomaceous earth, insect growth regulators, insect and rodent baits in tamper resistant containers or for crack and crevice placement only, microbe-based insecticides, botanical insecticides (not including synthetic pyrethroids) without toxic synergists, and biological (living) control agents. (1)

2. [http://www.panna.org/campaigns/docsWorldBank/docsWorldBank\\_010501.pdf](http://www.panna.org/campaigns/docsWorldBank/docsWorldBank_010501.pdf)  
**Monitoring the World Bank's Pest Management Policy A Guide for Communities;** May 2001; Pesticide Action Network North America

### **The World Bank's Definition of IPM**

OP 4.09 defines the World Bank's objective in utilizing IPM as the main approach to pest management. The policy states:

*IPM refers to a mix of farmer-driven, ecologically based pest control practices that seeks to **reduce reliance on synthetic chemical pesticides**. It involves (a) managing pests (keeping them below economically damaging levels) rather than seeking to eradicate*

*them; (b) relying, to the extent possible, on non-chemical measures to keep pest populations low; and (c) selecting and applying pesticides, when they have to be used, in a way that minimizes adverse effects on beneficial organisms, humans, and the environment.*

It is the responsibility of World Bank staff to assist the borrowing country in implementing a project that will promote IPM as defined in OP 4.09.

3. <http://www.urbanpestmanagement.ca/english/intergratedmanagement.cfm> (Industry web site)

### **IPM The right Approach**

*Right Tool, Right Time, Right Way*

More specifically, Integrated Pest Management (IPM as it is often called) is a system for managing pests in lawns and gardens using tools such as watering, seeding, mowing, aerating and hand weeding in combination **with the responsible use of lawn and garden care products.**

IPM is a continuous system of controlling pests (weeds, diseases, insects or others) in which pests are identified, action thresholds are considered, and all possible control options are evaluated and considered.

*A Logical Process*

Control options--which include biological, **chemical**, cultural, manual and mechanical methods--are used to prevent or remedy unacceptable pest activity or damage. The choice of which control

to use is based on effectiveness, environmental impact, site characteristics, worker/public health and safety, and economics.