The Working Group meets via conference call on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00PM Central Time (2:00PM EST). The next conference call will take place July 9 at 1:00PM Central.

I. Roll
- Jill Auerbach, Hudson Valley Lyme Disease Association
- Jane Petzoldt, IPM Institute
- Jody Gangloff-Kauffman, NYS IPM Program
- Kirby Stafford, CT Ag Experiment Station
- Laura Hayes, Agricultural Post-Doctoral Research Scientist, CT Agricultural Experiment Station
- Jennifer Reid, BLAST Lyme Program, Ridgefield, CT
- Pat Smith, President, Lyme Disease Association
- Bob Maurais, President, Mainely Ticks
- Stephen Vantassel, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Tom Green, IPM Institute
- Candy Brassard, EPA Office of Pesticide Programs
- Tom Mather, Professor and director of Center for Vector-Borne Disease, University of Rhode Island

II. Comments and discussion on updated Strategic Plan (15 min)
This strategic plan was developed from the priority ranking survey we conducted in April. Each priority includes expected outcomes, strategies (overarching approach) and specific tactics within that strategy. The Status/Current Projects is intended as a place for us to keep track of related projects working towards the same priority.

Revisions:
- The language was revised to more broadly include management practices, habitat modifications and behaviors, rather than only tools and products to manage ticks.
- Evaluating efficacy as well as safety included throughout plan. Particularly for 25B exempt natural products that have not been evaluated by EPA for effectiveness.
- Revise tactics for research priority 1 to include practices, management strategies, and tools. Esp. vertebrate management, habitat modification.
- Research gaps include effects of habitat modification and vertebrate management on tick and TBD reductions.
- For Research Priority 3 tactic: Where and why are products/tools allowed to be used, when are they appropriate? Look at each IPM tool and whether it applies to the nation or only one location.

Other Comments:
- Anything we do should also reflect the efficacy. We should publicize what it means if EPA has reviewed a product.
- States are cracking down on 25B compounds. There are 10 states asking for efficacy data for sale of the product in their state. Rhode Island is one of those states, but they aren’t being very strict about efficacy data.
- Questions on efficacy are becoming more nuanced, indication that stakeholders are more informed and considering efficacy in their decisions.
Old manufacturer’s label may not specify efficacy; earlier registration may not have label claims. Stakeholders want a protection time, but some labels do not have protection time listed. Active ingredient efficacy data has been submitted for all products by manufacturers. Actual data are not public, but EPA reviews are available online.

III. Brainstorming project ideas to fulfill Strategic Plan (15 min)

Efficacy trials for synthetic and natural products
- Tom Mather did small-scale comparison trials of organic/natural products compared to synthetic pesticides with plate-sized plot on ground, measured tick survival.
- Additional comparison trials for natural and synthetic products that vary product rates and reapplication periods would reveal optimal rates and residual effectiveness for products.
- Bob Maurais of Mainely Ticks is looking for assistance to evaluate bifenthrin products in this way to see whether PMPs can reduce rates, apply less often.

Presentation at ASPCRO semiannual meeting
- The working group could propose an agenda item on ticks at an annual meeting.
- Mike Page, co-chair of ASPCRO’s Pest Management in Schools Committee would know whether ASPCRO would be an appropriate audience.
  - Annual Meeting: August 24-27, 2014 Missoula, Montana
  - Mid-Year Meeting: February 24-25, Santa Fe, New Mexico

IV. Identify appropriate funding sources (15 min)
Product manufacturers might be enticed to fund this research, depending on how it affects price point and sales.

V. Action Items and Next Steps (10 min)
- Jane will update strategic outline.