

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
July 20, 2010

Members Present: Vince Guise, Agriculture; Roland Hindsman, General Services; Jim Hale, County Fish and Wildlife Committee, Michael Kent, Health Services; Marj Leeds, PEHAB; Joe Yee, Public Works; Nancy Stein, Public Works Watershed Program, Michael Fry and Michael Baefsky, County Public Members At-Large; Carlos Agurto, Pestec

(10 members present/~~69~~ voting members)

Members Absent: Ted Shapas, Public Member At-Large

Staff Present: Robin Bedell-Waite, Health Services; Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator; Cathy Fisher, Agriculture; Chuck Jeffries, Public Works

Members of the Public Present: Lysle Buchbinder, Susan JunFish, and Karen Perkins, Parents for a Safer Environment; Nicole Cuellar, Green Business Program intern

1. Introductions
2. Announcements—There were none.
3. Public comment—There was none.
4. Approval of minutes from May 5, 2010.

Vince Guise asked to have the following phrase added to the end of the last sentence in the section on the Agriculture Department in Item 6: “the existing plant is killed, but not the seed, so treatment must continue until the seed bank is depleted.”

Public comment. Susan JunFish asked to have the following phrase added at the end of the first sentence in Item 4: “in response to Public Works concerns that the work was delayed.”

A motion was made to approve the minutes of May 5, 2010 as amended (ML/JH).

Michael Baefsky voted no, Nancy Stein abstained, and the remaining eight voted yes.

5. Discuss the merits of developing an IPM Ordinance

Gregory Gee, Alameda County Agriculture Department, Retired, and Cathy Roach, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, Alameda County, spoke on Alameda County’s experience with their IPM Resolution. Attached is their written presentation. Information not in the written document that came up in discussion is as follows:

- Alameda County Counsel did review the IPM resolution, but did not give an opinion.
- Departments developed pest management decision trees which made their decision-making transparent.
- Each department developed their own IPM policy to fit their needs.
- The Department of Agriculture did not compile figures on pesticide use reduction in the County and did not develop an approved pesticide list. The County’s focus was on better pest control, including cost effectiveness and safety, and not on pesticide reduction or elimination.
- The Resolution pertains to County-owned and -operated property, but not leased property.
- Alameda does not have a formal IPM committee.

Michael Baefsky suggested that he could look into what other California counties are doing in regard to IPM, and possibly gather information on county structure and whether their programs are working.

6. Reports on pest management and other activities of the Departments of Agriculture, General Services and Public Works. The Department reports are attached.

Public Works Department

In discussion, it was noted that the Public Works Department is interested in writing a grant to experiment with the use of shade cloth on fencing for ground squirrel control in certain situations. The Chair suggested that the Department bring their ideas and/or proposal to the Committee since the Committee may be able to provide helpful feedback and can write a letter in support of the proposal.

Susan JunFish requested that signs be posted whenever blackberry bushes are treated with pesticide on creeks and flood control channels. Ms. JunFish also mentioned that Public Works may be able to partner with Eagle Scouts to have them build owl boxes.

General Services Facilities

Carlos Agurto noted that 595 Center in Martinez had flesh flies in the ceiling lights, but he has been unable to find a carcass that they might have been feeding on. The theater there has overflowing garbage in their dumpster and something should be done about properly sizing the container and increasing the frequency of removal.

Mr. Agurto also mentioned that the County's first bed bug infestation occurred at the Concord Homeless Shelter. Pestec did steam cleaning and will follow up with education and an inspection with their bed bug-detecting dog.

General Services Grounds & Agriculture Department

There was no additional information to report.

7. Staff report
 - a. Update on pesticide screening—the IPM Coordinator and the Departments continue meeting regularly to work on developing a decision-making process for choosing pesticides in the County.
 - b. Update on Bed Bug Task Force—the Task Force continues to meet monthly and has formed four work groups: Legal, Education & Outreach, Science of Control, Scope of the Problem. The Task Force is working on a town hall style meeting in Concord in the fall.

8. Amend IPM Committee bylaws

Susan JunFish asked why County Counsel had changed “shall” to “should” in section III.B.1. The Chair responded that we were unable to find out in time for this meeting why County Counsel made the change. Ms. JunFish suggested that that section could include wording to the effect that the Committee shall make a good faith effort to do outreach and obtain applicants that reflect the ethnic, racial and geographical diversity of the County.

A motion was made to approve the bylaws as written. (NS/MF).

The motion carried unanimously.

9. Discuss having a special meeting to approve Departmental IPM plans

A motion was made to hold two special, two-hour meetings, one in August and one in October. (ML, JH).

The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee will meet on August 25 from 10:00 AM to noon at the Agriculture Department to hear presentations on the IPM plans for General Services Facilities and Public Works.

10. Plan agenda for September meeting.

- Consider recommending adding a seat on the Committee for an environmental organization

- Review Public Works grant application for experimenting with shade cloth for ground squirrel control
- Hear a presentation on the three-year grazing study to be conducted by Public Works
- Hear updates from Departments

The Chair decided that the Committee will wait to vote on an IPM ordinance until the new member is seated, if the Board of Supervisors decides to add any new seats to the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator