

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
August 25, 2010

Members Present: Vince Guise, Agriculture; Roland Hindsman, General Services; Michael Kent, Health Services; Joe Yee, Public Works; ; Nancy Stein, Public Works Watershed Program; Michael Baefsky, Michael Fry and Ted Shapas County Public Members At-Large; Carlos Agurto, Pestec

(9 members present/8 voting members)

Members Absent: Jim Hale, County Fish and Wildlife Committee; Marj Leeds, PEHAB

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

Members of the Public Present: none

1. Introductions
2. Public comment on items not on the agenda—There were none.
3. Announcements

Vince Guise asked everyone to be on the lookout for Japanese dodder (*Cuscuta japonica*). This parasitic plant envelopes and kills a wide variety of host plants. Vince distributed flyers for posting. Japanese dodder has been found on 45 properties in the County so far. Vince also mentioned that the State's annual report on biological control projects in California has been published.

Michael Kent mentioned that the Committee's bylaws will go to the Board of Supervisors on September 21. Michael also asked to add to the agenda deciding on a date for the special meeting in October.

4. Review General Services Department Structural IPM Plan from Pestec

Comments on Pestec's IPM Plan were as follows:

- A. Bed bugs were found at the County's homeless shelter. A client alerted the management and management called Pestec. Pestec met with staff and set up a monitoring and cleaning protocol.
- B. Honeybees are flying in and out of the eaves at the Recycling Center. Pestec suggested that the County develop a honeybee policy. The Committee asked Pestec to come to a future meeting and bring Palo Alto's honeybee policy so the Committee can discuss the issue.
- C. It was mentioned that Vector Control has a number of free services they offer, and one of them is removal of yellowjacket nests. The IPM Coordinator will investigate what they use to kill the nests.
- D. Owls are nesting in the 651 Pine tower in downtown Martinez.
- E. It was requested that the IPM Coordinator and Pestec work on how Pestec's pest trend data and other reports can be made available to the public.
- F. Additions to the document
 - a. Page numbers
 - b. A brief description of how Pestec decides how many times they visit a building
 - c. Posting language for structural pests
 - d. Mention of the fact that Pestec is EcoWise Certified

- e. A section on occasional pests that explains that Pestec uses the EcoWise Certified IPM process (reference the EcoWise Standard on the EcoWise website)
- f. A section that explains the process for approving pesticides that are used in County buildings
- G. Additions to the permanent posting notice—the IPM Coordinator will work on modifying the language to inform the public that an IPM approach is being used and that the pesticides listed are the least toxic pesticides effective against the pest and are used in a way that minimizes exposure to people and other non-target organisms.
- H. The Committee will review the final draft at the meeting in November.

5. Review Public Works Vegetation Management IPM Plan

Comments on the IPM Plan were as follows:

- A. What is the Board of Supervisors' or the County's aesthetic threshold for weeds in the County. There are guidelines for picking up trash, so perhaps there should be guidelines for weeds as an aesthetic nuisance.
 - B. The IPM Plans, when finished, should go on the Departments' websites.
 - C. How does the vegetation manager decide what control method(s) to use?
 - D. The work process results in certain environmental consequences. The Plan should have a section on environmental stewardship which contains BMPs to prevent and control the spread of noxious weeds and to reduce adverse consequences to sensitive species. Michael Fry can help with the wording for this section.
 - E. Include the posting language in the document.
 - F. Public Works has a list of properties where it does not use pesticides. Can this be explained in the document.
6. Set Date for October Special Meeting to Review IPM Plans from Agriculture and Grounds.

The date was set for October 13, 2010 from 10 AM to Noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator