

**Minutes**  
**Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee**  
**September 1, 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~~Fry, and Ted Shapas County Public Members At-Large; Carlos Agurto, Pestec

(8 members present/7 voting members)

Members Absent: Jim Hale, County Fish and Wildlife Committee; Marj Leeds, PEHAB, Michael ~~Fry~~Baefsky, Public Member At-Large

Staff Present: Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator; Chuck Jeffries and Cece Sellgren, Public Works

Members of the Public Present: Susan JunFish, Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

2. Announcements

Nancy Stein will send out the annual Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association report when it is final.

Susan JunFish asked anyone who wanted to send a letter of support for the School IPM bill to see her.

Michael Kent asked to add planning the special meeting on October 13 to the agenda.

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Susan JunFish asked why County Counsel changed “shall” to “should” in the Membership Requirements section of the IPM Advisory Committee Bylaws that refers to members reflecting the ethnic, racial, geographical diversity of the County. She also mentioned that Elisa Wilfong wanted a cost comparison for nematodes vs. pesticide for the Bettencourt Ranch lawn grubs.

4. Approve minutes of the July 20, 2010 Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes (NS/VG). The motion passed unanimously.

Susan JunFish will send her comments to the IPM Coordinator to attach to the minutes.

5. Plan special October 13, 2010 meeting

The agenda will include review of the IPM Plans for the Agriculture Department and the Grounds Division and the Committee will develop a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors concerning possible categories of constituents that could be represented on the Committee.

The IPM Coordinator explained the proposed timeline for adding a seat, if the Board of Supervisors decides to add one.

Roland Hindsman is unable to attend the meeting but will send someone in his place.

6. Hear a Report from Public Works on their planned three-year vegetation management study

Cece Sellgren, Public Works Environmental Planner presented her report. See attached memo from the Flood Control and Water Conservation District for a summary of the project.

7. Consider request from Public Works to support a grant for ground squirrel management

The proposed ground squirrel management study would examine whether anticoagulant use for ground squirrel control could be reduced by using shade cloth fastened to fences to deter burrowing. Study sites would be chosen from 1) areas where flood control facilities border open areas or agricultural land and 2)

roads with long level stretches along the edges. This would be more than a one-year study a grant proposal would be written for funds to pay for materials and installation.

The Committee suggested that Gilbert Proulx, Canadian wildlife biologist, be consulted in the planning stages since he advised on a similar project in Palo Alto.

If Public Works would like a letter of recommendation for the grant, the proposal should be brought before the Committee in November.

#### 8. Hear staff reports on IPM activities

##### Department of Agriculture

- The Department is 2/3 of the way through its ground squirrel treatment program for the year. Treatment is only in areas where ground squirrels threaten critical infrastructure such as roads, railroad beds, and levees. The Department pre-baits with untreated grain on a Thursday to increase ground squirrel activity in the area and returns on Monday to put out poison bait.
- White horsenettle infestations are being cleaned up in Pittsburg and other parts of East County.
- The Department is treating Pampas grass and perennial pepper weed along CalTrans rights-of-way. The Department treats rights-of-way because they are conduits for noxious weed entry into the County. Solano County has many weeds we do not want in Contra Costa.
- The Department would like the public to think of invasive species as “biological fires” that we want to put out before they spread across the state.

##### General Services Department

- The Grounds Division has relocated from Glacier Drive to the Waterbird facility in Martinez.
- The Glacier Drive area in Martinez has had quite a few Oriental cockroaches invading buildings. The vegetation around various buildings has been cut down and that along with an orthoboric acid bait has improved the problem.
- Pestec reported that there are no buildings where employee habits or attitudes are causing pest issues.
- The Homeless Shelter in Concord had a bed bug infestation, but Pestec successfully treated the Shelter and is working with staff on a prevention protocol.

##### Public Works Department

- Weed abatement was completed on August 19. The goal is to complete weed abatement by July 4, but this year’s weather made that impossible. Consequently, the Department has spent 7 weeks on weed abatement that should have been completely in the last fiscal year. This will impact funds available for the current fiscal year’s weed abatement.
- This is construction season and major road maintenance is underway.
- The Army Corp of Engineers is inspecting flood control facilities. The Corp is looking at requiring levees to be devoid of trees; however, the Regional Water Quality Control Board won’t allow vegetation to be removed. This places the Department in a difficult position.
- Crews are performing the last poison oak treatments as the pesticide treatment season comes to a close. Crews are beginning tree and vegetation trimming. In October crews will be cutting cattails.

Susan JunFish noted that Public Works monitors streams for aquatic herbicides and asked if Public Works does water quality monitoring for terrestrial herbicides. The answer was no, the NPDES permit does not require terrestrial herbicide monitoring.

#### 9. Plan Agenda for November 3 meeting

- Review final IPM Plans from Departments
- Plan the annual IPM report to the Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee
- Develop priorities for the Committee
- Review the Public Works ground squirrel study proposal

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator