

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
July 11, 2012

Members Present: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Jerry Casey, General Services Department; Michael Fry, Public Member At-Large; Vince Guise, Agriculture Department; Christine Hagelin, Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation; Dan Jordan, County Clean Water Program; Michael Kent, Health Services; Marj Leeds, Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board; Joe Yee, Public Works; Myrto Pretreas, Public Member Alternate

(10 members present/6 voting members)

Members Absent: Michael Baefsky, Jim Hale, County Fish and Wildlife Committee; Public Member At-Large; Tunyalee Martin, Public Member At-Large

Staff Present: Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator; Gene Mangini and Larry Yost, Agriculture Department

Members of the Public Present: Robin Bedell-Waite, resident of El Sobrante; Douglas Chadler, Duba Chuder, Madeline Clath, Susan JunFish and Karen Perkins, Parents for a Safer Environment; Lesley Hunt, Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation; Andrew Sutherland, University of California Cooperative Extension/U.C. IPM

1. Introductions

2. Announcements

The IPM Coordinator read a commendation from Swandi Singh (CCC Regional Medical Center) for Pestec Technician Matthew Huffman's outstanding attention to service at the Regional Medical Center.

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Members of Parents for a Safer Environment (PfSE) read statements from Katharine Holm and Shirley Shelangoski that had been presented at Transparency subcommittee meetings on June 18 and 25. See attached.

4. Approve minutes from May 2, 2012

A motion was made and seconded (ML/CH) to approve the minutes as written.

The motion carried (5-0) with Myrto Petreas abstaining.

Susan JunFish asked that information on her Bad Actor presentation be included in the minutes of this meeting. See attached.

5. Hear reports from the Agriculture General Services, and Public Works Departments

Agriculture

Vince Guise noted that a hazard to his staff of handling ground squirrel traps with live squirrels in them is the risk of human disease transmission from the squirrels to his staff. Ground squirrels are associated with the spread of bubonic plague, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, rat bite fever, tularemia, Chagas disease, encephalomyocarditis and adiospiromycosis.

The bulk of the noxious weed program is mostly finished for the year. Staff found a few more strands of Japanese dodder at the property reported at the last meeting. In addition to surveying all historic sites and treating where necessary, the Department worked on a few new and more remote areas of artichoke thistle and purple star thistle: Sky Ranch, Moraga, and areas in the East Bay Regional Parks and the Concord Naval Weapons Station. The County is looking good now, as far as these two weeds go.

The areas of Russian knapweed where the Department used Telar (chlorsulfuron) last year look really good. The areas where Roundup (glyphosate) was used don't look as good.

Staff found new infestations of perennial pepperweed. The Department is not sure how the perennial pepperweed is getting to these remote ranch locations, but it may be the movement of soil from one area to another.

Staff found a couple of new, small sites of hoary cress.

The Department has found two new noxious weed species in the County (the first in 15 years): woolly distaff thistle and Japanese knotweed. The two woolly distaff thistle plants at the site were removed by hand, and the Department is studying how best to remove/treat the Japanese knotweed. The knotweed plants were found in Lafayette, and this is the first record of this weed in the County.

Of the 17 noxious weed species the Department manages, five are controlled only by mechanical means. To use only mechanical control, the populations must be small and the species must be ones that can be controlled by pulling (for some weeds, pulling the plants would only make the problem worse).

General Services Structural

The hunt for the source of the humpbacked flies in the West County Detention Facility kitchen continues. General Services used a borescope to inspect the inside of the drain system with a tiny video camera to look for breaks, and none were found.

The bed bugs at the Concord Homeless Shelter seem to be under control. The prevention protocols have been instituted, and there is one staff member who spends 8 hours a day inspecting and cleaning beds. Only a few bed bugs are found per week, and Pestec has not had to come back to treat the whole facility again.

General Services Grounds

The crew has been working overtime on the weekends for the last month and a half to try to catch up with the work that needs to be done. Grounds is seriously underfunded and understaffed: in recent years the crew numbered 45 and now it numbers only 13 with one employee retiring in a month or two. Kevin Lachapelle, Grounds Manager, has been asking for more staff for quite awhile. His crew cannot use all the hours of work allotted to them because there aren't enough staff; he needs four more full-time-equivalents to fulfill that work. He will now be allowed to hire as many seasonal workers as he needs. He doesn't want permanent staff because he needs seasonal help. He will be building a pool of competent, hard-working people from which he can hire each year. This by no means solves all the problems for the Grounds Division, but at least staff will be able to work all the hours allotted to them.

6. Hear report from the IPM Coordinator

The IPM Coordinator

- provided a regular IPM report to the County's Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee on June 7. PfSE read statements enumerating a number of concerns including reporting the amounts of "Bad Actor" pesticides in the IPM Annual Report. The Supervisors asked the IPM Coordinator to resume reporting the amounts of "Bad Actors".
- continued to schedule meetings and provide staff support for the Committee's three subcommittees
- Attended the IPM Committee's grazing field trip on June 21 with Jerry Casey, Vince Guise, Christine Hagelin, and Shirley Shelangoski. Cece Sellgren, of Public Works led the field trip.
- Met with Andrew Sutherland, the new Cooperative Extension Advisor for Urban IPM in the Bay Area
- Met with Al Hom, Program Manager for the Alameda County Vector Control, about collaborating on bed bug outreach and training
- continued to work on Head Start bed bug prevention protocols with the County's Bed Bug Task Force
- attended a bed bug training in San Francisco put on by the Sleptight Academy, a San Francisco pest control company
- provided a bed bug awareness talk for the Northern California Entomology Club in Davis

- contacted Al Hom, Program Manager for Alameda County Vector Control, about collaboration on bed bug outreach and education
- spent considerable time responding to public records requests from PfSE

Note that PfSE is circulating a petition asking the Board of Supervisors to pass an IPM ordinance.

7. Introduce Dr. Andrew Sutherland, UC Extension Urban IPM Advisor for the Bay Area

Andrew Sutherland's position new. He is working in the urban/suburban interface with the pest control industry (both landscape and structural), public agencies, and other UC Advisors. He is an educator and researcher, and he is now a Board Certified Entomologist.

Some of his projects are as follows:

- Working with Vernard Lewis of UC Berkeley comparing active and passive monitors for bed bugs. Preliminary results show the passive monitors, which are much less expensive, working as well as the active monitors.
- Working with Al Hom of Alameda Co. Vector Control, on efficacy trials for 25b materials for bed bugs and other pests. Minimum risk pesticides that meet certain criteria are exempt from federal registration under section 25(b) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.
- Serving as an advisor for a DPR Pest Management Alliance Grant on child care and IPM.
- Looking at pest pressure in response to inefficient irrigation.

Susan JunFish asked about helping the County with an IPM plan for termites. Andrew agreed that he could help the County craft IPM language for termite contracts.

8. Hear report from the IPM Decision Making subcommittee

Marj Leeds, chair of the committee, explained that the goals of the committee were to clarify and document how pest management decisions are being made in order to demonstrate that the County is doing the best job possible. From this process she learned that pest management decision making is complicated, has lots of steps, and lots of ifs, ands, and buts.

She asked if the draft decision tree (see attached) that the committee had produced is the right way to attain the goals.

The following points were made in the discussion:

- The decision tree is useful for formalizing the decision making process (JY)
- Budget is not adequately represented in the chart (JY)
- The chart is just a summary; there are many, many more details that cannot be captured (TD)
- Noxious weeds need to be included in the chart (MF)
- This is the process and now we need the data (MP)
- The Ag Dept. flow chart would be different (VG)
- Should the subcommittee be thinking about how to document that the Departments are following the chart? (MK)
- This is a good summary of what actually occurs, but being required to document all the steps would be onerous (VG)
- We need to pick which steps need to be documented (DJ)
- The IPM Plans document the decision making process in text (ML, VG)
- In a lab, the flow chart would be standard operating procedure and only deviations from the procedure would be documented (MP)
- The purpose of the exercise was to look at what alternatives are available and how to choose pesticides (SJF)
- Documenting the yes/no steps is not difficult, but the boxes that say "consider" involve many details and contingencies (ML)

- The Data Management subcommittee has developed an IPM priority assessment tool; this may be useful for capturing that a Department wanted to use an alternative, but it was beyond reach because of the budget (MF)
- Each Department should provide the information that corresponds to each of the boxes in the flow chart (SJF)

The Committee agreed that a flow chart appropriate, and asked the subcommittee to take one chemical, as a trial, through the decision making process, keep track of the time spent, and bring it back to the next Committee meeting.

9. Hear report on injunctions affecting Contra Costa County

Because of lack of time, this was postponed until the next meeting.

10. Plan agenda for next meeting

- Report on the three pesticide injunctions affecting Contra Costa
- Reports on recommendations from the 3 subcommittees
- Department reports

Respectfully submitted,
Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator