

**Minutes**  
**Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee**  
**November 7, 2012**

Members Present: Michael Baefsky, Public Member At-Large; Michael Fry, Public Member At-Large; Vince Guise, Agriculture Department; Christine Hagelin, Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation; Jim Hale, County Fish and Wildlife Committee; Dan Jordan, County Clean Water Program; Michael Kent, Health Services; Tunyalee Martin, Public Member At-Large; Joe Yee, Public Works; Myrto Pretreas, Public Member Alternate

(10 members present/7 voting members)

Members Absent: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Jerry Casey, General Services Department; Marj Leeds, Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board

Staff Present: Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator; Larry Yost, Agriculture Department; Ed Swan, Public Works

Members of the Public Present: Susan JunFish, Stan Necormar, and Shirley Shelangoski, Parents for a Safer Environment; Al Webster, Walnut Creek; Seth Wright, Wright Landscaping

1. Introductions

2. Announcements

~~Jim Hale~~, ~~Susan JunFish~~ suggested the Committee have Armand Ruby (armandrubyconsulting.com) give a presentation on bioassessment data and herbicides he is tracking on creeks.

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Shirley Shelangoski asked that the County list specific pesticides on any permanent signs and include chemical half lives.

Seth Wright introduced himself as a Bay Friendly certified organic landscaper.

4. Approve minutes from September 5, 2012

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

The motion carried (6-0) with Michael Fry abstaining.

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

*Agriculture*

The Department has revised its IPM Plan and has included photos, graphics, and written decision-making documentation for Japanese knotweed and woolly distaff thistle.

The Department has completed its summary of noxious weed work for 2012. For each species, new sites have been added to those regularly surveyed. There has been a dramatic drop in net acres treated for some species: artichoke thistle went from 205 net acres treated to 105, and purple starthistle went from 153 net acres to 61. For barbed goatgrass, net acres treated increased from 2 to 10. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> year of red sesbania hand removal and the number of plants removed was 4,293, up from 2838 the year before. Red sesbania has a seed bank that can last more than 30 years. This year conditions may have been particularly favorable for sprouting seeds.

Susan JunFish mentioned a pilot study the Department did on artichoke thistle on Mulholland Ridge using a spot spray of RoundUp and asked if the plants could be wiped with the herbicide instead of sprayed.

Vince Guise explained that it was an internal Department trial and not an official study so there was no official report. The problem with RoundUp is that it doesn't work as well as other herbicides and kills the grasses surrounding the thistle plant. Wiping herbicide onto the plants takes much more time than spot spraying. Susan JunFish suggested that trials should be documented.

The Department's report on this summer's ground squirrel trapping trial is almost finished.

*Public Works, Creeks and Roadsides*

Staffing has been a big challenge for the Maintenance Division. They have lost staff due to attrition but haven't been able to hire because of the County's budget problems. Recently they hired a new senior vegetation management technician, which increased the staff from 3 to 4.

The Department is analyzing the cost of using grazing for vegetation management this year at about 23 sites (this is in addition to the formal study). The cost is very dependent on the characteristics of the site.

Susan JunFish brought up the 2006 San Francisco Estuary Institute's study on chemicals vs. mechanical removal vs. goats which she said proved that goats are cheaper than chemical control.

6. Hear report from the IPM Coordinator

The IPM Coordinator

- spent the majority of her time working on the IPM Annual Report for the Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee (TWIC)
- advertised for applicants for the Committee's environmental organization seat
- met with the City of San Pablo IPM Coordinator about her IPM program
- attended a two-day bed bug conference in Las Vegas, Nevada that featured bed bug researchers from around the world; a startling consensus from the conference is that there is little hope of eradicating infestations in a multi-family dwelling, and the focus should be on managing the bed bug population at a low level

Through networking on the Bed Bug Task Force, the County received a \$10,000 donation for new metal beds at the Concord Homeless Shelter. The beds have been installed, staff thoroughly cleaned the sleeping area, and no bed bugs have been seen since September. Because of the frequent movement of people in and out of the shelter, it is likely that infestations will recur, but the prevention protocol is in place, clients assist with cleaning, and the metal beds are far easier to clean and provide very few hiding places for bed bugs.

Susan JunFish asked if Pestec is using pyrethroids or heat treatments for bed bugs in the County. The IPM Coordinator explained that pyrethroids don't work well for bed bugs so none have been used. Heat is too expensive and not practical in the Homeless shelter. Bed bug management at the shelter now involves prevention and thorough cleaning.

7. Hear report from the IPM Decision Making, Data Management, and Transparency subcommittees

*IPM Decision Making*

Michael Baefsky presented the subcommittee's report and the following recommendations for the Departments:

1. Accept the generic decision tree (Attachment A) as documentation of how the County Departments currently make pest management decisions
2. Accept the Decision Documentation Tree (Attachment B) as a method of documenting management decisions for new pests, new sites/situations, and for using new pesticides

The Decision Making committee is supporting the Data Management committee's recommending that the Departments choose one pesticide/site/pest problem and use it to fill out the Decision Documentation Tree.

The following points were made in discussion:

- The decision-making process is somewhat different for Ag and is documented in the Department's IPM Plan. (VG)
- These documents should be used for training. (Public: SS)
- Putting one product or pest through the Decision Documentation Tree is not enough; when asked for documentation, the Departments can't produce it; there should be documentation that alternatives have been assessed first. (Public: SJF)

- Over time more can be filled out and if there are questions about specific cases/pesticides, the form can also be filled out. (MK, TLM)
- There needs to be a separate Decision Documentation Tree form for insects and vertebrates. (CH)
- Staff is not able to supply information for costs of management. (Public: SJF)
- Departments have given Susan JunFish data on costs. (JY)
- The decision tree should be characterized as a goal and not as fact. (Public: SJF)
- The decision tree documents the general way decisions are made, and Susan JunFish is talking about specific decisions and the details of management. (MB)

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of forwarding the recommendations on to the Board of Supervisors. (7-0)

### *Data Management*

Michael Fry presented the subcommittee's report and the following recommendations for the Departments:

1. Use the IPM Priority Assessment Tool for assessing implementation of elements of an IPM program and as a method for prioritizing work on IPM implementations
2. Have each Departmental IPM Program work with the Data Management subcommittee to choose one priority that is not fully implemented, determine appropriate metrics, and commit to improving implementation of the priority in 2013.
3. Have each Departmental IPM program identify a priority pesticide or pest management activity and fill out the Decision Making subcommittee's Decision Documentation Tree for that pesticide or activity.

The following points were made in discussion:

- Where there is a priority that isn't getting attention, give it attention and make sure it is happening. (VG, MK)
- It is a good tool and Public Works will be implementing it in 2013. (JY)
- "Bad Actor" pesticides are not being identified properly. (Public: SJF)
- Susan JunFish gave a presentation to the Committee, the Committee discussed it and decided not to change the way the County is identifying "Bad Actors". (MK)
- Is someone in the County looking at alternatives? (Public: SS)
- To keep current on information on alternatives, the County talks to other practitioners in the field, reads research papers and UCIPM recommendations, talks to experts at UC and other universities, and attends conferences. (VG, JY, TD)

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of forwarding the recommendations on to the Board of Supervisors. (7-0)

### *IPM Program Transparency*

The IPM Coordinator presented subcommittee's report and the following recommendations for the Departments:

1. Accept the revised pesticide use posting policy
2. Begin using the web posting method in 2013

The following points were made in discussion:

- There should be a map on the website with areas sprayed highlighted. Posting online should be for everywhere the County sprays; there should be no exemptions. (Public: SJF)

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of forwarding the recommendations on to the Board of Supervisors with the addition of evaluating online posting after a year. (7-0)

The Committee also unanimously voted to put identifying numbers on the permanent signs and to look at posting in places the County doesn't post now.

8. Review draft Annual IPM Report

Next year Tunyalee Martin would like to see a chart of County IPM activities included in the report.

A motion was made and seconded (MF/CH) to approve the report with the addition on the first page of an explanation of the public member alternate seat.

The motion carried unanimously. (7-0).

9. Plan agenda for next meeting

- Report from Vince on ground squirrel trapping
- Committee Priorities
- Election of officers

Respectfully submitted,  
Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator