

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
February 6, 2013

Members Present: Luis Agurto, Pestec; Michael Baefsky, Public Member At-Large; Jerry Casey, Public Works Facilities; Scott Cashen, Mt. Diablo Audubon; Michael Fry, Public Member At-Large; Vince Guise, Agriculture Department; Jim Hale, County Fish and Wildlife Committee; Dan Jordan, County Clean Water Program; Michael Kent, Health Services; Marj Leeds, Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board; Joe Yee, Public Works

(11 members present/7 voting members)

Members Absent: Tunyalee Martin, Public Member At-Large, Myrto Petreas, Public Member Alternate

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

Members of the Public: Susan JunFish, Zijad Mehmedio, and Shirley Shelangoski, Parents for a Safer Environment; Nancy Wenninger, Mt. Diablo Audubon

1. Introductions

2. Announcements

Michael Baefsky announced that

- the San Francisco IPM Technical Advisory meeting on February 7 will feature a summary of the California Invasive Plant Council's conference,
- the 12th San Francisco Urban IPM Conference will be held on April 4, 2013, and
- UC IPM has some excellent online training, particularly "Urban Pesticide Runoff and Mitigation" and several courses for retail nursery and garden center employees.

Michael Kent explained the options for public participation in the Committee's meetings, and explained that his job, as chair, is to encourage participation from both the Committee and the public, while at the same time moving the agenda along to accomplish the work before the Committee. He noted that from now on, the agenda items involving guest speakers or other presentations will separate the time allowed for the presentation and the time allowed for questions or discussion. There has been concern that there is not enough time for discussion in the meetings, so the chair and the IPM Coordinator will endeavor to leave more time for discussion when planning the Committee's agendas.

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Shirley Shelangoski read a letter from Bellal Daunish (see attached).

4. Approve minutes from January 9, 2013

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

The motion carried unanimously (7-0).

5. Discuss 2013 priorities for the Committee

The Committee, members of the public, and County staff discussed priorities for the coming year. This began with a review of the work done in 2012, and the recommendations and commitments that were made in the last annual report to the Board of Supervisors. Attendees then brainstormed additional topics and discussed the pros, cons, and relative merits. The following were the main topics discussed:

Suggestions from Committee members

- Continue the two subcommittees from last year (Data Management and IPM Decision-Making) and implement their recommendations as noted in the IPM Annual Report:
 - Use the Decision Documentation Tree developed by the Decision-Making subcommittee as a method for documenting management decisions for new pests, new sites/situations, and for using new pesticides

- Use the IPM Priority Assessment tool developed by the Data Management subcommittee for assessing implementation of elements of an IPM program and as a method for prioritizing work on IPM implementation
- 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 that priority in 2013
- Have each departmental IPM program identify a priority pesticide or pest management activity and fill out the Decision Documentation Tree for that pesticide or activity
- Consider the potential for including the newly published *Pest Prevention by Design Guidelines* in the County's building and remodeling standards
- Clearly define the goals of the IPM Advisory Committee, the departmental IPM programs, and the goals for IPM outside of County operations
- Work on public outreach (outside of County operations) on IPM/general pesticide use/rodenticides/bed bugs
- Review the issue of IPM ordinance vs. IPM Policy

Suggestions from the public

- Develop a quality control system for reporting pounds of pesticide in the annual report
- Document and review in 2013 all decision-making processes for all pesticides/sites for each department
- Review data in the IPM Annual Report contested by Parents for a Safer Environment before the Report goes to the full Board of Supervisors
- Agree on the definition of "Bad Actor" pesticides
- Ban the use of glue traps for rodents
- Develop a list of approved pesticides

The following are the agreements that were reached during the discussion.

The Committee agreed to have the two subcommittees, Data Management and IPM Decision-Making, work with the Departments on the recommendations made in the 2012 IPM Annual Report. No new subcommittees were formed.

Public outreach was a priority that many members felt should be pursued. Michael Kent suggested, and the Committee agreed, that because the role of the Committee is advisory, the Committee will ask the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society and the County's Cleanwater Program, both of which are planning public outreach campaigns about pesticides, to make presentations to the Committee in May, so that the Committee can provide input on the messages.

The Committee agreed that Jerry Casey, Pestec, and the IPM Coordinator will work with Public Works staff to have the *Pest Prevention by Design Guidelines* incorporated in the County's building and renovation standards. They will report back to the Committee on their progress in July.

The Committee agreed that errors alleged by Parents for a Safer Environment to be in the 2012 PM Annual Report should be investigated before the report goes to the full Board. The Committee agreed to call a special Data Management subcommittee meeting on a date that Susan JunFish can attend to review the identification of "Bad Actor" pesticides on the Pesticide Action Network's website for the purpose of reporting in the IPM Annual Report. Other data in the IPM Annual Report that is contested will also be reviewed at this meeting.

The Committee will revisit the issue of an IPM ordinance at some time during the year. In 2011 the Committee agreed to review this issue after 2 years.

Glue boards for rodents are used by Pestec only in the County's two detention facilities. This was requested by the detention facilities because of security fears around the snap traps that Pestec had been using. Luis Agurto suggested that since detention facilities in Marin and San Francisco use snap traps, he may be able to get data or assurances from them that snap traps have not posed problems, and thus convince Contra Costa detention facilities to use snap traps. Luis will report back to the Committee on this issue at a later meeting.

11. Plan agenda for next meeting

Jim Hale will make a presentation on wildlife issues in Contra Costa County.

Mt. Diablo Audubon and the County's Cleanwater Program will both make presentations in May on their public outreach campaigns involving pesticides.

Respectfully submitted,
Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator

Public Comment

February 6, 2013

To: Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee

From: Bellal Daunish, resident of Concord

Re: The current mis-reporting problems in the county's pesticide program have been known for years.

On December 20, 2010, I, Bellal Daunish, along with two student interns and Karen Perkins, presented data to the Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee and county pesticide program staff, explaining how the county was leaving out many Bad Actor Pesticides in their reports. In addition, Department of Agriculture had increased their Bad Actor usage by 32% over a 5 year period. The acutely toxic and salts of Bad Actor Parent chemicals were being omitted as Bad Actors.

The county staff ignores the data under the column for "parents" when addressing salt forms of chemicals. In addition, staff simply referred to the chemical summary section when the PANNA database instructs specifically to refer to the pesticide identification section for proper acute toxicity classification that would trigger it being a Bad Actor. Anyone can make this oversight, but it takes special effort to ignore the oversight after others point it out.

As a father of 3 young children and working in the healthcare industry, it is deeply disturbing to me that the county is still misinforming the community about the hazardous chemicals they are spraying in public places. It is unfathomable that public servants continue to publish false numbers for years after oversight problems are revealed.

It also doesn't help matters that our county has one of the worst posting policies among Bay Area counties so that our residents do not even have a choice in avoiding treated areas if they wish to do so, whether they are Bad Actors or not.

A new report and policy statement published by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in November 26, 2012, references the harmful effects of pesticides on children and urges government agencies, from local to federal, to take action. The county has a duty to respond to the "silent pandemic" of cancers, autoimmune diseases, learning disabilities and disorders by taking swift action at the local level and leading with true IPM practices.

If the IPM Advisory Committee were at all concerned about health of the community, it would immediately address the misreporting of Bad Actors in its reports. Please provide a response in writing to my concerns that have been expressed over a span of two years with no response to date.

Sincerely,

Bellal Daunish
abdaunish@yahoo.com