

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
January 8, 2014

Members Present: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Jerry Casey, Public Works Facilities; Scott Cashen, Mt. Diablo Audubon; Terry Davis, Public Member At-Large; Doug Freier, Public Member At-Large; Vince Guise, Agriculture Department; Cheng Liao; Public Member Alternate; Marj Leeds, Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board; Cece Sellgren, County Clean Water Program; Patti TenBrook, Public Member At-Large; Joe Yee, Public Works

(11 members present/7 voting members)

Members Absent: Jim Hale, County Fish and Wildlife Committee; Michael Kent, Health Services

Staff Present: Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator; Karen Adler, Matthew Slattengren, and Larry Yost, Agriculture Department; Ed Swan and Allison Knapp, Public Works Department; Jill Ray, Supervisor Andersen's office

Members of the Public: Susan JunFish, Shirley Shelangoski, Katherine Barrett, David Petto, Michael Sullivan, Vicky Li, Parents for a Safer Environment; Robin Bedell-Waite and Sonce Devries, citizens

1. Introductions

This included introductions of the 3 new public members: Terry Davis, Cheng Liao, and Patti TenBrook.

2. Election of Officers

The following were elected unanimously:

Cece Sellgren, Chair
Patti TenBrook, Vice Chair
Marj Leeds, Secretary

3. Review IPM Advisory Committee Ground Rules

The Committee reviewed the Ground Rules. Public comment will be timed. The public can make suggestions for future meeting agendas. The IPM Coordinator will ask County Counsel to clarify who is allowed to vote in subcommittee meetings.

4. Announcements

There were none.

5. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Shirley Shelangoski has found the decision making documents from the Departments to be valuable and asked that cost data be included. Susan JunFish asked that pesticides listed on the Toxics Release Inventory list be included as "Bad Actor" pesticides.

6. Approve minutes from September 4 and November 6, 2013

A motion was made and seconded (VG/DF) to accept both sets of minutes.

The motion passed

AYES: Casey, Cashen, Freier, Guise, Sellgren, Yee

NOES: none

ABSENT: Hale, Kent

ABSTAIN: Agurto, Davis, Leeds, TenBrook, Liao

7. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

Agriculture Department—Vince Guise, Agricultural Commissioner
Noxious Weed Program

- There has been a little activity on perennial pepperweed by the Department in the Tassajara Valley area since the last IPM Committee meeting.
- The Department is trying to stop perennial pepperweed spreading via CalTrans corridors and to stop infestations in new areas of the County. The Department is currently using Telar® (chlorsulfuron), which works well, but has toxicity issues (the MSDS says that chlorsulfuron has shown effects on embryo-fetal development at levels equal to or above those causing maternal toxicity). It can also kill other nearby plants. Vince Guise has learned from a colleague that Milestone® (aminopyralid) works to control perennial pepperweed in Inyo/Mono Counties when used at this time of year (it does not work when applied in spring). The Department is currently conducting a small side-by-side trial comparing Telar and Milestone to see if Milestone will work in this ecosystem. It could take several years before results are clear. Vince Guise spoke with Dr. Joe DiTomaso at UC Davis about the trial, and Dr. DiTomaso is interested in the results.
- Milestone is both a pre-emergent and a post-emergent herbicide, which might help with control, and Milestone can be used without a buffer zone in areas under injunction.

Pest Detection and Exclusion Activities

- Five days a week Department staff visit the 1 FedEx and 4 UPS facilities in the County along with the US Post Offices to inspect packages for plant material and produce that could harbor exotic arthropods or plant diseases that could harm California's environment, agriculture, and/or economy
- The holidays are always a busy time for the Department because people are shipping large amounts of plant material as gifts or holiday decorations.
- The Department has 2 canine teams that work throughout the Bay Area to help with parcel inspections.
- In November and December, staff profiled 13,090 packages, inspected 262 of them, and found 7 exotic "Q" rated pests ("Q" rated pests are suspected to be of economic importance but their status is uncertain because of incomplete identification or inadequate information).
- During the whole of 2013, staff profiled 53,487 parcels and opened 1,651 of them. At FedEx they found 29 "Q" rated pests and 8 "A" rated pests ("A" rated pests are of known economic importance and are subject to enforcement action involving eradication, quarantine regulation, containment, rejection, or other holding action). At UPS they found 1 "Q" rated pest.
- The Department's Pest Detection Program involves deploying insect traps throughout the County and monitoring them for insects that are not in Contra Costa County (some of the insects may already be in other parts of California). This is the State's and the County's early warning system for harmful exotic insects. Some of the insects included in the Department's surveillance program are various fruit flies, glassy-winged sharpshooter, gypsy moth, apple maggot, vine mealybug, and khapra beetle.
- The average number of traps deployed on a daily basis throughout the County in 2013 was 6,329. They are serviced on a regular schedule ranging from every 2 weeks to monthly to yearly. There were 56,089 servicings of deployed traps in 2013, and the Department employed 17-20 seasonal staff to work in the pest detection program.

Public Works, Road and Flood Control Maintenance Division—Joe Yee, Deputy Director, Public Works and Ed Swan, Vegetation Management Supervisor

- Part of the Division's vegetation management strategy is to use a variety of management methods including mowing, grazing, and herbicides. There are positives and negatives associated with each method.
- For mowing, the Division only has 2 tractor mowers. Mowing usually starts in May, after the rains, and staff try to have all vegetation management completed by July 4 because of the extreme fire hazard posed by fireworks.
- Starting a fire occasionally with a mower is unavoidable because the spinning metal of the mower blades can strike a rock and create a spark that ignites a fire. Staff carry fire extinguishers and water to put out any fires that are started.
- On July 1, 2013, the crew was mowing Dry Creek Dam, and just at the end of the task, the mower blades sparked and ignited a fire that quickly got away from the crew. CalFire came to put out the

fire, but 300 acres were burned. The Division recently got a bill for CalFire's time which amounted to \$85,000. This is the first time the Division has ever received a bill from CalFire. It is probable that this is a way for CalFire to recoup money to keep its budget on track. This is of concern to the Division because having to pay bills such as these could curtail the amount of mowing that would be feasible. Joe Yee will be discussing the bill with CalFire and will report back to the Committee.

- Tree trimming continues.
- The crew has been applying pre-emergent herbicide at the airports and on the flood control channel access roads. Pre-emergent herbicides require irrigation or rain to become active. At the airports the crew happened to apply the pre-emergent before the last substantial rain in the fall, so it has been activated. The pre-emergent Oust® (sulfometuron methyl) was used on the access roads, and although there has been no rain since the application, the product does not quickly break down in sunlight so there is still a chance that rain in the near future will activate the product.
- If there is no more rain, or very little rain, for the rest of the season, there will not be the normal vegetation load to manage in the County.
- Doug Freier mentioned that EBMUD had similar mowing issues and worked out some solutions that he can share with the County. Vince Guise suggested that the Committee add a report from Doug Freier to a future agenda. Cece Sellgren suggested that it might be more appropriate in a subcommittee meeting.
- Susan JunFish asked the Committee to review the San Francisco Estuary Institute's 2004 study on grazing and to consider using goats on the sides of County roads.

Public Works, Facilities Division, Jerry Casey

- Pestec continues to identify where pests are getting into County buildings, and Facilities continues to work on as many of these repairs as their budget allows.
- Recently the Division decided to relocate tenants of a building in Richmond that was not economically feasible for the Division to pest proof (and that should be demolished). Unfortunately, when the tenants were relocated, the County found that it lost its federal funding for the program associated with the tenants. To prevent this, the Division was obliged to spend \$10,000 to pest proof the building and to move the tenants back in.
- Glue traps for rodents are still being used occasionally inside the jail at the request of the sheriff who has security concerns about snap traps. Carlos Agurto will look into what is being done in Santa Clara where Susan JunFish says they do not use glue boards at the jail.

8. Hear report from the IPM Coordinator

IPM Annual Report

- The IPM Coordinator was asked to investigate which factors were included in the Public Works pie chart on page 19 of the Annual Report that compares the costs per acre for various weed management strategies including mowing, herbicide application, grazing, and mulching. Joe Yee confirmed that all the Department's overhead costs were included for each strategy so that the chart is indeed comparing apples to apples; therefore, no changes were made to the Annual Report.
- Michael Kent took the IPM Report to the Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee (TWIC) where Supervisors Andersen and Piepho accepted the report and asked the IPM Coordinator to develop a systematic method for cataloging responses to public comment at TWIC meetings so that when issues are brought up repeatedly, the history of the responses will be clear.

Agriculture Department IPM Innovator Award

- The state Department of Pesticide Regulation will present an IPM Innovator Award to the County's Agriculture Department in a ceremony in Sacramento on January 23.

9. Discuss 2014 priorities for the Committee and plan work for the coming year

- Vince Guise asked for assistance from the Committee to review a few more decision making documents for noxious weeds the Department manages.

- Parents for a Safer Environment submitted written priorities for the Departments, the IPM Committee, and the IPM Coordinator (see attached)

Some of the other ideas discussed were as follows:

- Include costs in the decision documents; the County needs to think about innovative ways to reduce costs.
- Review the decision making documents to be sure the right questions are being asked.
- Keep up with the latest innovations in pest management and learn from what others are doing.
- Public access to County data is important.

Jill Ray noted that the discussion centered around three topics;

1. Costs
2. Innovation
3. Data to the public

A motion was made and seconded (CS, SC) to postpone determination of Committee priorities and to set a special meeting to continue discussion.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. Plan agenda for next meeting—date to be determined

- Plan Committee work for the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator