

Minutes
Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee
Subcommittee on IPM Cost Accounting
February 20, 2014

Members present: Vince Guise, Cece Sellgren, Allison Knapp for Joe Yee

Members absent: Michael Kent, Marj Leeds

Staff present: Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator; Jill Ray, Supervisor Andersen's Office; Matthew Slattengren, Agriculture Department

Members of the public present: Susan Heckly, nominee for representative to the IPM Advisory Committee from the Fish and Wildlife Committee; Susan JunFish, Shirley Shelangoski, and Michael Sullivan Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Susan JunFish, Shirley Shelangoski, and Michael Sullivan read statements. See attached.

3. Choose a committee chair

Since not all the members of the subcommittee were present, it was decided to defer this choice until the next meeting. Cece Sellgren ran the meeting as temporary chair.

4. Discuss committee work plan

The discussion included the following points:

- The Agriculture Department has already completed a cost and efficacy analysis of live trapping of ground squirrels (note that trapping did not work because the squirrels immediately moved back into the vacant burrows). The Department has erected and monitored raptor perches, but these have not worked. Smoke cartridges for ground squirrels have not been evaluated for cost, but the Department cannot use them. In their noxious weed program, the Department is already hand removing all the weed species that can be managed effectively in that manner and that have small enough populations to make it feasible. A cost analysis and efficacy study could be done using Parents for a Safer Environment volunteers to manage an acre of artichoke thistle or purple starthistle by hand for a season. This could be compared to the cost and efficacy of the Department's usual management for an acre of either weed. (VG)
- The Public Works Department could do a cost analysis of goat grazing vs. mowing vs. spraying on particular parcels, choosing 10 typical parcels. Make sure to compare apples to apples and include information about the pluses and minuses of each technique. Look at where it might be possible to spend more money to use alternative management methods. (AK)
- It would be useful to look at sister agencies to see how they manage their pests—compare roadside vegetation management programs, flood control vegetation management programs, etc. Look at the costs and budgets for their programs compared to CCC. (CS)
- The Grounds Division could look at the cost to change the landscaping at a particular site to reduce the use of herbicide. (JR)

Public Comment on this item included the following:

- The committee must look at the costs to human health and to wildlife. (MS)
- It is impossible to account for the economic impact of pesticides on wildlife and human health, but it's important to consider how to do it. (SJF)
- The committee should look at what kind of pest management is being done at leased County buildings and examine the use of rodenticides in Special Districts. (SS)

- The committee should include an examination of the secondary effects of all kinds of methods, such as fecal coliform contamination from goats (MS) and CO₂ emissions from mowing equipment (SH).
- The committee should examine CO₂ asphyxiation for burrowing rodents and using volunteers for labor. (SJF)

5. Decide on meeting schedule

The committee will decide on a meeting schedule at the next meeting.

6. Plan next meeting agenda

- Choose a chair
- Continue discussion on work plan and choose topics to work on.
- Decide on a meeting schedule.

The IPM Coordinator will send out a Doodle poll for the next meeting, which will be in March.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator