

**Minutes**  
**Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee**  
**Subcommittee on Transparency**  
**April 2, 2014**

**Members present:** Cheng Liao, Patti TenBrook, ~~Scott Cashen~~, Matthew Slattengren, Cece Sellgren

**Staff present:** Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator; Joe Yee, Public Works; Jill Ray, Supervisor Andersen's office

**Members of the Public:** Shirley Shelangoski, Parents for a Safer Environment

**Members absent:** Scott Cashen

**1. Introductions**

**2. Public comment on items not on the agenda, but under the purview of the committee**

There was none.

**3. Demonstration of pesticide use notification website**

Dan Jordan of Public Works demonstrated the web site. He noted that Public Works is hosting the website and currently there is no way for the Grounds Division, Pestec, or the Agriculture Department to add information. This will need to be worked out.

Some of the points made in the ensuing discussion were as follows:

- The previous Transparency subcommittee had discussed using permanent signs on areas treated regularly from year to year, and the County's posting policy was revised to allow permanent signs.
- It was suggested that QR codes could be used on the permanent signs.
- The County has been meeting the posting requirements. Having a site where treatments can be posted on line is a way to improve transparency.
- Public Works Vegetation Management has a list of property owners who do not want the County's right-of-way near their property sprayed (these property owners are required to perform the weed management themselves). The crew knows where the properties are, and in some cases they are marked on the flood control channels.
- Along the Iron Horse Corridor, Public Works Vegetation Management treats only the fence lines to reduce the fire hazard. These are areas where the public does not walk, but the County posts for treatments. The East Bay Regional Park District is responsible for managing weeds on either side of the actual pathway, but does not post for treatments. There was some discussion about asking East Bay Regional Parks to post the trail when they treat.

**4. Hear report from Vince Guise on dividing Public Works pesticide use reports into roads, real property and flood control**

- Vince Guise deferred to Joe Yee to provide the report:
  - Pesticide use must be reported to the County Department of Agriculture monthly.
  - The pesticide use reports were originally on paper, and the former Vegetation Manager separated the use reports into 3 categories: Roadside, Flood Control, and Real Property.

- It is unclear why he made this separation because it is not required by the state and involves more work for both Public Works and Agriculture Department staff.
- Public Works does not need or use the separate categories in their work. The data is already recorded on their Maintstar database under one of 4 activity codes—Roads, Access Roads, Aquatic, and Flood Control. Public Works records the date, what work was done, where it was done, the herbicides and amounts used, and the equipment used.
- When the new electronic method of reporting came into being, there was no longer a way to separate the categories. The state has stopped making paper forms. When Public Works consulted the Agriculture Department about separating the reporting, they found that they would have to have 3 separate permit numbers and log on to the electronic reporting database 3 separate times. This would require more labor each month and labor is expensive and in short supply on the Vegetation Management crew at present.
- All the information, except the EPA registration numbers, that was on the paper Pesticide Use Report form has been, and still is, in the Maintstar database.
- Each year, Susan JunFish of Parents for a Safer Environment requests and is given the past fiscal year's worth of Pesticide Use Reports for each County IPM program.
- The committee asked if Public Works could export the data to an Excel spreadsheet. Joe Yee said he would look into it.

#### **5. Discuss how to address the process of addressing public concerns**

Patti TenBrook asked how the IPM Advisory Committee determines when an issue is dead, and under what conditions an issue could be reopened.

Jill Ray explained that the IPM Advisory Committee takes concerns from the public at each meeting, and frequently works on them. If the public brings concerns that are not on the meeting agenda, the Committee can ask staff to research the topic and report to the Committee, and/or the Committee can add the topic to a future Committee agenda for discussion. The IPM Coordinator reports to the Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee (TWIC) about IPM Committee activities and public comment is allowed before and after that report. The Supervisors may direct the IPM Coordinator to do certain things and report back to TWIC, or they may ask the IPM Committee to review or work on an issue. Some issues may only be heard before TWIC; others may go to the full Board. The public is not always satisfied, but the Board of Supervisors is the final decision-making body. The Public can always go to the full Board of Supervisors with their concerns.

Jill Ray also noted that in regard to the IPM ordinance vs. policy/administrative bulletin issue, both TWIC and the full Board of Supervisors were kept informed and followed the issue. The Board has accepted the IPM Administrative Bulletin and has not asked for more research on an ordinance. In Contra Costa County, Administrative Bulletins are the law.

Cheng Liao asked that the public try to streamline their issues because the IPM Committee only meets 6 times per year and there is limited time.

Public Comment: Shirley Shelangoski said she is not convinced that the County is actually doing any posting for pesticide use and that she has not seen any signs.

#### **6. Plan next meeting agenda (5 minutes)**

- Joe Yee will determine the cost of permanent signs—fabrication and installation.
- The IPM Coordinator will report on where each IPM program is posting and how many times they posted last year.
- The committee will continue discussing how to address public concerns.
- The committee will approve the minutes from both 2/26/14 and 4/2/14.

