

Minutes
Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee
Subcommittee on Weeds
February 17, 2015

Members present: Doug Freier, Chad Godoy, Susan Heckly, Michael Kent, Cheng Liao, Cece Sellgren

Members absent: Sonce Devries

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

Members of the public present: Shirley Shelangoski, Michael Sullivan, and Susan JunFish, Parents for a Safer Environment.

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

See attached.

3. Choose a committee chair

Cece Sellgren will serve as interim chair. When everyone on the committee is present, a chair will be chosen.

4. Narrow the focus of committee work

5. Discuss committee work plan

These 2 items were discussed together.

Some of the comments from the committee discussion were as follows:

- Possible topics include continuing to create decision-making documents; surveying innovative technologies, practices, strategies; creating sustainable landscape standards for around County buildings. (CS)
- Grounds is really strapped for money for landscape maintenance. (CS)
- The Board of Supervisors is committed to increasing the funding for Grounds. (JR)
- The committee shouldn't lose the decision-making work that was done previously, nor should it rehash issues that have already been addressed. (DF)
- This committee could take a global look at weeds, which would involve transparency, cost, and innovation. This goes all the way back to the design of the landscape. Design needs to be considered not only for herbicide reduction, but also for reduced maintenance requirements. The life cycle cost must be considered, not just immediate costs. (DF)
- Developing sustainable landscape standards is the over-arching topic. (SH)
- But the committee should look at more than just Grounds—include rights-of-way. (DF)
- A global look may be too much. The committee needs to narrow the focus to get work done. (CL)
- Could take 3 County parks and compare different maintenance and herbicide regimes. (CG)
- Does the County own any parks? Perhaps this could be done on County buildings instead. (JR)
- Where would the funds and the time come from for staff to do these experiments? (CL)
- The committee could continue to develop decision-making documents, perhaps for parks, roadsides? (MK)
- The decision documents need to have a section for innovation. (DF)
- Focus on the program that uses the most pesticide or the most toxic pesticides for decision-making documents. (MK)
- Need to work with the Departments so that at the end of the year the committee has some recommendations for the Departments and the Board. (MK)
- The 3 main topics so far are decision documents, sustainable landscaping, trials around County buildings. (CS)

Some of the comments from the public were as follows:

- Are the decision documents accurate or are they just justifying the status quo? The committee should review the ones that Parents for a Safer Environment is not satisfied with. Lawns are where the most exposure to people is. (SJ)
- The most important topics are the importance of pesticide tracking and identifying “Bad Actor” pesticides and reporting them. (MS)
- How would you find 3 parks that are similar enough to do experiments on? (MS)
- Flood Control is the most important because of the impact to the Bay. (SS)

Addition comments from committee members:

- Subcommittees last year focused on posting, tracking, and transparency. If those are topics the IPM Committee wants to pursue, a separate subcommittee should be formed. (MK)
- There is more risk of exposure to people around County buildings than on Flood Control facilities or the roadsides. (JR)
- Ask Grounds which buildings are most problematic. (JR)
- Determine what the attributes of ideal County landscaping are and then compare the worst sites to that ideal. (MK)

6. Plan next meeting agenda

March 10, 2015, 1:30 PM

- Ask Kevin Lachapelle to come to the meeting to discuss the scope of the landscaping program.
- Have staff research and report on the number of properties Grounds maintains, current Grounds staffing levels, where pesticides are used, and problem properties.
- Send out all decision-making documents completed so far to the committee members.