

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
March 4, 2015

Members Present: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Jerry Casey, Public Works Facilities; Terry Davis, Public Member At-Large; Sonce Devries, Island Watch Conservation Science; Doug Freier, Public Member At-Large; Chad Godoy, Agriculture Department; Susan Heckly, County Fish and Wildlife Committee; Marj Leeds, Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board; Cece Sellgren (Chair), County Clean Water Program; Allison Knapp, Public Works; Cheng Liao, Public Member Alternate

(10 members present/6 voting members)

Members Absent: Michael Kent, Health Services; Patti TenBrook, Public Member At-Large

Staff Present: Matt Slattengren, County Ag; Jill Ray, Supervisor Andersen's office; Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator; Peter Gollinger, Public Works

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

1. Introductions

2. Announcements

The IPM Coordinator read two sections from the County's IPM Policy that pertain to the purpose of the IPM Advisory Committee:

"Maintain an IPM Advisory Committee that provides advice to the Board of Supervisors and assists Departments in reviewing pest control alternatives and related costs and impacts."

"An IPM Advisory Committee has been created. The Advisory Committee will serve as a resource to help both Department Heads and the Board of Supervisors review and improve existing programs and the processes used for making pest management decisions."

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Parents for a Safer Environment presented various items. See attached.

4. Approve minutes from January 14, 2015

Doug Freier noted that his name was missing from the list of members serving on the Weed subcommittee. A motion was made and seconded (SH/DF) to accept the minutes as amended.

The motion passed unanimously:

AYES: Davis, Devries, Freier, Heckly, Leeds, Liao, Sellgren

NOES: None

ABSENT: Kent, TenBrook

ABSTAIN: None

5. Hear presentation on bed bugs

The IPM Coordinator presented a bed bug awareness PowerPoint. See attached.

6. Discuss reorganization of rodent subcommittee

Cece Sellgren explained that the rodent subcommittee had to be reorganized because

- The subcommittee had too many members to be considered a subcommittee (as per County Counsel).
- The Committee received direction from Supervisors Andersen and Piepho that the rodent/rodenticide issue has been explored thoroughly and the Committee needs to move on to other issues.

Some of the points brought up in the Committee discussion were as follows:

- Bed bugs

- Pesticide use on bed bugs presents a very high risk of exposure for people in the County, especially for low income residents. This is because so many people try to manage the problem themselves and often use large quantities of more toxic pesticides in their effort to rid themselves of this pest. (CS, JR)
- The Committee could develop guidelines for bed bug management, prevention, etc. and get the word out to the wider community including homeless shelters and other homeless services. (CS, Davis)
- The Committee could explore the idea of a bed bug ordinance for the County and look at how to help County Public Housing. (Drlik)
- The issue entails a huge public education component. (SH)
- Decision-making subcommittee
 - Continuing this subcommittee is an option. (CS, DF)
- Feral cats and fleas at child care centers
 - This is an emerging and difficult issue. (JC)

Some of the comments from the public were as follows:

- PfSE worked for many years to get the IPM Committee formed to discuss issues of pest management in the County. Bed bugs are a public health problem and the state and the Health Services Department should handle them. If the Committee wants to change its purpose, it should do it transparently. Don't let the two Board members dictate what the Committee does. (SJ)
- There are many areas under the rodenticide issue that have not been explored. We need to have experts train us. (SS)

A motion was made and seconded to explore the bed bug issue. (CG/ML)

Marj Leeds made a friendly amendment to look at ways the County can address bed bugs, including, but not limited to recommendations for control, public outreach, and the possibility of ordinances. The amendment was accepted.

Some of the comments from the public were as follows:

- We need to keep our own house clean before we go out and help others clean theirs. The County has its own unresolved pesticide issues. Contra Costa County does not have a serious bed bug problem and it can be nipped in the bud. The largest use of pesticides is along roadsides. (SJ)
- What is of more value? How serious is the bed bug issue compared to rodenticides? We need to have our own house more in order. The rodenticide issue is not resolved, yet the two supervisors think it is resolved. How did they come to that conclusion? There is so much more to be done.

AYES: Davis, Freier, Heckly, Leeds, Sellgren

NOES: None

ABSENT: Kent, TenBrook

ABSTAIN: Devries

7. Discuss subcommittee assignments

Cece Sellgren noted that it is not necessary for everyone on the Committee to be on subcommittee.

Subcommittee members are as follows:

Bed Bug subcommittee: Agurto, Casey, Davis, Heckly, Leeds (the IPM Coordinator will ask Patti TenBrook if she would like be on this committee)

Weed subcommittee: Devries, Godoy, Freier, Kent, Liao, Sellgren

8. Discuss procedural issues

This item was postponed until the next meeting, but Cheng Liao asked for clarification on whom he is an alternate for. Jill Ray and the IPM Coordinator replied that he is an alternate for the Fish and Wildlife Committee representative, the Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board representative, and the three Public at Large members. A discussion ensued about whether Cheng should have voted in this meeting in place of Patti TenBrook. Jill Ray will consult County Counsel to verify the answer.

9. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

Chad Godoy reported for the Agriculture Department

- The Department now has weed spraying contracts with various entities for invasive weed management on private property.
- In the past the Department had a year around noxious weed program, but it will now be adhering to a June 1 cut-off date for all herbicide treatments. If all contracted work is finished before June 1, the Department will begin work on uncontracted work.
- The Department turned down some noxious weed work from East Bay Regional Parks because of lack of personnel and time.

Peter Gollinger reported for Public Works Maintenance:

- Crews are finishing the last of the pre-emergent herbicide treatments along selected roadsides and flood control access roads. This prevents more herbicide use later.
- Crews are preparing for weed abatement season and are currently spraying fencelines, mostly on flood control parcels.
- Peter is compiling a list of sites for goat grazing this season.
- Peter has found that another advantage of using grazing is that it is easier to find and spot treat invasive weeds in grazed areas.

Carlos Agurto reported for Pestec:

- Feral cats have been frequenting a dumpster at Ambrose Head Start in Bay Point. Feral cats are often the cause of flea problems at County buildings.
- New doorsweeps are being installed in various buildings to prevent insect and mouse entry.
- The children's mental health facility in Richmond had a dead animal smell coming from the ceiling. Pestec has investigated but has been unable to determine the cause of the smell.
- Otherwise, the County has been pretty quiet.

Jerry Casey reported on Public Works Facilities:

- Facilities recently had Leading Edge Pest Management perform a spot treatment for termites coming up through a crack in the floor in 597 Center in Martinez. The treatment was confined to the crack where the termites were entering, and directly around the crack. The carpet was rolled back, holes were drilled in the concrete floor, and Altriset® (cloranthraniliprole) was injected into the holes.

9. Plan agenda for next meeting—March 4, 2015

- Initial reports from subcommittees
- Report on goat grazing study
- Discuss procedural issues
- Clarification of voting issues

Next Meetings: July 1, September 2, November 4

Respectfully submitted,
Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator