

Public Comments

April 9, 2015

To: Weed Subcommittee and County Staff  
From: Michael Sullivan, Lafayette resident

My name is Michael Sullivan and I have been attending nearly every County IPM meeting in the past 2 years. I attended the April 14, 2015 meeting when we waited for over 30 minutes for staff and community members on the Committee to arrive to no avail. Staff had to regretfully cancel the meeting due to lack of a quorum.

Before the meeting was adjourned, the community asked if staff would consider asking for a heads-up from committee members if they cannot attend a future IPM meeting. By this time, the Chair had arrived and provided sincere apologies. Ms. Drlik responded that it is not customary to ask Committee members to confirm attendance and she does not want to do this. Ms. Drlik explained that she has never had to cancel a meeting in the past and it is not necessary to ask them to RSVP.

According to Shirley Shelangoski who had attended all subcommittees between 2012-2014, quorums were *not* considered in subcommittees until the recent year. Before, subcommittee meetings were held regardless of a lack of quorum. I'd like the Committee to note that in the By-Laws, it states that members are required to notify the IPM Coordinator, in advance, of any unavoidable absence from a meeting and I hope you remind both the staff and community members of this requirement.

The By-Laws also address absenteeism and that members with two absences in a calendar year may be recommended by the Committee for removal from membership to the Board of Supervisors.

In the past, the IPM Coordinator had tracked absences and reported them annually. I have not observed any of the absences addressed at the meetings although I recall numerous absences often in each meeting I have attended. There are seats on the IPM Advisory Committee that can be occupied by members of the community who may be more available to participate. I would like to have absences beyond 2 per year addressed by the full Committee openly and steps taken to address this problem.

I also noticed that it states that the *meeting minutes is to be finalized* and distributed to members *within a week after each meeting* however I see it being distributed within a week *before* the following meeting. Receiving so much reading material usually 4 days before a meeting makes it difficult for members of the Committee and Community members alike to review the material in a thorough or thoughtful manner.

I would appreciate a response to these two procedural concerns by e-mail and to have these two issues addressed at the next full IPM Advisory Committee.

Thank you,

Michael