

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
July 8, 2015

Members Present: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Doug Freier, Public Member At-Large; Chad Godoy, Agriculture Department; Susan Heckly, County Fish and Wildlife Committee; Michael Kent, Health Services; Marj Leeds, Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board; Patti TenBrook, Public Member At-Large, Allison Knapp, Public Works; Cheng Liao, Public Member Alternate

(9 members present/6 voting members)

Members Absent: Jerry Casey, Public Works Facilities; Terry Davis, Public Member At-Large; Sonce Devries, Island Watch Conservation Science; Cece Sellgren (Chair), County Clean Water Program;

Staff Present: Jill Ray, Supervisor Andersen's office; Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator; Peter Gollinger, Public Works; Larry Yost and Karen Adler, County Agriculture Department

Members of the Public: Christine Steck and Susan JunFish, Parents for a Safer Environment

Patti TenBrook, Vice Chair, chaired the meeting because Cece Sellgren was absent.

1. Introductions

2. Announcements

There were none.

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Christine Steck read a comment and Susan JunFish read a comment written by Michael Sullivan (see attached).

4. Approve minutes from March 4, 2015

Patti TenBrook noted that Parents for a Safer Environment's public comments were not included in the agenda packet for this meeting. The comments will be attached to the official minutes and will be included on the website.

The IPM Coordinator noted that Michael Kent's name was listed twice in the vote taken on item 7. His name should only be listed under the "Ayes".

A motion was made and seconded (SH/DF) to approve the minutes as corrected:

The motion carried unanimously:

AYES: Freier, Heckly, Kent, TenBrook

NOES: None

ABSENT: Devries, Sellgren, Liao (Liao was not in attendance at the time this vote was taken)

ABSTAIN: Leeds (absent from March 4 meeting)

5. Hear presentation from Peter Gollinger on the purpose, construction, and maintenance of flood control channels

Peter Gollinger, Vegetation Management Supervisor, gave an overview of flood control in the County. The County maintains 79 miles of flood control channels and 29 detention basins and dams. The County does not maintain all the flood control facilities in the County; cities, CalTrans, and private citizens also have responsibilities for various facilities. Everyone must work together to ensure the safety of the County.

Weed abatement is required for the following:

- To maintain roads for access to the flood control facilities.

- To keep weeds out of seams and cracks in concrete structures in order to prolong the life of those structures.
- To prevent vegetation from building up in the channel.
Vegetation itself reduces the capacity of the channel in the event of a flood and also slows down water flow which allows more sediment to settle out and fill the channel. Removing sediment is extremely costly and time consuming, and it is very difficult to obtain permits to allow desilting.
- To reduce fire fuel.
There are around 19 different fire districts in the County that could potentially issue weed abatement notices to the Public Works Department. The districts vary in their requirements for fuel reduction, but in general the County must maintain a 20 to 30 ft. mowed band on the top of the flood control channels and keep access roads free of weeds.
- To reduce cover for homeless encampments.
The homeless dig into channel banks and leave debris, trash, and human waste that contaminate creeks.

Questions from the public and the Committee with answers from Flood Control staff

- Has the Department looked at the possibility of more severe storms as the climate changes? (MK)
 - Flood control structures were designed conservatively to handle a 100-year flood, but the Department is also monitoring climate change in relation to flood control.
- Has the Public Works Department stopped broadcast spraying on flood control channels? (SJ)
 - There are very few situations where the Department kills all vegetation on the channels. The crew does spray channels selectively for broadleaf weeds, and they try to do it after goats have first grazed the channels. Feral trees growing along channels must be killed using a “cut stump” treatment where herbicide is applied immediately to the cut.
 - Highlining is still being used on some channels, but it is a specialized process and can only be used on certain parts of certain channels.
 - The Department is no longer doing “chemical mowing” (using a reduced rate of herbicide to stunt grasses along the channels) because the channels have too many different weeds. The ryegrass monoculture that existed years ago is gone.
- What brought about the change from a grass monoculture to varied plants? (MK)
 - There apparently was a difference of philosophy between Vegetation Management and Flood Control: more diversity on the channels is better and provides habitat for more creatures.

6. There was no Item 6

7. Hear reports from the Weed and Bed Bug subcommittees

Michael Kent and the IPM Coordinator reported that the Weed subcommittee met once since the last full IPM Committee meeting. The subcommittee thoroughly reviewed the Vegetation Management decision document on how and when to use grazing and made recommendations for enhancements.

The subcommittee also reviewed their sustainable landscaping recommendations in anticipation of presenting them to the full IPM Committee today.

The IPM Committee discussed the recommendations and made suggestions for changes. Various concerns were voiced including lack of wording about encouraging pollinator-friendly landscaping, lack of wording about using IPM, lack of wording about avoiding invasive plants, and the mention of specific reference books that may become obsolete in the future. An attempt was made at new wording but was not finalized.

Marj Leeds made the motion below. No second was needed.

Change the wording in 4b from “require no pesticide use or a minimum of use.” to “use the least-toxic, effective method for controlling pests (IPM)”. Otherwise, approve the recommendations on the condition that the Weed subcommittee finalize the wording of the recommendations and include in Section 3.06C (from the County’s Landscape Standards) wording about encouraging the use of

pollinator-friendly plants, not planting invasive plants, and appropriate consultation with the Ag Department on plant lists. If no substantive changes are made, the final wording determined by the Weed subcommittee will be the wording approved by the full Committee.

The motion carried.

AYES: Freier, Heckly, Kent, Leeds, Liao, TenBrook

NOES: None

ABSENT: Davis, Devries, Sellgren

ABSTAIN: None

Patti TenBrook reported for the Bed Bug subcommittee:

- The committee reviewed bed bug ordinances from other jurisdictions.
- Using points from the reviewed ordinances, the committee assigned a specific topic to each member to draft language for a Contra Costa ordinance.

8. Hear report from the IPM Coordinator

The IPM Coordinator spent the majority of her time on the IPM guidance manual for Contra Costa municipalities. The document was published, and she, Beth Baldwin of the Contra Costa Clean Water Program, and Stephen Pree of the City of El Cerrito presented a workshop on June 16 for city personnel covering IPM and how to use the manual.

Susan JunFish asked if she could have a copy of the contact information for workshop participants. Jill Ray explained that because it was not a public meeting, the IPM Coordinator can provide a list of the cities that attended, but not specific names or contact information.

The remainder of the IPM Coordinator's time was spent arranging and staffing the subcommittees and providing advice to tenants who call with bed bug problems.

9. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

Larry Yost reported for the Agriculture Department:

- The Department finished their noxious weed work in June.
- The Department is starting its ground squirrel management program for protecting critical infrastructure. Some baiting was done in June and more will be done in July and August.

Peter Gollinger reported for Public Works Maintenance:

- The fire season weed abatement dead line for most of the County was May 2. This was one month earlier than usual.
- Crews are finishing up fire season weed abatement. They are having to return to previously treated areas because the weed abatement deadline was set so early. The drought caused tinder-dry vegetation much sooner than normal, and a late season rain event caused more weed growth.
- Crews are working on trimming trees for clearance.
- Goats are grazing in many areas of the County.
- Cattail abatement in flood control channels has begun.

9. Plan agenda for next meeting

- Discuss Annual Report
- Subcommittee reports
- Discuss four year staggered terms for members
- Discuss procedural issues raised by Susan JunFish

Next Meetings: September 2, November 4

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator