

Draft Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
September 2, 2015

Members Present: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Jerry Casey, Public Works Facilities; Terry Davis, Public Member At-Large; Chad Godoy, Agriculture Department; Susan Heckly, County Fish and Wildlife Committee; Michael Kent, Health Services; Cece Sellgren (Chair), County Clean Water Program; Cheng Liao, Public Member Alternate

(8 members present/5 voting members)

Members Absent: Sonce Devries, Island Watch Conservation Science; Doug Freier, Public Member At-Large; Marj Leeds, Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board; Patti TenBrook, Public Member At-Large, Allison Knapp, Public Works;

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: Michael Sullivan and Susan JunFish, Parents for a Safer Environment

Chair Cece Sellgren asked Susan JunFish of Parents for a Safer Environment if she was recording the meeting and Susan answered, "Yes."

1. Introductions

2. Announcements

There were none.

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Michael Sullivan read a comment (see attached). Susan JunFish asked when the Committee would address the table of unresolved issues (see attached) that she sent to the chair and the IPM Coordinator. The chair responded that she had sent a reply to Susan, and if any Committee members would like to see her reply, she would forward it to them. No member asked to have the response forwarded.

4. Approve minutes from July 8, 2015

A motion was made and seconded (MK/SH) to approve the minutes as written.

The motion carried unanimously:

AYES: Davis, Heckly, Kent, Liao, Sellgren

NOES: None

ABSENT: Devries, Freier, Leeds, TenBrook

ABSTAIN: None

5. Discuss structure of IPM Annual Report

Michael Kent suggested that the Departments mention their IPM plans in their sections. He also suggested that the new information about glyphosate be mentioned. The Committee decided that glyphosate should have its own section to explain its new designation by the International Agency for Research on Cancer as a probable human carcinogen, and to have each Department mention the issue and what changes, if any, they are making.

Susan JunFish and Michael Sullivan noted that Christine Steck of Parents for a Safer Environment has mentioned the glyphosate issue a number of times in her public comment.

6. Hear final reports from the Weed and Bed Bug subcommittees

Weed subcommittee

Cece Sellgren, as chair of the subcommittee, presented the report (see attached) and noted that the work of the two subcommittees was guided by the County Administrator's review of the IPM Advisory Committee. Michael Kent explained that the review asked the Committee to provide more policy recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Cece also explained the IPM Decision-Making Document on grazing (see attached) that was created by Peter Gollinger and reviewed by the subcommittee.

As the result of a question from Susan JunFish, the Committee directed the IPM Coordinator to make the following change to one of the sentences in the Decision-Making Document.

"Note that for most of the flood control facilities and their management goals, herbicides alone are not an option."

Bed Bug subcommittee

The IPM Coordinator, in place of subcommittee chair Patti TenBrook, presented the report (see attached) and noted that the subcommittee instructed her to take the draft County bed bug ordinance to the Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee for direction.

Michael Kent and Jill Ray suggested asking the Board of Supervisors to support AB 551, the bed bug bill currently making its way through the legislature, and to alert both County Code Enforcement (Jason Craypo) and Environmental Health (Marilyn Underwood) of AB 551 and the draft County ordinance.

7. Discuss status of Environmental Organization Seat

With this meeting, Sonce Devries has missed 3 IPM Committee meetings and has not attended any subcommittee meetings. Although the IPM Coordinator has called and emailed her a number of times, she has not responded.

A motion was made and seconded (MK/SH) to have the IPM Coordinator send a certified letter to Sonce Devries asking if she wants to continue on the IPM Committee. If she doesn't respond to the letter by the time the November Committee agenda packet must be sent out, the Committee will consider recommending to the Board of Supervisors that her seat be vacated.

The motion carried unanimously:

AYES: Davis, Heckly, Kent, Liao, Sellgren

NOES: None

ABSENT: Devries, Freier, Leeds, TenBrook

ABSTAIN: None

8. Discuss four-year staggered terms for IPM Committee members

The IPM Coordinator explained the proposed procedure for increasing and staggering the terms (see attached).

A motion was made and seconded (MK/SH) to recommend to the County Internal Operations Committee that the terms be staggered and lengthened as described.

The motion carried unanimously:

AYES: Davis, Heckly, Kent, Liao, Sellgren

NOES: None

ABSENT: Devries, Freier, Leeds, TenBrook

ABSTAIN: None

The Chair suggested that the IPM Coordinator alert the Public Member Alternate whenever another member is going to be absent from a meeting. Susan Heckly suggested that the IPM Coordinator announce at the

beginning of each meeting the names of any members that have given advance notice that they will not be attending.

9. Discuss possible bylaws changes

A motion was made and seconded (SH/CS) to amend the bylaws to:

- update the names of Departments and Divisions of those staff appointed to the Committee,
- reflect the Board of Supervisors' decision on staggered, four-year terms for the Committee, and
- change the timeline for distribution of the minutes from within a week after the meeting to distribution with the agenda packet (a minimum of 96 hours prior to the meeting).

Susan JunFish and Michael Sullivan read statements objecting to changing the timeline for distribution of the minutes (see attached).

The motion carried unanimously:

AYES: Davis, Heckly, Kent, Liao, Sellgren

NOES: None

ABSENT: Devries, Freier, Leeds, TenBrook

ABSTAIN: None

The Committee directed the IPM Coordinator to bring the bylaws changes and the staggered, four-year terms before the next Internal Operations Committee meeting (September 14).

11. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

Item 11 was taken before Item 10 in order to allow Peter Gollinger to make his report before he needed to leave the meeting.

Public Works Roadside and Flood Control Maintenance Division

Peter Gollinger reported for the Division:

- Late season grazing has begun early because of the drought. The County pays for the animals to graze a certain amount, but the goats graze more than the amount paid for, thus the cost per acre for off-season grazing is less. The company also uses County land as a staging area for their goats.
- The Department is finishing aquatic spraying for cattails.
- They are spraying roadsides for invasive weeds such as stinkwort and Russian thistle.
- Crews are performing a great deal of tree clearance work. Because of the drought, many trees are stressed. Along Wildcat Canyon Road, there are many oaks that have died from Sudden Oak Death, and there are also many pines in the County that have died from lack of water. If the trees are diseased, they are left in place. If not, the Division chips them to use as mulch along flood control access roads. If the logs are too large for the Division's chipper, they are taken back to the corporation yard where the Grounds Manager chips them to use as mulch on County grounds.

Michael Kent asked about what appeared to be an algal bloom on Walnut Creek near the Willows shopping center. Peter Gollinger said that it is common to have algal blooms at this time of year because temperatures are warm, there is little flow, and the stagnant stream, fed by fertilizer-laden urban runoff, is a perfect place for algae to grow. In the past, the County treated algal blooms with Cutrine, a copper-based algicide, but found it was not worth the effort.

Agriculture Department

Chad Godoy reported for the Department:

- Staff will finish their ground squirrel management program for critical infrastructure by October.
- Since February 2015, the Department has been separating their pesticide use reports into the amount used on County property and the amount used on private property or on property owned by other jurisdictions, such as East Bay Regional Parks, Mt. Diablo State Park, City of Moraga, and Contra Costa Water District.
- When the Department does invasive weed work on private land, staff are targeting mostly "B" list weeds that can be controlled in the County at the discretion of the Agricultural Commissioner. Private property owners are not contracting with the Department for that work. The Department is working

with landowners to help them take over more of the weed work themselves and control the weeds to a level that does not allow spread to more rangeland.

The Committee discussed how to report pesticide use for the Agriculture Department and decided that in the Annual Report the figures for use on County land and for contracted use will be separated.

Public Works Facilities

Carlos Agurto reported for the Division:

- The ant population in the County has blossomed because of the drought, and Pestec is receiving numerous call-backs. The ants seem most interested in protein-based baits.
- There has been no rodent activity in the jails since Pestec completed extensive rodent proofing work.
- Pestec has performed some pigeon exclusion work in West County
- There seems to be a new cockroach in the West County Detention Facility. Carlos only has specimens of nymphs but no adults, which makes it harder to identify.

12. Discuss procedural issues raised by Parents for a Safer Environment

This item was taken ahead of Item 10.

The IPM Coordinator explained her memo to the IPM Advisory Committee (see attached).

There was no comment from the Public.

10. Hear report from the IPM Coordinator

The majority of the IPM Coordinator's time was spent on work for the full committee and the two subcommittees along with tabulating pesticide use figures for the annual report.

The Grounds Division completed the first turf conversion project at the Pittsburg Health Clinic where they removed about 70% of the existing turf which is estimated to save approximately one million gallons of water per year. Signs were placed on the grounds to explain what was happening to the public. Doug Freier will be using the site as an example for the numerous County residents who have been asking University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners about replacing their lawns.

The Board of Supervisors has approved two contracts with local landscaping firms for two million dollars each to install drought-tolerant landscaping around County buildings from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018.

13. Plan agenda for next meeting

This item was not discussed because of lack of time. The Chair and the IPM Coordinator will plan the agenda, which will include discussion of the draft of the Annual Report.

Next Meetings: November 4, January 6, March 2

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator