

**Minutes**  
**Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee**  
**November 4, 2015**

Members Present: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Jerry Casey, Public Works Facilities; Terry Davis, Public Member At-Large; Larry Yost, Agriculture Department; Doug Freier, Public Member At-Large; Susan Heckly, County Fish and Wildlife Committee; Michael Kent, Health Services; Marj Leeds, Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board; Cece Sellgren (Chair), County Clean Water Program; Patti TenBrook, Public Member At-Large, Cheng Liao, Public Member Alternate

(11 members present/8 voting members)

Members Absent: Allison Knapp, Public Works;

Staff Present: Jill Ray, Supervisor Andersen's office; Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator; Chad Godoy, Agriculture Department

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

1. Introductions

2. Announcements

The IPM Coordinator said that no member had notified her of being absent today.

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

There was none.

4. Approve minutes from September 2, 2015

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

The motion carried unanimously:

AYES: Davis, Heckly, Kent, Sellgren, Liao

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Freier, Leeds, TenBrook

5. Hear Report from IPM Coordinator

- The IPM Coordinator read a letter from William Sorrell, Public Health Administrator, praising Pestec for their rapid, thorough, and professional response to the flea infestation at 1220 Morello in Martinez.
- Advertising for new Committee members was begun at the end of September. There have been no applications so far, but if Committee members or the public have suggestions, the IPM Coordinator will send the potential applicant a personal invitation. The deadline is November 9.
- Sonce Devries has resigned and her seat has been declared vacant by the Board of Supervisors. Advertising for her seat also began at the end of September.
- The Internal Operations Committee recommended the change in terms for IPM Advisory Committee members to the Board of Supervisors, which approved the change. New terms begin in January.
- The changes to the Committee's bylaws went before the Internal Operations Committee and were forwarded to the full Board of Supervisors. The Board approved the changes, and the revised bylaws are included in this meeting's agenda packet.
- The bed bug ordinance drafted by the Bed Bug subcommittee went before the Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee (TWIC). TWIC recommended waiting until it is clear whether or not the Legislature will pass AB 551, the bill on which the ordinance is based.

Michael Kent asked about the recommendation to the Board regarding turf conversion in the County. The IPM Coordinator responded that TWIC approved of the recommendation and sent it to Public Works. The Board has approved two contracts with local landscaping companies for turf conversions from now till 2018.

6. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

Larry Yost for the Agriculture Department made a brief report: ground squirrel work has ended for the year (it typically ends October 31); noxious weed work will resume in February unless rain postpones work until March.

No Public Works Maintenance representatives were present.

7. Discuss IPM Annual Report

- The executive summary will be written after this meeting.
- The location for the before and after grazing photos will be corrected to City of Walnut Creek.
- The location for the drain fly issue will be corrected to Contra Costa Regional Medical Center.
- A separate table for Agriculture Department pesticide use will be included in the report. The table separates use into the jurisdictions that contract with the Department for noxious weed or ground squirrel work. The jurisdiction labeled “Sky Ranch” will be changed to “Sky Ranch Developer”.
- Michael Kent and Cheng Liao suggested moving the glyphosate section to the pesticide use section of the report, and the Committee agreed.
- In the glyphosate section, “cancer risk” will be changed to “potential to cause cancer”, and examples of substances classified by IARC under Group 1 and Group 2A will include pesticides.
- Michael Kent asked if the Agriculture Department will be monitoring noxious weeds on private lands to make sure landowners are managing the weeds and they are not getting out of control. Larry Yost responded that the Department will not be monitoring weed populations on private property.

*Comments from members of Parents for a Safer Environment:*

- Thanks to Michael Kent for thoroughly reading the Annual Report. Why is there a lack of comments on the report from other Committee members? Are other members reading the Committee materials? (SJF)
- Post the evidence regarding the ineffectiveness of raptor perches and trapping for ground squirrels on the website. (SJF)
- Compare costs of expert trappers to the use of rodenticides for ground squirrels. (SJF)
  - The IPM Coordinator responded that the Agriculture Department report on their field trials of trapping ground squirrels includes figures comparing trapping to rodenticide use. Trapping is far more expensive than using rodenticides. The Department contacted two expert trappers for quotes. The quotes matched the figure given to the County by Parents for a Safer Environment; however, the costs for expert trapping services were higher than the cost for Agriculture Department personnel to trap ground squirrels themselves. The Department’s full report on the field trials is posted on the IPM website.
- Include total pounds of pesticide used in the report and not just pounds of active ingredient. (SJF)
  - The IPM Coordinator responded that the total pounds or gallons of pesticide used is reported on the spreadsheet attached to the report and is referenced on page 23.
  - The Committee directed the IPM Coordinator to add the phrase “including total product use” to the reference to the spreadsheet on page 23.
- The rodenticide issue has been brushed aside, but is still an important issue that needs to be addressed. (MS)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2015 IPM Annual Report with the edits provided above. (ML/DF)

The motion carried unanimously:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

8. Discuss IPM Committee priorities for 2016

Suggestions for presentations to the Committee are as follows:

- History of the IPM Committee, its purpose and its accomplishments
- Presentations from each IPM program—history and accomplishments
- Glyphosate, the new designation from IARC and its implications
- Pest pressures and climate change
- The ambrosia beetle in California
- Public Works grazing study
- Update on turf conversions—maintenance and water reductions

The Committee members discussed possible priorities for the coming year.

*Some of the comments from Committee are as follows:*

- If we are objective and we want to reduce exposure to pesticides, then bed bugs are pertinent. There is less risk to a child walking through a park than in their own home where pesticides are being used on their beds, bedding, and around the bed to try to kill bed bugs. We see lots of mis-application by the public trying to combat bed bugs. (TDavis)
- There is a great opportunity with bed bugs to coordinate with other County programs, such as Public Health and Behavioral Health, to improve public health, and to provide assistance to those suffering from bed bugs. (MK)
- There is a chance to network with the Master Gardeners on bed bugs and other issues. The Master Gardeners make 7000 contacts per season. (DF)
- Decision-making documents should have a section on “environmental enhancement” and on what might be planted to make maintenance easier, reduce pesticide and water use. (MK)
- The Board of Supervisors wants the Committee to do work that is applicable to all communities in Contra Costa County. Bed bugs and the amount of pesticide used on them are emerging issues that affect a great many people in the County. Addressing these issues is in accordance with the direction from the Internal Operations Committee after their Triennial Review of the IPM Advisory Committee. (CS)

*Some of the comments from public are as follows:*

- Jill Ray said that the Board of Supervisors has requested more recommendations from the IPM Committee and more outreach to the public. The decision-making documents are very useful for thinking through the management process. They provide an opportunity to explore the costs of pesticide alternatives so that funding proposals could go to the Board of Supervisors.
- The purpose of the IPM Advisory Committee is to look at alternatives to pesticides, and she does not want the County to lose sight of reducing pesticide use in County operations. (SJF)
- Why can't bed bugs be handled by one or two people rather than a whole subcommittee? (MS)
- Bed bugs are important but they are not a County program that is applying pesticide. (SJF)
- Revisit rodenticide use and herbicide use along rights-of-way. (MS)

A motion was made to have two subcommittees, 1) a Decision-Making subcommittee to focus on the management of weeds on roadsides and on the management of gophers, moles, and voles on County land, and 2) an Outreach and Education subcommittee that will initially focus on bed bugs in the communities of Contra Costa County. (CL/SH)

The motion carried unanimously:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

9. Plan agenda for next meeting

The Chair and the IPM Coordinator will plan the agenda.

Next Meetings: January 6, March 2, May 4, July 6, September 7, November 2

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator