

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
February 17, 2016

Members Present: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Jim Cartan, Save Mt. Diablo; Jerry Casey, Public Works Facilities; Gene Mangini, Agriculture Department; 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

(8 members present/5 voting members)

Members Absent: Allison Knapp, Public Works; Andrew Sutherland, Public Member At Large

Staff Present: Jill Ray, Supervisor Andersen's office; Peter Gollinger, and Mike Giles, Public Works; Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator

Members of the Public: Nati Flores, Susan Captain, and Jim Donnelly, applicants for seats on the IPM Committee; Michael Sullivan, Lori Smith, Margaret Lynwood, and Susan JunFish, Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

2. Election of Officers

Cece Sellgren was nominated for Chair by Michael Kent; Michael Kent was nominated for Vice Chair by Susan Heckly; Jim Cartan nominated himself for Secretary.

Susan JunFish of Parents for a Safer Environment (PfSE) asked the Committee to postpone voting on the nominees until all members are seated.

The Committee voted unanimously to postpone:

AYES: Cartan, Heckly, Kent, Leeds

NOES: None

ABSENT: Sutherland

ABSTAIN: None

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Susan JunFish and Michael Sullivan of PfSE read comments (see attached). Margaret Lynwood of PfSE read a comment on rodenticides and asked the County to take diphacinone off of its pesticide use list.

4. Announcements

There were none

5. Approve minutes from November 4, 2016

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

The motion carried unanimously:

AYES: Heckly, Kent, Leeds, Sellgren

NOES: None

ABSENT: Sutherland

ABSTAIN: Cartan

6. Review IPM Advisory Committee Ground Rules

This item was not taken up.

7. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

- Gene Mangini made the report for the Agriculture Department.
The Department is cutting back on the amount of invasive weed work that it performs and will take on only work that it is paid to do. Staff will begin work next week on artichoke and purple starthistle on Mt. Diablo using back pack sprayers. Michael Kent asked how private landowners are managing their weeds now. Gene Mangini replied that the Department is working with them, but there is concern that without the direct involvement of the Department, the invasive weed situation will revert back to the serious infestations of many years ago. One of the problems is that people who have short term leases may not care as much about the state of the land as a long term owner would. Some landowners are now adding provisions to leases to require invasive weed management.
- Carlos Agurto of Pestec reported on County Facilities.
Pestec has been busy lately with wildlife in County buildings. Pestec has done monitoring, used repellents and exclusion, and has done some trapping. Pigeons have been a problem for the West County Health Clinic. Pestec has had some difficulty with the wires they installed to prevent the pigeons from roosting and nesting, so they are now looking at bird netting. Cats or raccoons have been going under an abandoned building in Richmond that was part of a Head Start. Pestec has been monitoring and has put traps out, but hasn't caught anything. They are considering putting strobe lights under the building to deter the animals. Wildlife, other than cats, caught in live traps is euthanized. Feral cats go to the shelter. State law prohibits relocating mammals to other areas. They can be released on site, but that would not solve the problem of their entering the building.
The Concord homeless shelter had one bed that was badly infested with bed bugs. The staff took apart the bed and cleaned it and had the occupant wash all his clothes and bedding. The problem was taken care of, but the staff at the shelter may need a refresher training on the bed bug prevention protocols and cleaning for bed bugs. It appears that the bed bug staff at the shelter has changed since Pestec and the County trained them.
Jerry Casey noted that the County manages around 350 buildings. Carlos remarked that the Contra Costa structural IPM program is a step above San Francisco's program (Pestec manages both programs).
Susan JunFish of PfSE asked about the County's use of glue boards which she feels is unethical. Carlos replied that glue boards were used for a rodent infestation in the Martinez Detention Facility because it was the only form of trap the Sheriff would allow. He considered any other kind of trap to be a security risk for the inmates. Pestec has since rodent proofed the facility and the glue boards were removed as they were no long needed. Glue boards are not used anywhere else in the County.
- Peter Gollinger reported for the Public Works Roadside and Flood Control Maintenance Division.
The crew is finishing weed abatement on flood control channel access roads and starting to abate grasses on flood control channel slopes. They have also been working on downed trees and tree trimming on the roadsides.

8. Hear Report from IPM Coordinator

- In November there were a total of 3 applications for the 5 seats on the IPM Committee. Only 2 of those came to the December interview—Jim Cartan and Andrew Sutherland. Jim Cartan was appointed to the environmental organization seat, and Andrew Sutherland was appointed a public member.
- Advertising for the vacant seats went out in January. Currently there are 7 applicants who will be interviewed by the Internal Operations Committee on Monday 2/29 at 11:00 AM.
- The IPM Coordinator gave an orientation to the 2 new members in January.
- In December the IPM Coordinator took the Annual Report to the Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee. The Committee accepted the report, and sent it to the full Board of Supervisors, which approved the report.

- The IPM Coordinator has been working with Supervisor Andersen’s office and others on a serious bed bug infestation at Riverhouse in downtown Martinez. Riverhouse is a residential facility for elderly and mentally and physically disabled tenants and is owned by the non-profit Eden Housing. The building has been infested with bed bugs for perhaps 3 years, and it has been difficult to convince them to employ prevention techniques and effective treatments. The facility now has a new property manager who seems ready to change Eden Housing’s approach. In a meeting on 2/11/16, the County, advocates for the residents, the facility staff, and Eden Housing all agreed to try to work together to make the situation better for residents.
- In cooperation with the County Clean Water Program, the IPM Coordinator has been working on a structural IPM training for municipal staff and a landscape IPM training for municipal and County staff.

9. Discuss IPM Advisory Committee subcommittee assignments for 2016

The Chair and the IPM Coordinator reminded the Committee that there can be no more than 6 members on each subcommittee and a maximum of 4 of those can be voting members.

- The decision-making subcommittee—Cece Sellgren and Gene Mangini
- The bed bug subcommittee—Michael Kent, Susan Heckly, and Carlos Agurto

The IPM Coordinator will discuss the subcommittees with Jim Cartan and Andrew Sutherland so they can decide which they would like to attend. The new members chosen by the Internal Operations Committee can also serve on either subcommittee. The IPM Coordinator will send out a Doodle poll for the first meeting of the subcommittees in April.

Public comment: Susan JunFish of PfSE said the County should focus on pesticide use in County programs and not on bed bug outreach, on the rodenticide being used, and on the broadcast herbicide spraying. The new Committee members should choose the Committee’s priorities and its subcommittees. Michael Sullivan said he seconded what Susan said.

10. Hear presentation on the County’s goat study

Cece Sellgren and Peter Gollinger gave a presentation on the 3-year study along Walnut Creek.

Goats can play an important role in the County’s vegetation management along the flood control channels and in detention basins. They cannot be used everywhere in all situations, but they now form an integral part of the Flood Control District’s IPM program. The County will continue to use this tool where appropriate.

The following figures compare actual costs that include overhead (training, permits, equipment, materials, etc.):

- Highline (herbicide spraying along channel banks): \$148/acre
- Machine mowing: \$699/acre
- Grazing: \$922/acre
Off season grazing brings the figure down to \$544/acre, but that is not the true cost to the County, because it’s not possible to count on using off season grazing every year.

Public comment: Susan JunFish of PfSE disagreed with the conclusion that herbicides don’t end up in the stream, and she disagreed with the pesticide monitoring methodology.

11. Plan agenda for next meeting

It was decided that the March 2 meeting should be postponed so the new Committee members can attend the March meeting. The IPM Coordinator will poll people on when they can come to a March meeting, and the Chair and the IPM Coordinator will plan the agenda.

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

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator