

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
March 16, 2016

Members Present: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Susan Captain, Public Member At Large; Jim Cartan, Save Mt. Diablo; Jim Donnelly, Public Member At Large; Chad Godoy/Matt Slattengren, 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; Andrew Sutherland, Public Member at Large; Allison Knapp, Public Works Maintenance; Wayne Lanier, Public Member Alternate

(12 members present/8 voting members)

Members Absent: Jerry Casey, Public Works Facilities

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

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

1. Introductions

2. Election of Officers

At the February 17 meeting, Cece Sellgren was nominated for Chair, Michael Kent was nominated for Vice Chair; Jim Cartan was nominated for Secretary. Cece Sellgren asked for additional nominations for the 3 positions; there were none.

A motion was made to close nominations (JD/SH).

The Committee voted unanimously to close:

AYES: Captain, Cartan, Donnelly, Heckly, Kent, Leeds, Sellgren, Sutherland

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

A motion was made to elect the slate (JD/SH)

The Committee voted unanimously to elect the slate of officers:

AYES: Captain, Cartan, Donnelly, Heckly, Kent, Leeds, Sellgren, Sutherland

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

3. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Susan JunFish and Christine Steck of Parents for a Safer Environment (PfSE) read comments (see attached).

4. Announcements

- Mt. Diablo is holding its annual Bio Blitz on April 1 and 2. Jim Cartan can provide more information for anyone who is interested.
- Carlos Agurto reminded everyone that the season for bee swarms is upon us. Pestec removes swarms and finds homes for them.
- Susan Captain announced that Lamorinda has been designated an American Viticultural Area (AVA). This is the first AVA in Contra Costa County. Chad Godoy noted that the designation is a great honor

for the area and the vineyards in Lamorinda, one of which is Captain Vineyards. The designation does not affect pest control in the vineyards; it is used for marketing.

5. Hear presentation on IPM in public housing

Luis Agurto of Pestec provided information on a project they are working on called Healthy Buildings Pilot Program. The goal is to demonstrate effective IPM for multi-unit housing. The project will continue through the end of this year. One of the project sites is in Contra Costa County. San Francisco's public housing is another site. Since many of the buildings in San Francisco's public housing are being remodeled, the City was able to incorporate pest prevention measures during the remodels.

Pestec is also participating in a bed bug management study in multi-family housing under a grant obtained by the University of California. Orkin and Pestec are participating in the Bay Area and a third pest control company is participating in San Diego. Pestec has working in a building in the Monument Corridor in Concord. The project is examining various integrated pest management regimens for bed bugs in apartment buildings.

6. Extended introductions of members of the IPM Committee

Committee members explained their backgrounds.

7. Review IPM Advisory Committee Ground Rules

Meeting procedures were reviewed. These can be found on the back of every published agenda.

Rules for voting and quorums were reviewed:

- The Committee has 8 voting members and 1 alternate who may vote if a public member at large, the PEHAB representative, or the Fish and Wildlife Committee representative is absent.
- 5 voting members must be present to take a vote.
- Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors take 5 "yes" votes.
- Subcommittees can have no more than 6 members, no more than 4 of which can be voting members on the full committee.
- Anyone belonging to a subcommittee can vote.
- There must be a majority of "yes" votes for a subcommittee to pass an action item, e.g. 4 out of 6 "yes" votes. Jill Ray clarified that if the subcommittee has fewer than 6 members, for example only 4 members, 3 must vote "yes" to pass an action item.
- One or more members of the full committee may attend meetings of subcommittees of which they are not members, but they must sit in the audience and cannot participate in the meeting or comment or ask questions. They may not speak to members of the subcommittee either before or after the subcommittee meeting about any of the subcommittee proceedings. This will prevent having an accidental meeting of the full committee when it has not been noticed as such.

8. Approve minutes from February 17, 2016

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

Public comment: Susan JunFish wanted to amend a number of things in the minutes. The IPM Coordinator asked that she provide written clarification, and it would be attached to the final record. (See attached)

Marj Leeds amended her motion to the following: Approve the minutes as written and attach the PfSE clarifying comments that would be forwarded to the IPM Coordinator by Susan JunFish. (ML/SH)

The motion carried:

AYES: Cartan, Heckly, Kent, Leeds, Sellgren

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Captain, Donnelly, Lanier, Sutherland

9. Discuss subcommittee assignments and dates for first meeting

Bed Bug Outreach subcommittee: Michael Kent, Susan Heckly, and Luis Agurto.

Decision-Making subcommittee: Susan Captain, Jim Cartan, Jim Donnelly, a representative from the Agriculture Department, and Andrew Sutherland.

The IPM Coordinator will send out Doodle polls for the first meeting dates.

Public Comment: Susan JunFish suggested a third subcommittee on rodenticides be formed, and she recommended that County staff be present when an issue pertaining to their work is discussed.

11. Discuss changing the standing date for the IPM Committee meeting

Item 11 was taken before Item 10.

The Chair has a conflict every first Wednesday of the month. The Committee discussed changing the meeting date, and agreed to change the full IPM Committee meeting to the third Wednesday of each odd month.

10. Hear extended reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

- Kevin Lachapelle, Grounds Manager, made the report for the Grounds Division of the Public Works Department.

The Division is responsible for the upkeep of landscaping and grounds around County buildings and associated parking lots near County facilities. The Division is also contracted by Public Works Special Districts for landscape maintenance for some HOAs and County Service Areas. Maintenance includes weed management within turf and ornamental plantings, pruning, tree planting and care, and emergency tree removal due to storm damage or tree failure.

The Division has 4 lead gardeners and 16 regular gardeners. They have a budget for 24 gardeners, but currently the County has a hiring freeze.

Funds come from County building tenant occupancy fees, the general fund, and Special District monies.

There are about 350 properties that the Division is responsible for.

The Grounds Division is working on a project to grind waste pallets and wood from pruning and downed trees into wood chip mulch that can be used for weed suppression on County grounds. The Division has found that they can produce all the wood chip mulch they need very economically.

- Matt Slattengren, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner, reported for the Agriculture Department. The Department manages the pest exclusion and quarantine programs which involve surveillance of both incoming and outgoing plant material to look for exotic pests. Monitoring of incoming plant material occurs daily at FedEx, UPS, DHL, California Overnight, and the U.S. Post Offices.

In the past the Department had a biological control program, but the funding has disappeared.

Other responsibilities of the Department include: inspecting farmers' markets for compliance with organic and other requirements, investigating reports of pesticide illness, enforcing pesticide laws and regulations, issuing permits for the use of restricted pesticides, registering and inspecting pest control businesses, receiving monthly pesticide use reports from public and private entities, registering apiaries and warning beekeepers of hives near pesticide applications, and providing advice on pest management to the public.

The Department also manages invasive weeds on some public and some private land, and manages ground squirrels around critical County infrastructure.

The Weights and Measures division of the Department performs inspections on commercial weighing and measuring devices and inspects price scanners.

The Department is fully staffed (42 employees). Funds come from state and federal monies and the general fund.

- Peter Gollinger reported for the Public Works Roadside and Flood Control Maintenance Division.

The Division is responsible for the maintenance of 650 miles of roads, 75 miles of flood control channels, 18 miles of the Iron Horse Corridor, and a number of undeveloped parcels. The Division is also responsible for the two County airports: Buchanan Field in Concord and Byron Airport in Byron. The main purpose of vegetation management in these areas is safety, including fire and flood prevention. The way in which work is undertaken is determined by rules and regulations from the Fire Marshall, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Along roads, the goal is to prevent road hazards related to the obstruction of visibility by vegetation.

The Vegetation Management Crew is now also responsible for clearance trimming of trees along County road rights of way.

Public Comment from Susan JunFish:

- Please forward existing decision-making documents to the new Committee members so they can get up to speed ahead of time.
- Would like to understand better the exponential use of pesticides in Public Works
- Is there a decision tree for rodenticide use in open space?
- How many miles of roadway and flood control were managed for cities?
- Some pallets have been treated with insecticide. Does Kevin check for that prior to mulching?

12. Plan agenda for next meeting

Steve Schutz from Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector control will give a presentation about climate change and disease vectors, and the Chair and the IPM Coordinator will plan the remainder of the agenda.

Public Comment from Susan JunFish: County staff is controlling all of the agenda items.

The IPM Coordinator will send out a notice to the Committee members to remind them of the meeting and solicit additional agenda items.

Next Meetings: July 20, September 21, November 16

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator