

**Minutes**  
**Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee**  
**May 18, 2016**

Members Present: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Susan Captain, Public Member At Large; Jim Cartan, Save Mt. Diablo; Jerry Casey, Public Works Facilities; Jim Donnelly, Public Member At Large; Larry Yost, Agriculture Department; Susan Heckly, County Fish and Wildlife Committee; Michael Kent, Health Services; Cece Sellgren (Chair), County Clean Water Program; Allison Knapp/Peter Gollinger, Public Works Maintenance; Wayne Lanier, Public Member Alternate (arrived late)

(10 members present initially, then 11; 6 voting members initially, then 7)

Members Absent: Andrew Sutherland, Public Member at Large

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

Members of the Public: Dr. Steve Schutz, Mosquito and Vector Control; Margaret Lynwood and Susan JunFish, Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Susan JunFish distributed graphs (see attached) she had created for County pesticide use and asked why there was a 90% increase (in her opinion) in pesticide use.

3. Announcements

There were none.

4. Approve minutes from March 16, 2016

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

The motion carried:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Lanier, Sutherland

ABSTAIN: None

5. Hear presentation on mosquitoes as vectors of disease

Dr. Steve Schutz is the Scientific Programs Manager for the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District. He showed a video entitled District Integrated Mosquito Management ( see [http://www.contracostamosquito.com/vector\\_tv.htm](http://www.contracostamosquito.com/vector_tv.htm) for that video and many others). The District was created to combat the salt marsh mosquito and has grown into a countywide service focusing on IPM. Their integrated mosquito management comprises surveillance, education, scientifically derived treatment thresholds, habitat manipulation, source reduction, biological control using fish and *Bacillus thuringiensis*, and chemical control that includes surface films and pyrethroids.

Emerging or re-emerging viruses are West Nile, dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever, and Zika. There have been at least 3 imported cases of Zika virus so far in Contra Costa County. The CDC has classified California as having a low to moderate risk for local transmission of Zika because we have limited vectors, there is a lack of wild reservoirs, and we have air conditioning and window screens. We may have secondary transmission in California. The area of highest risk for Zika is the southeastern U.S. It could potentially be a problem in New York and New Jersey. U.C. will test for viruses if the vectors are found in Contra Costa County.

West Nile virus does not seem to be going away. Studies show the virus has not mutated. In 2015 Los Angeles and Orange Counties had many human cases of West Nile. There is a vaccine for horses, and Contra Costa had only one equine case in 2015.

*Aedes aegypti* (the yellow fever mosquito) is the primary vector of Zika, yellow fever, dengue, and chikungunya. It bites during the day, prefers biting people, lives in close association with people, and can lay eggs in a teaspoonful of water. Eggs can dry out and survive for 6 months. *Ae. aegypti* has mainly been found in Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley. The mosquito has been detected in San Mateo County since 2013. In 2015 there was a find in Hayward, but it was determined to be a lab escape, and the mosquitoes were eradicated. It has not been detected in Contra Costa.

*Aedes albopictus* (the Asian tiger mosquito) can vector Zika, dengue, and chikungunya. It is also a day-bitter. *Ae. albopictus* has been detected in Los Angeles County since 2011 and in Kern and San Diego Counties since 2015. Around 2005, *Ae. albopictus* was brought into California from China on lucky bamboo. Officials thought they had eradicated it, but they have found a persistent population in the San Gabriel Valley. *Ae. albopictus* can live farther north than *Ae. aegypti*—as far north as New Jersey.

The treehole mosquito found in Contra Costa County is a day-bitter, but none of the other native mosquitoes bites during the day.

The public should pay close attention to any containers outdoors that could hold water. Dump out water, scrub the container with a 10% bleach solution to kill any eggs, and remove the container or turn it upside down. It's also important to use repellents and report biting activity.

New Strategies for managing *Ae. aegypti*.

- Breeding mosquitoes that will carry different strains of *Wolbachia* bacteria—if two mosquitoes with different strains mate, they cannot reproduce.
- Lethal ovitraps—these are containers with water and sticky traps that are attractive to *Ae. aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* females looking for a place to lay eggs. These traps can also work to “auto-disseminate” pyriproxyfen (an insecticide) when females come to the container, become contaminated, and move the insecticide to other water containers.

6. Hear reports from first meetings of each subcommittee—Bed Bugs and Decision Making

Decision Making—Andrew Sullivan, chair; Jim Donnelly, vice chair

The committee chose vertebrate pests in Special Districts as the first decision document to complete. The committee will also begin work on weeds on roadsides and rights-of-way. Members have chosen Bay Area counties similar to Contra Costa to research.

*Public Comment*—Susan JunFish would prefer that the subcommittee focus on rodenticide use by the Department of Agriculture.

Bed Bugs—Michael Kent, chair

The committee is compiling a list of resources for residents in the County, and will work on the general public bed bug brochure to improve content and distribution. The committee is also following the bed bug legislation making its way through the California legislature.

7. Hear the IPM Coordinator's report

The IPM Coordinator

- Organized and attended the first 2 subcommittee meetings
  - Completed a decision-making document for gophers in Grounds and Special Districts
  - The document will be reviewed by the subcommittee tomorrow.
- Worked extensively on bed bugs in the County
  - The IPM Coordinator partnered with Luis Agurto of Pestec to give a bed bug awareness presentation to the managers in the County's Behavioral Health Division (there have been a couple of scares in one clinic where a client brought in bed bugs).

- The IPM Coordinator worked with the Safety Coordinator for Behavioral Health on a program to develop prevention plans for specific clinics and residential facilities, and for in-home visitors.
    - Over the next many months the IPM Coordinator will meet with each clinic to customize the template she will create.
    - On 5/16 the IPM Coordinator met with Discovery House, a drug treatment facility, to discuss bed bug prevention, and on 5/19 she will give a bed bug awareness talk to the Alcohol and Other Drug Division managers
  - There is finally some positive news about Riverhouse in Martinez (low income housing for mentally and physically disabled older adults that is owned and operated by Eden Housing, a non-profit).
    - After interviewing several PCOs, Eden Housing hired Pestec to treat the Riverhouse years-long, wide-spread bed bug infestation. Pestec inspected every apartment and is working individually with the problem cases.
    - Pestec has treated many apartments to date, but Eden Housing is behind in paying their Pestec invoices, so Pestec has suspended treatment. They are getting the problem under control, but the future for Riverhouse is still unclear. The County wants Eden to hire a knowledgeable company to do periodic inspections, but they have not agreed to that yet.
- Helped organize a Bay Friendly Landscaping refresher training for municipal staff
- Began planning a Structural IPM and IPM contracting workshop for fall for municipal staff
- Gave a talk on IPM for ants, aphids, and weeds at Heather Farms
- Attended a U.C. Cooperative Extension gopher management presentation in Richmond with the Grounds Division gopher manager

#### 8. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

- Larry Yost, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, reported for the Agriculture Department. The Department is finishing up work on its yearly noxious weed management program. May is the busiest month because weeds are starting to dry up, and they must be treated before that happens. June 1 is the target deadline for weed control. The Department is no longer doing weed abatement on private land unless it is under contract.
 

Ground squirrel management begins no earlier than July 1.
- Peter Gollinger reported for the Public Works Roadside and Flood Control Maintenance Division. Peter has been promoted to Assistant Field Operations Manager.
 

The fire-fuel abatement deadline is May 30, but the County will not be able to make that deadline. East County work is finished, and they are working on Central County. Staff is mowing and weed whacking. They are spraying less on the flood control slopes and doing more mowing, which takes longer. Once fire-fuel abatement is finished, they will begin work on managing cattails.

A substantial cut in their budget will impact operations next fiscal year. They are working on planning carefully.
- Carlos Agurto reported for Facilities Maintenance.
 

Pestec has been working on a mosquito problem at the Brookside Head Start in Richmond. The site is near a creek with lots of trash, a homeless encampment, and much ivy and other vegetation where the mosquitoes rest. They asked the railroad to help with the trash pickup, but they didn't.

There is a confused flour beetle infestation in the West County Detention Facility kitchen, but the infestation is in the dishwashing area that is across the kitchen from the pantry. They have put out pheromone traps.

There was a flea infestation at the Law Enforcement Training Center in Pittsburg. Pestec monitored and found fleas, so they treated with Precor. Monitoring is on-going.

At a location where raccoons are living under a building, Pestec has used coyote urine to keep them away.

*Public Comment from Susan JunFish:* Precor is a “Bad Actor”. Other counties do not use it. Are there other alternatives?

Carlos responded that a quick knockdown was need because the people at the site wanted something to happen soon. Pestec used Precor because they knew it would work. He used his best professional judgement in choosing the pesticide. He will look into alternatives.

9. Plan agenda for next meeting

- Dr. Igor Laćan, UC Extension Urban Horticultural Advisor, will give a presentation on new and emerging pests.
- Reports from subcommittees
- Reports from Departments and IPM Coordinator

*Public Comment from Susan JunFish:* Questions the relevance of presentation topics. Would like to see representatives from other counties come to give presentations. The community did not have input on the presentation topics for this year.

Susan Heckly noted that the community did have input on the Committee’s priorities and on presentation topics.

Next Meetings: September 21, November 16

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator