

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
July 20, 2016

Members Present: Susan Captain, Public Member At Large; Jim Cartan, Save Mt. Diablo; Jim Donnelly, 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; Andrew Sutherland, Public Member at Large; Peter Gollinger, Public Works Maintenance; Wayne Lanier, Public Member Alternate

(10 members present, 8 voting members)

Members Absent: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Jerry Casey, Public Works Facilities;

Staff Present: Karen Adler, Department of Agriculture; Jill Ray, Supervisor Andersen's office; Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator

Members of the Public: Dr. Igor Laćan, U.C. Cooperative Extension; Christine Steck and Susan JunFish, Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Jill Ray mentioned that she and Supervisor Candace Andersen toured the San Ramon Channel of Walnut Creek. Every Friday Vector Control monitors the channel for mosquito larvae. They use mosquito-eating fish (*Gambusia* sp.) there for control.

Andrew Sutherland noted that *Gambusia* is the most invasive fish in the world and can have unintended consequences.

Jill Ray responded that Vector Control is not stocking fish in the outflow water.

Susan JunFish asked if Public Works contracts with municipalities for weed control.

The IPM Coordinator asked Ms. JunFish to submit a public records request to have that question answered.

3. Announcements

Susan JunFish of Parents for a Safer Environment read a statement regarding pesticide use in the County and corrections to the minutes of 5/18/16. See attached.

Christine Steck of Parents for a Safer Environment read a statement about the County and the Healthy Schools Act. See attached.

4. Approve minutes from May 18, 2016

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

Andrew Sutherland asked to have his name corrected from Sullivan to Sutherland on page 2. Susan JunFish's corrections to the minutes will be attached to the minutes.

The motion carried:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

8a. Hear report from the Agriculture Department (this was taken before Item 5)

Chad Godoy, County Agricultural Commissioner, provided the report.

The Department has been taking steps to reduce the amount of rodenticide it uses for ground squirrel control in the County in order to mitigate harm to endangered and other non-target species. The Department will be employing bait stations with diphacinone treated grain in areas where this tactic is feasible. Where it is not feasible, for instance along roads, the Department will broadcast diphacinone treated grain. The Department is currently contracted to provide ground squirrel control for irrigation and water districts along canals and is considering giving that work back to the agencies to do themselves.

The Department continues to address invasive weeds in the County, but the Department is currently redefining the program. The idea is that when staff reduce invasive weeds to a “controllable level” on private land, the Department will give responsibility for either maintaining that level or eradicating the species to the landowner. The Department will determine with the landowner what constitutes a “controllable level.” The Department has not charged private landowners for invasive weed control and will not be charging now, but if the landowner wants the Department to manage invasive weeds, he or she will have to have a contract with the Department.

Private landowners would have the option of consulting with the Department or using a Pest Control Advisor for advice on controlling invasive weeds on their property. In the initial stages of the transition, the Department would make sure that private employees are trained to understand the proper timing for herbicide applications for various weeds.

The above changes in the invasive weed program could have several impacts:

- There may be fewer Workers’ Comp claims in the Department.
- Private landowners may use different herbicides from those the Department currently uses.
- The amount of herbicide used by the Agriculture Department will be reduced, but whether the amount used by private landowners simply replaces the amount previously used by the Department or increases or decreases will be unknown.
- Invasive weed prevalence in some areas of the County may increase, and new weeds may invade undetected.

5. Hear presentation on polyphagous shothole borer and huanglongbing

These are two very serious tree pest problems that are on their way up from Southern California. See the attached PowerPoint for details.

7. Hear reports from subcommittees—Bed Bugs and Decision Making

This item was taken before item #6, and #6 was moved to the end of the meeting.

Bed Bugs—Michael Kent, chair

The committee discussed the following:

- 211 will be added to the bed bug website as a resource for social services, housing, and legal aid. The IPM Coordinator will list herself as a contact on 211.
- AB 551, the bed bug legislation making its way through the California Legislature, is currently in the Judiciary Committee waiting for a second reading.
- Edits and revisions to two bed bug fact sheets for the general public were approved and additional changes made.
- The IPM Coordinator will work with Pestec on a bed bug IPM plan template for landlords.
- Is there some way to provide bed bug education to school children in the County?

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

The committee met in June and in August and has been studying rodenticide use in Special Districts. The IPM Coordinator created a decision document for pocket gophers in Special Districts, which the committee reviewed. Next the committee will review a decision document for rats.

The committee had a presentation from the Special Districts Manager and to understand better what a Special District is and what can and cannot be done within Special Districts.

The committee is also looking at weed management in rights-of-way in other counties. Members are still gathering information, and this project may continue into next year.

8b. Hear report from the Public Works Department

Peter Gollinger, Public Works Assistant Field Operations Manager, provided the report for the Roadside and Flood Control Maintenance Division:

Crews are now working on the road surface treatment program, which takes staff away from the Vegetation Management crew.

Along flood control channels, the Vegetation Management crew is abating late emerging weeds or weeds that have regrown since the initial treatment. This abatement involves only hand and machine mowing. They are also working on cattails in the channels.

Along roadsides and flood control channels, the crew is spot treating with herbicide for late emerging invasive weeds such as *Dittrichia graveolens* (stinkwort) and *Salsola* spp. (Russian thistle).

Goats are currently grazing along Rodeo Creek.

Michael Kent noted that an increase in mowing comes with an increase in air pollution and mentioned that Kevin Lachapelle (County Grounds Manager) has applied for a grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to replace gas-powered, hand-held landscape maintenance equipment with electric equipment.

Peter Gollinger is also researching electric-powered equipment for the Vegetation Management Crew.

The IPM Coordinator provided the report for the Public Works Facilities Division:

- The WICK office on Stanwell is having ‘insect bite’ problems—first staff, and now clients in the lobby. Pestec has set out flea traps to monitor.
- There is a great deal of ant activity throughout the County.
 - Pittsburg Health Center has ants on 4th floor
 - Another building has ants on the 3rd floor
- We are having Oriental cockroach problems at Head Starts. These cockroaches spend most of their time outside in CCC in summer, but come into buildings periodically. The reasons for this are
 - Buildings are not sealed well, especially where the building meets the cement foundation.
 - Door sweeps aren’t perfect.Carlos is baiting the cockroaches.
- There was a report of bed bugs at 4549 Delta Fair in Antioch, but Pestec hasn’t been able to find anything.
- There are lots of flies in Downtown Martinez around the door to the Sheriff’s Lab (from all the filth in the area).
- The bed bug infestation at Riverhouse in Martinez has not been completely solved.
 - Because Riverhouse was 60 days behind in paying Pestec for services already rendered, Pestec suspended treatments in April until they were paid. The County was able to resolve the issue. In mid-June, Eden Housing paid their bill to Pestec, and Pestec resumed treatments.
 - One tenant would not allow Pestec to inspect his bed thoroughly.Because of these issues, there have been serious repeat infestations in some of the apartments that were treated in April.

9. Hear the IPM Coordinator’s report

The IPM Coordinator

- Attended one Bed Bug subcommittee meeting and two Decision Making subcommittee meetings
 - Revised general public bed bug fact sheets and spoke to the 211 coordinator about getting her name on the list as a bed bug resource
 - Revised the gopher dec doc and created a rat dec doc
- Discussed a bed bug prevention plan with Discovery House in Martinez (residential drug and alcohol rehab facility)
- Created a clinic and office bed bug prevention plan and discussed it with the managers of Adult Mental Health and Older Adult Mental Health

- Revised the bed bug plans to fit each program
- Provided a bed bug training for staff of Adult Mental Health
- Provided a refresher training with Carlos for staff from the Concord homeless shelter
- Provided an IPM update to TWIC
- Gave a talk to the Clean Water Program's Municipal Operations Committee to help them answer questions on IPM in their annual reports to the RWQCB

The Our Water Our World (OWOW) program, which the IPM Coordinator help to develop, continues to expand and provide citizens around the state with information on IPM and least-toxic pest control products in hardware stores and nurseries. The program started in Contra Costa County but is now in over 300 stores in 25 counties in California. In Contra Costa, OWOW is supported by the Clean Water Program.

Jill Ray and the IPM Coordinator thanked Susan Captain and Mike Carlson (Public Works) for their work to engage Eagle Scouts in a project to erect owl boxes in Livorna Park. Jill Ray noted that it is not often that the County can move so nimbly on a project.

6. Discuss process for choosing speakers and topics

Andrew Sutherland had requested this as an agenda item. He mentioned that it would be beneficial to subcommittee work if presentation topics could support the work of each subcommittee.

The IPM Coordinator noted that the IPM Committee has traditionally decided on presentation topics when it takes up the discussion of its priorities and subcommittees for the coming year. Last year that was addressed at the November meeting.

Andrew Sutherland suggested adding discussion of presentation topics to the agenda for each subcommittee for its next meeting.

Public Comment

Susan JunFish asked if any Committee members had requested topic for presentations.

The answer was not since this was discussed in the November 2015 meeting.

10. Plan agenda for next meeting

- Speaker
- Preliminary discussion of the IPM Annual Report
- Reports from subcommittees
- Reports from Departments and IPM Coordinator

Next Meetings: September 21, November 16

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator