

Minutes
Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee
Subcommittee on IPM Decision-Making
September 15, 2016

Members present: Andrew Sutherland (chair), Susan Captain, Jim Cartan, Larry Yost

Members absent: Jim Donnelly

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

Members of the public present: Tiffany Day, citizen; Susan JunFish, Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Susan JunFish read a comment (see attached).

3. Approve minutes from August 12, 2016

Susan JunFish requested a change in wording under "Public Comment" on Item #4 from "rather than" to "in addition to."

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with Susan JunFish's change. (AS/JC).

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Review the County's IPM Policy and Administrative Bulletin, the Public Works Landscape Standards and the purchase order for the Special Districts' contractor

There were questions about how the IPM policy relates to contracting in Special Districts. Jill Ray explained that the Administrative Bulletin is the enforcement document and says that "County IPM policies and practices will be incorporated into County pest control contracts." The Board of Supervisors is ultimately responsible for approving contracts. The County's Special Districts are overseen by an advisory body in each district. Funding dictates what can be done. There are special restrictions and requirements in some Special Districts, for example, the Airport Special District. Special Districts are varied and there is no one standard approach that the County can use for management.

Some of the other points made in the discussion are as follows:

- Sources of funding for the Agriculture Department do not enter into how the Department applies the law. (LY)
- If the County hires well-trained people versed in IPM, they will already know what the best practices are, and we should not have to police them. (SC)
- The County hires contractors to be the technical experts. (LY)
- Contractors should be asking themselves if they are designing a program based on prevention. Is there something that should be changed to ensure that contractors are following the IPM policy? (AS)
- The community wants the park to look a certain way, but people are not necessarily aware of or care about how that is accomplished.
 - The Alamo Municipal Advisory Committee does receive reports from the Special Districts manager. (JR)
- From the decision-making document, it looks like the Special Districts' vertebrate pest contractor is using IPM; however, there is no communication with the public that lives around Livorna Park. (JC)
 - Public communication is not the responsibility of the contractor, but rather of the staff at Special Districts. (JR, TD)
- Ideas for revisions/additions to the landscape standards
 - Language for vertebrate pest management
 - Revisit the chemical control section
 - Language about prevention in general and contractors reporting opportunities for prevention

- Trapping guidelines or training that specifically addresses safety issues for people, children, and pets
- Look at the IPM Decision-Making steps the IPM Coordinator wrote for Contra Costa municipalities for possible inclusion in the landscape standards and the letter to Special Districts' contractors

Public Comment:

Tiffany Day said that the County could not measure success without specific goals and there are no specific goals in the IPM policy.

Susan JunFish alleged that the Special Districts' vertebrate pest contractor was hired 10 years ago without competition and that he is practicing pest control with little training. She wants the County to go out to bid for his job.

5. Review the subcommittee's report to the full IPM Committee

The committee approved of the report that was written by Andrew Sutherland, and asked to have both decision documents that the committee has been working on included with the report. The gopher document should be labeled with "DRAFT."

Public Comment:

Susan JunFish asked to have changes made to the wording of the report in the second paragraph: "...along roadsides and right of ways ~~(including flood control channels)~~."

The committee agreed on the following alternate wording: "...along ~~roadsides and rights-of-ways~~ ~~(including focusing on roadsides and~~ flood control channels)." And in the sixth paragraph: "...(~~Weed Management along Roadsides and Right-of-Ways~~Flood Control Channels)..."

6. Discuss decision document for rat management in Special Districts

The owl box is up in Livorna Park in Alamo. There will be a presentation on October 4 at the Alamo Municipal Advisory Committee about the owl box, and Susan Captain will talk about why residents should not use rodenticides, especially now that the owl box is up. Supervisor Andersen's newsletter will publish an article about the project.

Andrew Sutherland suggested adding a sentence about taking the owl box into account when considering the use of rodenticide, and Jim Cartan suggested exploring how monitoring the owl box for evidence of owls, such as looking for owl pellets, could be incorporated into the project. The IPM Coordinator will add these two suggestions to the document.

7. Hear reports from committee members on contacting vegetation managers in surrounding counties

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Discuss topics and speakers for future subcommittee or full committee meetings

This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

9. Plan next agenda

Next Meeting: October 27, 10:00 am to 11:30 am

- Ask the new Special Districts Manager to come to the meeting to discuss the decision-making documents and to get an update from him on how he is planning to move forward
- Discuss the next steps for providing input to the Public Works Landscape Standards
- Hear reports on vegetation management in neighboring counties
- Discuss topics and speakers for future meetings
- Review the gopher decision document