

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
September 21, 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; Cece Sellgren (Chair), County Clean Water Program; Peter Gollinger, Public Works Maintenance

(9 members present, 5 voting members)

Members Absent: Michael Kent, Health Services; Andrew Sutherland, Public Member at Large; Wayne Lanier, Public Member Alternate

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

Members of the Public: Kathy Barrett and Susan JunFish, Parents for a Safer Environment; Janet Klein, Marin Municipal Water District

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Susan JunFish noted that the County has not responded to Christine Steck's public comment from July 20, 2016 regarding being in compliance with the Healthy Schools Act.

3. Announcements

Jill Ray noted that an owl box has been erected in Livorna Park in Alamo. This was a joint project of the Boy Scouts, the County Flood Control Division, Special Districts, and the Committee's own Susan Captain. The project will be featured in Supervisor Andersen's newsletter, and Susan Captain will make a presentation at the Alamo Municipal Advisory Committee meeting in October. The Eagle Scout who led the project will also speak. The Scouts were responsible for outreach to the neighbors around Livorna Park to inform them of the installation and explain why it is dangerous to use anticoagulant rodenticides.

4. Approve minutes from July 20, 2016

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

Susan JunFish asked for clarification on whether the Public Works Department contracts with cities for vegetation management. The IPM Coordinator responded that Ms. JunFish had asked this question in a public records request earlier in the year, and the IPM Coordinator had formally and promptly responded with the answer, which was that the Department does not contract with any cities. Susan JunFish also asked if any IPM Committee members have requested specific topics for presentations to the Committee. The answer was no.

A motion to approve the minutes with the above amendments was made and seconded (SC/JD).

The motion carried:

AYES: Captain, Cartan, Donnelly, Heckly, Sellgren

NOES: None

ABSENT: Michael Kent, Andrew Sutherland, Wayne Lanier

ABSTAIN: None

5. Hear presentation on weed management at Marin Municipal Water District (Janet Klein, Natural Resources Program Manager)

The Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) has had an herbicide free policy since 2005, but Janet Klein emphasized that they still do not know how to control weeds without herbicide. The District did not have an active herbicide program before 2005. Herbicides were used in a targeted manner on yellow starthistle and

eucalyptus. Under the herbicide ban, weeds have spread considerably: in 2003 French broom covered an equivalent of 462 football fields on Mt. Tamalpais and in 2013 broom covered 1117 football fields.

For 10 years, MMWD has investigated a long list of alternatives to herbicides. Organic herbicides do not meet their needs and many mechanical methods, such as pressurized water, hot foam, propane flaming, and grazing also do not meet their needs. And although they have a very robust volunteer program, Janet Klein said that volunteers are not the solution, notwithstanding all the great work they do. Money for trained professionals is a top priority. The District's primary tools are mowing and manual weeding. Other secondary tools such as mulching, solarization, and prescribed burning are limited by where, when, and for which weeds they can be used effectively.

The District has invested heavily in monitoring and mapping so they can describe the problem, see where it is, and how it is expanding. They have found that the broom infestation is increasing by about 60 acres a year.

To successfully manage 1400 acres of weeds on Mt. Tamalpais without herbicides, MMWD's Natural Resource Program is asking for enough funding for 73,500 hours of field work per year, 4500 hours of supervision time per year, and 5000 hours of ecosystem monitoring. They also need \$500,000 in capital equipment, including vehicles, computers, and tools. Funding the program will require annual budget increases of \$400,000 until they reach an operating budget of \$3 million (in 2004 their budget was \$125,000).

For more details, see the attached PowerPoint from Janet Klein.

6. Discuss outline of IPM Annual Report

The IPM Coordinator presented the outline for the annual report. At the November meeting, members should come with comments and suggested changes. The Committee will decide on which changes to make and delegate that work to the IPM Coordinator. The Committee will not see the final document before it is presented to the Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee in December.

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

Bed Bugs—Michael Kent, chair; Susan Heckly and Luis Agurto, members

Michael Kent being absent, the IPM Coordinator presented the subcommittee's final report.

- The subcommittee decided that 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 for bed bug issues.
- The subcommittee followed AB 551, the bed bug legislation making its way through the California Legislature. This was at the direction of the Supervisors who wanted to know what actions the state would take before deciding what to do at the county level. It looks like the bill will pass later this month.
- The subcommittee directed the IPM Coordinator to make edits and revisions to two bed bug fact sheets for the general public.
- The subcommittee did not finish two of the tasks it set for itself: creating a professionally designed bed bug brochure and developing a model IPM plan for pest management companies and landlords.

Decision Making—Andrew Sullivan, chair; Jim Donnelly, vice chair; Susan Captain, Jim Cartan, and Larry Yost, members

Andrew Sullivan being absent, Jim Cartan presented the subcommittee's final report.

- The subcommittee completed a rat management decision document, and has almost completed a gopher document.
- The subcommittee heard a presentation from the Special Districts Manager in order to understand how Special Districts are funded and managed.
- 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.

8. Hear report from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

Larry Yost, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, provided the report for the Agriculture Department

The Department will be working on the ground squirrel management program for about another month. Diphacinone bait cannot be used in the rain, so the first rain will terminate the program for the year. Last

week the Department treated the runways at Byron Airport. Larry Yost will meet tomorrow with the Contra Costa Water District to familiarize the new supervisor with the ground squirrel management program on their property and to discuss the District's current and future expectations and goals. The Department has a contract with the District to perform ground squirrel management on their property as needed.

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

The Division is now finished with most of the road surface treatment work for the year, which frees staff to work on flood control channel maintenance.

The Vegetation Management crew is cutting and removing cattails in the channels.

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

Jerry Casey, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, provided the report for the Public Works Facilities Division:

- Drywood termites were discovered in a wall at the Calli House youth shelter, 845B Brookside Dr. in Richmond. The siding was removed and a foam formulation of Termidor was injected into the galleries.
- Carlos Agurto of Pestec reported that they are seeing a new cockroach called the three-lined cockroach invading buildings around the County. Building 500 of the Public Works Administration building at 255 Glacier in Martinez is being inundated. This cockroach lives mostly outside and feeds on decaying organic matter. The available cockroach baits are not working for this insect. Pestec installed ant pitfall traps baited with 1% boric acid bait. The traps have caught some cockroaches, but are not putting a dent in the population.

9. Hear the IPM Coordinator's report

The IPM Coordinator

- Staffed two Decision-Making subcommittee meetings, one Bed Bug subcommittee meeting, and one County Bed Bug Task Force meeting
- Began gathering information for the annual report
- Gave bed bug awareness and prevention presentations to the Department of Agriculture staff and Calli House youth shelter staff
- Created three sets of photographs to assist staff at County residential facilities inspect for bed bugs
- Assisted 20 people with bed bug questions
- Arranged a meeting with the City of Richmond to develop a procedure for them to handle bed bug incidents in their City

10. Plan agenda for next meeting

- Review the IPM Annual Report
- Discuss priorities and subcommittees for 2017
- Discuss speakers for 2017
- Decide on meeting dates for 2017

The IPM Coordinator will create a Doodle poll for the January meeting.

Public comment

Susan JunFish is concerned that only County staff are deciding on speakers and presentation topics. It should be a consensus arrived at by a transparent process.

Chair Cece Sellgren said the Committee welcomes recommendations from the public for topics and speakers.

Susan Heckly said she feels comfortable suggesting topics and speakers and other members agreed.

The IPM Coordinator noted that the topics for presentations in 2016 were arrived at in November 2015 in a public meeting in which the public had substantial input.

Next Meetings: November 16

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator