

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
November 16, 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; Cece Sellgren (Chair), County Clean Water Program; Andrew Sutherland, Public Member at Large (arrived at 10:45); Peter Gollinger, Public Works Maintenance

(9 members present, 5 voting members)

Members Absent: Susan Heckly, County Fish and Wildlife Committee; Michael Kent, Health Services; Wayne Lanier, Public Member Alternate

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

Members of the Public: Susan JunFish, Shirley Shelangoski, Elizabeth Salmon-Omski, Christine Steck, and Ben Pittenger, Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Various members of Parents for a Safer Environment read statements. See attached.

Parents for a Safer Environment is sponsoring a half-day workshop on natural turf management with Chip Osbourne in Walnut Creek on January 27th. They would like Contra Costa County staff to attend.

3. Announcements

Larry Yost announced that Chad Godoy resigned his position as Agricultural Commissioner. The County will begin recruitment soon to fill the position. The Assistant Agricultural Commissioner is currently the highest ranking staff member.

Cece Sellgren explained an October report from the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding a fish kill in Marsh Creek on July 6, 2016 (see attached). The pyrethroid, bifenthrin, was the most probable cause. This insecticide is used in residential structural pest control. It is important to get the word out about the danger posed to freshwater organisms by pyrethroids.

4. Approve minutes from September 21, 2016

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

The motion carried:

AYES: Captain, Cartan, Donnelly, Sellgren

NOES: None

ABSENT: Heckly, Kent, Sutherland, Lanier

ABSTAIN: None

5. Discuss IPM Annual Report

Some of the comments from Committee members and the public included the following:

Public Comment

Susan JunFish noted that in her opinion the 2017 priorities show there is no intent by the Agriculture Department to change rodenticide use.

Jim Donnelly responded that the last sentence of the Agriculture Department's 2017 list of priorities on page 31 says that they will continue to search for alternatives.

Jim Cartan noted that the priorities listed on page 31 are broad and not specific tasks or reduction goals.

Ben Pittenger noted that the last sentence on page 30 says that further reduction in pesticide use in County operations “will require time for focused study and additional funding for implementation.” He would like the County to prioritize funding for collecting data from County operations on current practices and overall pesticide use and to then do a scientific analysis of the use.

Susan JunFish and Ben Pittenger had questions and concerns about the Rat Decision Document which were referred back to the Decision Making subcommittee for discussion.

A motion was made and seconded (JD/JC) to approve the IPM Annual Report as written.

The motion carried:

AYES: Captain, Cartan, Donnelly, Sellgren, Sutherland

NOES: None

ABSENT: Heckly, Kent, Lanier

ABSTAIN: None

6. Discuss 2017 Priorities and Subcommittees

Committee members and the public made suggestions for priorities. They included the following:

- Broad and/or targeted outreach efforts
- Training for the community, municipalities, homeowner associations, large agencies
- New technology for weed management
- Water hyacinths in inland waterways
- Turf conversion—reinvigorate the program, lobby for funding and for pursuing projects
- Management techniques for the new three-lined cockroach
- Examine County pesticide use trends to see if there is something that needs to be addressed
- Rodenticide use in open space
- Negotiate the use of IPM in leased buildings
- Continue the work of the Decision Making subcommittee

After voting by both Committee members and the public, the priorities were narrowed.

A motion was made and seconded (AS/SC) to re-erect the Decision Making subcommittee for next year with the expectation that the subcommittee will complete the weed management in rights-of-way decision making document and consider other pest management situations which may include, but will not be limited to, rodenticide use by the Agriculture Department.

The motion carried:

AYES: Captain, Cartan, Sellgren, Sutherland

NOES: None

ABSENT: Heckly, Kent, Lanier, and Donnelly, who was obliged to leave before the vote

ABSTAIN: None

A motion was made and seconded (JC/SC) to create an Outreach subcommittee to explore the least expensive forms of outreach that can satisfy the mandates of the IPM Policy.

The motion carried:

AYES: Captain, Cartan, Sellgren, Sutherland

NOES: None

ABSENT: Heckly, Kent, Lanier, and Donnelly, who was obliged to leave before the vote

ABSTAIN: None

The Decision Making subcommittee will consist of Susan Captain, Jim Cartan, Jim Donnelly, Andrew Sutherland, and Larry Yost.

The Outreach subcommittee will consist of Jim Cartan, Cece Sellgren, and Andrew Sutherland.

The absent Committee members will be consulted at the January meeting about which, if any, subcommittee they would prefer to join.

7. Discuss topics and speakers for 2017

Because of lack of time, this will be discussed at the January meeting. Both the public and Committee members are encouraged to send suggestions to Cece Sellgren.

8. Discuss meeting dates for 2017

The IPM Coordinator will send out a Doodle poll.

10. Plan agenda for next meeting

- Discuss topics and speakers for 2017
- Announce meeting dates for 2017
- Subcommittee assignments

Next Meetings: TBD

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator