

Minutes

Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee

Subcommittee on IPM Decision-Making

January 20, 2017

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

Members absent: Jim Cartan

Staff present: Victoria Skerritt, Public Works, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator

Members of the public present: Susan JunFish and Shirley Shelangoski, Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

There was no comment from the public in attendance; however, Susan Captain showed the committee brochures from the Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District on rats and skunks.

3. Approve minutes from December 12, 2016

A motion was made and seconded to approve the December 12, 2016 minutes as written (JD/SC)

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Discuss priorities for the committee

At its January 19, 2017 meeting, the IPM Advisory Committee voted to continue the work of the Decision-Making subcommittee. The subcommittee has been working on revisions to the County Landscape Standards and has been gathering information from other counties on their roadside and flood control vegetation management.

The committee agreed to finish the work it has started and to create a Decision-Making Document for vegetation management along roadsides.

Public Comment

Parents for a Safer Environment would like the County to conduct a pilot trial on carbon monoxide for ground squirrel and gopher management.

Susan JunFish said the following: The fall IPM Advisory Committee voted in the November 2016 meeting that rodenticide usage outdoors be a top priority to address in 2017. The community wish to see this item addressed by the Decision Making Committee.

Andrew Sutherland suggested that the committee has time to think about a secondary priority and asked committee members to come prepared to discuss a secondary charge.

5. Discuss suggestions for changes/additions to County's Landscape Standards

The committee agreed to the suggestions from the last meeting as they were recorded by the IPM Coordinator. The IPM Coordinator will finalize the document for the next meeting. When the document is approved by the committee, the IPM Coordinator will present it to Special Districts for their consideration.

Public Comment

Susan JunFish said that the County needs to have documentation that all least toxic alternatives have been tried before pesticides are used. The County should, for instance, have the contractor record the date he/she tried a trap, where it was placed, and why it didn't work.

Susan Captain suggested evaluating contractors' work every six months or every year, and noted that it is important to hire the right contractor in the first place.

Victoria Skerritt noted that Special Districts does regularly evaluate contractors' work and is in close communication with them. She suggested that contractors could call in the actions they've taken at a particular site and Special District staff can record them.

6. Discuss format for displaying information from vegetation managers in other counties

The committee agreed that the format devised by the IPM Coordinator was fine. Members should contact the IPM Coordinator with additional information to fill in the gaps.

7. Discuss speakers for subcommittee meetings

The committee agreed to wait to see what happens in the full committee.

8. Plan work for next year

The committee addressed this under #4, above.

9. Plan next agenda

Next Meeting: March 9, 2017, 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

- Final review landscape standards changes
- Discuss roadside vegetation management decision document
- Discuss Santa Clara County roadside vegetation management if the IPM Coordinator is able to obtain information from them