

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
May 18, 2017

Members Present: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Jerry Casey, Public Works Facilities; Jim Donnelly, Public Member At Large; Larry Yost, 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; Wayne Lanier, Public Member Alternate

(9 members present, 6 voting members)

Members Absent: Susan Captain, Public Member At Large; Jim Cartan, Save Mt. Diablo; Allison Knapp, Public Works Maintenance;

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

Members of the Public: Bill Donahue, Sierra Research Labs; Roger Baldwin, UC Cooperative Extension; Chris Geiger, San Francisco Dept. of the Environment; Ben McCorriston, Pestec; Susan JunFish and Shirley Shelangoski, Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

There was none.

3. Announcements

Andrew Sutherland noted that UC IPM has a number of continuing education classes online at <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/training/index.html>

4. Approve minutes from March 16, 2017

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

The motion carried:

AYES: Heckly, Kent, Sellgren, Lanier

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Donnelly, Sutherland

ABSENT: Captain, Cartan

5. Hear presentation on research on carbon monoxide for burrowing rodents from Dr. Roger Baldwin, UC Cooperative Extension

Dr. Baldwin gave his presentation. See attached.

Some of the points made by Dr. Baldwin:

- In 2011 CO machines for fumigating burrowing mammals were legalized in California. There are 3 devices that he's aware of:
 - PERC (pressurized exhaust rodent controller)—has a probe so it can be used for both ground squirrels and gophers. There are models with multiple probes for treating several burrows simultaneously.
 - Cheetah Rodent Controller—a modified leaf blower with a large diameter hose. It's designed for ground squirrels, but works moderately well on gophers.
 - Gopher X—similar to PERC but more portable and cheaper
- His research was not done along rights-of-way.
- He found PERC more efficacious than gas cartridges for ground squirrels.
- Aluminum phosphide is probably the most cost effective.

Beth Slate and Cece Sellgren asked about the efficacy on rights-of-way.

Dr. Baldwin thought his work in alfalfa fields would relate fairly well to rights-of-way. CO works better with good soil conditions (moist and not sandy), but it will cost more on rights-of-way. Efficacy will still vary tremendously from site to site. There would be some level of efficacy in hot/dry conditions.

There is a 100 ft. hose on the PERC machine. One person can use up to 3 hoses at a time. For a 6-hose machine, you would need 2 people. It takes 3-4 minutes to treat each burrow and you must cover openings with soil. This takes time and could be very difficult in hard packed clay if one were trying to dig up soil to cover the holes. Sandbags could be used, but they are heavy and time-consuming to load and unload and to carry to and from the truck to the squirrel holes.

Jim Donnelly asked about the number of pounds of pollutants that are discharged when using the PERC device.

Dr. Baldwin was unsure.

6. Hear presentation on research on carbon dioxide for burrowing rodent control from Dr. Bill Donahue, Sierra Labs

Dr. Donahue gave his presentation (see attached). He is working on EPA registration for CO₂ for burrowing rodents. He has submitted the data to EPA and the label is pending.

In 2016, a trial for ground squirrels was conducted in a 40 acre pasture with berms at the edges. The ground squirrel burrows were mostly in or close to the berms. The experimental plots were on the berms. Plugging up holes to perform the treatments was very difficult because the soil was rock hard.

Dr. Donahue used the Eliminator to inject CO₂ through a long, rigid metal probe into the burrows. He saw no flushing of ground squirrels during treatment. The burrows were treated on day 0. On returning the next day, he found some burrows reopened and new burrow holes in the treatment plots.

On day 5 he found a 95% reduction in the ground squirrel population, but by day 7 that had gone down to 78%. He saw squirrels moving back into empty burrows. Dead ground squirrels in the burrows did not seem to deter the squirrels. Ground squirrels can move over a mile and will make use of prime habitat.

A trial for gophers was conducted on irrigated pasture using basically the same protocol as for the ground squirrels. Dominant mounds were chosen for the treatment, and all the other mounds were stomped down.

Although the trial used only one 3 minute treatment, he recommends at least 2 applications for gophers. In a park or golf course setting, he feels that continual treatments are necessary to manage gophers.

EPA is working on a label for using dry ice in rat burrows, but it may take some time.

7. Hear IPM Coordinator Report

This item was not taken up because of time constraints.

8. Hear reports from the Decision-Making and Outreach subcommittees

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

Andrew Sutherland reported the following:

- The subcommittee is progressing on its evaluation of the County's weed management on rights-of-way. Public Works has created a decision document for roadsides and the subcommittee has been reviewing it and suggesting changes and additions. They will look at flood control facilities separately.
- They finished a review of the County's landscape standards and sent suggested changes to Warren Lai at Public Works.
- The subcommittee agreed to develop another decision document, but they are not sure for what situation yet.
- They discussed creating a letter to the Board of Supervisors about the funding disparities between Contra Costa and other counties for vegetation management along rights-of-way. Alternatives in Contra Costa County are not feasible without addition funding.

Cece Sellgren suggested that the subcommittee invite to one of their meetings someone to speak on road funding from the Public Works Department. She also mentioned that Senate Bill 1 passed in December 2016 which will provide addition funds for roads and so funding may change.

Outreach—Michael Kent, chair; Jim Cartan, Susan Heckly, and Andrew Sutherland, members

Michael Kent reported the following:

- The committee interviewed a number of representatives from various County services including Senior Nutrition, Adult Protective Services, Area Agency on Aging, the 211 information line, In Home Supportive Services, Head Start.
- The committee discussed with them the kind of training the IPM Committee could provide to their staff to help them recognize pest problems and conducive conditions.
- The committee is creating a presentation that anyone on the IPM Committee could give to staff of these various services.
- The committee also reviewed available educational material on pest management that staff could give to clients.

9. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

Larry Yost reported the following for the Agriculture Department:

- They are finishing up work on invasive weeds. At the latest they should be finished by mid-June.
- They are only doing weed control for entities that reimburse them for their time. This includes Mt. Diablo State Park, East Bay Regional Park District, a developer in Moraga, and the Town of Moraga.
- They are no longer monitoring on private land.

Jerry Casey reported the following for Facilities:

- They are pigeon proofing some buildings and are trying the BirdSlide®, which is a sloped piece of plastic that can be placed on exposed beams.

Peter Gollinger being absent, the IPM Coordinator gave the following report:

- They are mostly dealing with weed abatement now.
- They have moved people from the road crews to do mowing and weed whacking along flood control channels and on unimproved parcels.
- They are monitoring channels for invasive weeds and spot spraying those they find.
- They are spot spraying on roadsides for early emerging weeds such as stinkwort (*Dittrichia*), marehail, and Russian thistle (tumbleweed).
- Before the next IPM Committee meeting they will begin cattail abatement in the flood control channels.
- There is a huge amount of tree work because so many trees fell down or were damaged in this winter's storms. The ones that fell on roads have been cleared, but there are many that didn't fall on roads that need to be removed.

10. Plan agenda for next meeting

- Presentation on glyphosate
- Reports from subcommittee and the IPM Coordinator
- Reports from the Departments

Next Meetings: July 20, September 21, and November 16.

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator