

Minutes
Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee
Subcommittee on IPM Decision-Making
August 3, 2017

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

Members absent: None

Staff present: Peter Gollinger, Public Works, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator

Members of the public present: None

Since the chair, Andrew Sutherland was not yet in attendance, Jim Cartan began chairing the meeting.

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

There was none.

3. Approve minutes from June 29, 2017

A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 29, 2017 minutes (SC/LY).

The motion carried unanimously:

Ayes: Yost, Donnelly, Captain, Cartan

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Sutherland

Andrew Sutherland arrived and took over as chair.

5. Review the final roadside decision document

The committee agreed to take up this item before number 4.

The committee suggested several changes/additions to the document.

It was moved and seconded to accept as final the current document with the committee's agreed upon changes from today. (AS/SC)

The motion carried unanimously:

Ayes: Yost, Donnelly, Captain, Cartan, Sutherland

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: None

Andrew Sutherland had brought with him a flow chart for weed management decision making in rights-of-way that was created by the Public Works Department and the IPM Coordinator several years ago. Peter Gollinger and the IPM Coordinator will review the document and make corrections/additions for the next meeting.

7. Discuss panel on vegetation management in rights-of-way.

The committee agreed to take this item next.

The committee had discussed inviting colleagues from other counties to appear on a panel at the September meeting of the full committee to discuss vegetation management in rights-of-way. The committee felt that it was not urgent to have the panel discussion and would be difficult to assemble the panel on such short notice. The November IPM Committee meeting agenda will be too full to accommodate a panel. It may be easier to have a panel during the rainy season.

Jim Donnelly suggested that the information the committee has collected from colleagues in other counties be appended to the subcommittee's final report.

Andrew Sutherland suggested that the final report from this committee could recommend that the larger committee consider convening a panel of vegetation management colleagues from other counties to assist in the County's decision making and in its communication with the public.

8. Discuss how to communicate recommendations to the Board of Supervisors

The committee has wanted to communicate to the Board the need for more funding in the Public Works Maintenance Division if the Division is to reduce pesticide use further and implement more alternatives to pesticides. The IPM Coordinator spoke with Joe Yee, Public Works Deputy Director, and Jill Ray from Supervisor Andersen's office about funding and learned that the issue is complicated because funds come from the state gas tax and the County has no control over changing that rate, which has been inadequate for many years. The only place extra funding could come from would be the general fund, and money would have to be moved from homeless programs, community mental health programs, the County hospital, etc. in order to provide more funding to vegetation management.

The IPM Coordinator had suggested that the committee invite Allison Knapp, head of the Public Works Maintenance Division, to discuss the responsibilities of the Maintenance Division, how it is funded, and how vegetation management fits into the overall budget. The committee felt that it was important for the full committee to hear this presentation, so the IPM Coordinator will invite Allison to the meeting on September 21.

The IPM Coordinator will send out a reminder email to the subcommittee to send her questions and prompts for Allison's talk.

9. Plan next agenda

Next 2 meetings: September 14 and October 12, 2017, 10:00 am to noon

- Review the flood control decision document (75 minutes)
- Review the vegetation management flow chart (20 minutes)
- Review the final report from the subcommittee (10 minutes)
- Other business (15 minutes)

4. Discuss the ground squirrel decision document

The committee agreed to review this document in the new year. Andrew Sutherland had a number of questions and comments. He will send those to the IPM Coordinator to discuss with Larry Yost and incorporate into the document.

6. Review the flood control decision document

The committee agreed to take this up at the next meeting.