

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
September 21, 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; Cece Sellgren (Chair), County Clean Water Program; Andrew Sutherland, Public Member at Large; Allison Knapp, Public Works Maintenance; Wayne Lanier, Public Member Alternate

(9 members present, 5 voting members)

Members Absent: Susan Captain, Public Member At Large; Jim Cartan, Save Mt. Diablo; Michael Kent, Health Services

Staff Present: Jill Ray, Supervisor Andersen's office; Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator; Abdoul Niang, Agriculture Department; Peter Gollinger and Brent Kelley, Public Works Maintenance; Chris Lau, Public Works Transportation

Members of the Public: Benjamin McCorriston, Pestec

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

There was none.

3. Announcements

There were none.

4. Approve minutes from July 20, 2017

A motion was made and seconded (SH/JD) to approve the minutes with the change to "July" in the title (from "June").

The motion carried:

AYES: Donnelly, Heckly, Sellgren, Lanier

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Sutherland

ABSENT: Captain, Cartan, Kent,

5. Hear presentation on road maintenance funding from Allison Knapp, Public Works Department

This presentation was prompted by the Decision-Making subcommittee's discussion of vegetation management along roadsides and the differences in management methods and funding across counties in the Bay Area.

Allison Knapp and Chris Lau made a number of points including the following:

- In a municipality, it is possible to go to the council to ask for increased funding or to raise funds by various methods. It is different in the County.
- The main funding for repair and maintenance of County roads is the gas tax and not the County's General Fund. The County does not control the gas tax rate, which has not been raised in many years.
- The Board of Supervisors did approve \$30K to \$50K from the General Fund for particular drainage issue on County roads.
- The County maintains 663 road miles that are not all contiguous. They stretch from Kennsington to East County and are in different climates.
- In 2013, the Department received \$24 million from the gas tax, but every year since, the amount has decreased. For FY 2017-18 the amount will be \$14.6 million. The number of road miles to be maintained remains the same.

- The revenue coming to the state from the gas tax has declined over the years because cars are now more fuel efficient, and there are many hybrid and electric cars on the road that don't use as much, or any, gas. Those cars still drive the roads and contribute to wear and tear.
- In Contra Costa, revenue from the gas tax covers the following:
 - road infrastructure
 - crack sealing
 - fixing potholes
 - installing, maintaining, and replacing guard rails
 - maintaining street drainage
 - installing, maintaining, and replacing culverts (These are metal and have a limited life span; there are culverts that are currently failing.)
 - Tree trimming and removal in rights-of-way (Many of the trees are getting old and have been damaged by drought and storms.)
- The County road infrastructure is old and people drive a great deal. This past winter was very hard on County roads. For roads to stay in good shape, they must have a good drainage system. The drainage systems in the County are getting old.
- Senate Bill 1 provides extra money to Counties for road maintenance (it won't cover vegetation management), but that will not be enough for Contra Costa to do all the maintenance necessary.
- The County has a backlog of deferred maintenance that is running about 4 years behind. The backlog is so great at this point and the funding so limited that the County will only be able to manage the backlog, not retire it.
- Not all systems are on the verge of failure. Public Works is trying to stabilize the growth of the backlog, and they are prioritizing public safety.
- Public Works is looking at new ways of managing weeds along roadsides and at how to reduce pesticide use, but there is only a certain amount of money, and chemical treatments can't be eliminated.

Wayne Lanier noted that trucks have a large impact on California roads, yet they are not paying their fair share. Allison responded that the Department is aware of this problem, has had meetings about it with legislators, and they are working on it.

Andrew Sutherland noted that this bleak picture of the reality of funding for road maintenance needs to be communicated to the public who come to IPM Committee meetings concerned about pesticide use, in particular on roadsides.

6. Review and accept final report from the Decision-Making subcommittee

Andrew Sutherland, chair; Susan Captain, Jim Cartan, Jim Donnelly, and Larry Yost, members

Andrew Sutherland presented the report for the subcommittee.

A motion was made and seconded (JD/SH) to accept the report. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Review and accept final report from the Outreach subcommittee and hear the subcommittee's pest management awareness presentation

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

The IPM Coordinator presented the report for the subcommittee.

Andrew Sutherland gave the subcommittee's presentation.

- Allison Knapp asked for a copy of the presentation to show to her homeowners association.
- The IPM Coordinator will add to the script everything that the presenter needs to say.
- Jerry Casey noted that fleas were not mentioned in the presentation. Andrew responded that there was much discussion in the subcommittee about what to cover and fleas did not make the final cut.
- Carlos Agurto mentioned that the presentation did not cover how not to take bed bugs home from a client's dwelling.
- Overall, members felt that the presentation was clear, helpful, and an appropriate length.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report and the presentation. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Review IPM Annual Report outline

The Committee reviewed and approved the outline.

9. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

Larry Yost reported for the Agriculture Department:

The Department is in the final stage of ground squirrel work. They have seen high populations of ground squirrels this year, probably because of the wet winter that produced abundant food for them. The Department baits for ground squirrels on County flood control channels, and unshouldered roadsides and on Contra Costa Water District canals.

Jerry Casey and Carlos Agurto reported for the Facilities Division

- Pestec has been battling the three-lined cockroach in County buildings. They have tried baits and sprays, but nothing is working well. This cockroach does not feed on human food or garbage and is not attracted to commercially available baits. In September, Pestec, the Facilities manager, and the IPM Coordinator met with employees at 255 Glacier in Martinez (Public Works) to hear their concerns and to explain the problems with this particular cockroach. Pestec is currently inspecting the building most affected there to prepare for a major pest proofing effort. If the building is tight, this cockroach, which lives outside in the mulch and leaf litter around the building, will not be able to get inside.
- The Division has been working on bird proofing the West County Health Center. They started with electrified wires, but there were many failures. Next they experimented with BirdSlide® on one section of the building. They like the product, it works well, and they now have a contractor to install it on the whole building. It's easy and quick to install, there's no drilling, and it comes in colors.
- Capital Projects has a set of standards that architects are supposed to follow, and Jerry Casey wants to include the BirdSlide in those standards. Sometimes it is difficult to get the architects to follow the standards, though.

10. Plan agenda for next meeting

- Review the annual report
- Reports from the Departments
- Priorities and presentations for 2018

Next Meetings: November 16.

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator