

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
November 16, 2017

Members Present: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Susan Captain, Public Member At Large; Jim Cartan, Save Mt. Diablo; Jim Donnelly, Public Member At Large; Jorge Vargas, 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

(10 members present, 8 voting members)

Members Absent: Jerry Casey, Public Works Facilities; Allison Knapp, Public Works Maintenance

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

Members of the Public: Karen Perkins, Shirley Shelangoski, Karolina Park, and Susan JunFish, Parents for a Safer Environment; Gretchen Logue, IPM Committee appointee from the Sustainability Commission

Cece Sellgren had not arrived so Michael Kent, Vice Chair, began the meeting.

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Karen Perkins, Shirley Shelangoski, and Karolina Park read statements (see attached). Susan JunFish read a statement from Katherine Barrett (see attached).

Susan JunFish commented that the County has over 1000 pesticide applications that have not been posted. The County should consider posting for them. She echoed Karen Perkin's assertion that glyphosate kills gut bacteria. She also said that Santa Clara County stopped using glyphosate in July, and Marin stopped in 2015 and 2016.

Cece Sellgren took over chairing the meeting.

3. Announcements

Jim Cartan announced a science and research colloquium at the David Brower Center in Berkeley on December 14.

The IPM Coordinator announced Giving Natives a Chance on December 2nd on Clayton Valley Drain. Volunteers will plant natives along the creek.

4. Approve minutes from September 21, 2017

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

The motion carried:

AYES: Captain, Donnelly, Heckly, Sellgren, Sutherland, Lanier

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Cartan, Kent

ABSENT: None

5. Review and accept IPM Program Annual Report

Andrew Sutherland was concerned about changes to the Decision Making subcommittee final report. Jim Donnelly pointed out that there are only minor changes to the report from the one approved by the entire IPM Advisory Committee on September 21, 2017.

Wayne Lanier commented that he sees nothing in the document that tracks adverse events with pesticides. Cece Sellgren requested that that issue be addressed by a subcommittee in the coming year.

A motion was made and seconded (JD/SH) to approve the Annual Report with the following changes:

- a. Revert to the Decision Making subcommittee report approved on September 21, 2017.
- b. Add both the roadside and flood control decision documents and label them “Draft”.

The motion carried:

AYES: Captain, Cartan, Donnelly, Heckly, Kent, Sellgren, Sutherland

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Lanier

ABSENT: None

6. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

Time did not allow for these reports.

7. Discuss IPM Committee priorities and presentations for 2018

Some of the comments made in the discussion are as follows:

- Continue both the Decision Making and Outreach subcommittees.
- In regard to Wayne Lanier’s comment on tracking adverse outcomes, the Departments need to identify and document near misses and other problems. (MK)
- There is a need for a separate subcommittee to look at tracking adverse outcomes, following procedures, posting. (JD, MK)
- There could be a posting review subcommittee. (CS, AS)

Public comment:

- Examine alternatives to herbicides much more closely.
- The report from the Decision Making subcommittee does not have any information about alternatives.
- Presentations at IPM Committee meetings are meant to provide information on alternatives. This year there were only 4 meetings with presentations. The whole committee should decide on topics.
- The Decision Making subcommittee should make the recommendations for the presentations and speakers.
- There could be a subcommittee to look at how the County responds to invasive species.
- If Marin County is discontinuing pesticide use, they should come and talk to the Committee.
- Everyone on the Committee should join a subcommittee.

Some of the comments from Committee members after hearing the public’s comments are as follows:

- The process in the Decision Making subcommittee is to document what is currently happening for a particular pest or situation, consult other information on alternative tactics for managing the pest(s), and then make recommendations. The public is asking for increased scrutiny of alternatives. A recommendation from the subcommittee could be that the County do a more thorough review of alternatives. (AS)
- The Decision Making subcommittee did look at alternatives, but funding, staff, and fire regulations put constraints on the Department.
- The Committee had good speakers this year that were pertinent to the work of the subcommittees. If the Committee wants speakers on alternatives, what alternatives does the Committee want to learn about this year?
- The Committee should consider convening a panel of rights-of-way vegetation managers from Bay Area counties. A subcommittee could arrange for the panel; this could be a special event. (AS, MK)
- The Decision Making subcommittee should decide the topics and speakers. (WL)
- Marin Municipal Water District did come to speak to the Committee on its experience with eliminating herbicides. (CS)

The Committee agreed to the following subcommittees:

- A. Decision Making subcommittee (will continue vegetation management on rights-of-way and take up ground squirrel management.

Members: Jim Cartan, Jim Donnelly, Andrew Sutherland, Susan Captain, Larry Yost

B. Outreach subcommittee

Members: Jim Cartan, Michael Kent, Carlos Agurto, Susan Heckly

C. Posting Task Force

Members: Jim Donnelly, Carlos Agurto, Larry Yost

8. Plan agenda for next meeting

- Elect officers
- Decide on presentations for 2018
- Hear reports from the Departments

Next Meetings (2018): January 18, March 15, May 17, July 19, September 20, November 15

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator