

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
July 19, 2018

Members Present: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Susan Captain, Public Member At Large; Jim Cartan (Chair), Save Mt. Diablo; Jim Donnelly, Public Member At Large; Larry Yost, Agriculture Department; Susan Heckly, County Fish and Wildlife Committee; Gretchen Logue, County Sustainability Commission (arrived late); Cece Sellgren, County Clean Water Program; Andrew Sutherland, Public Member at Large; Allison Knapp, Public Works Maintenance

(10 members present, 7 voting members)

Members Absent: Jerry Casey, Public Works Facilities; Michael Kent, Health Services; Wayne Lanier, Public Member Alternate

Staff Present: Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator

Members of the Public: Joel Rayford, Pestec; Dave Shoemaker and Shirley Shelangoski, Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Shirley Shelangoski read a statement (see attached).

3. Announcements

Shirley Shelangoski noted that Parents for a Safer Environment held a workshop with Chip Osbourne and it went well.

4. Approve minutes from May 17, 2018

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

The motion carried:

AYES: Captain, Cartan, Heckly, Sellgren

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: Donnelly, Sutherland

ABSENT: Kent, Lanier, Logue

5. Hear presentation entitled Restoring Balance: Anacapa 10 year later from Bruce Badzik, IPM Coordinator, National Park Service, Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Bruce Badzik explained the eradication of rats on the Channel Island of Anacapa in the early 2000s that he coordinated. Rats were introduced to the island in 1853 and/or 1930 and were having a serious impact on the native bird populations on the island. Some of the birds can only live on that island. The rats had nearly eradicated the native island deer mouse as well.

After five years of research and preparation, the National Park Service determined that rodenticide pellets containing brodifacoum would be the most effective. Rats have been eradicated from around 100 islands throughout the world, and trapping has never been sufficient. The Park Service found that rats can be killed with a lower dose of rodenticide than mice, so the percentage of active ingredient in the bait was cut in half. Raptors were brought in to scare off the birds living on the island, and more than 1000 deer mice were trapped and held for 6 months to make sure they were not harmed by the rodenticide. Eradication was completed in 2002, and the Park Service monitored the island for 10 years to confirm it was rat-free. There are no rats on Anacapa, and steps have been taken to prevent them from being reintroduced. Bird, deer mouse, native plant, and intertidal invertebrate populations have all rebounded.

Committee members had a number of questions:

- Andrew Sutherland asked if the Park Service was responsible for the alteration of the rodenticide formulation.
 - The Park Service worked with Bell Labs, but the Park Service did the research to find the proper dose. Bell Labs did sell that particular bait to other groups doing similar eradications. Using brodifacoum greatly reduced the impact on non-target species since a first generation anticoagulant would have required multiple feedings. This would have meant more bait would have been needed over a longer period of time.
- Susan Heckly asked if the Park Service did surveys for non-target species.
 - Yes, they did surveys for 16 bird species, and looked at native plants and invertebrates. There were historical records of various birds living on the island, but before the eradication, they had disappeared. After the treatment they began to come back. All populations are doing much better.
- Cece Sellgren asked about the total budget and if Santa Rosa and San Miguel Islands were treated.
 - The total budget was around \$3 million including all the research and preparation. Santa Rosa and San Miguel did not have any rats.
- Jim Cartan noted that eradication of invasives is very rare and asked if there was any implication for mainland rodent management.
 - There is a native Alaskan city that is now rat-free. They have been really diligent about controlling their garbage.
- Andrew Sutherland asked how scavenging on rat carcasses was prevented.
 - All staff walked the island three times a day to collect carcasses. They found most within the first week.

6. Discuss developing a Committee policy on how speakers are chosen

The Committee discussed the draft policy and made the changes indicated below.

Draft IPM Advisory Committee Policy on Choosing Topics and Speakers for Meeting Presentations

- The Committee welcomes the participation of the public in suggesting topics for presentations. At either the November or January meeting, the Committee will discuss possible topics and solicit ideas from the public.
- Suggested topics and/or speakers can be sent to the IPM Coordinator throughout the year.
- The Committee prefers topics that further the work of the Committee or its subcommittees, but this does not preclude other topics of interest to the Committee.
- The Committee chair and the IPM Coordinator will work together to choose the appropriate number of presentations for the year taking into consideration the Committee's work schedule.
- The Committee chair and the IPM Coordinator will work together to choose suitable topics from among the suggestions from the Committee and the public, keeping in mind the mission statement in the Committee's bylaws. They will also choose ~~speakers~~ presenters for each topic endeavoring to find people with the appropriate level of expertise.
- The ultimate decisions about topics and speakers will rest with the Committee Chair and the IPM Coordinator who will endeavor to follow the priorities set by the Committee.

A motion was made and seconded (JD/AS) to accept the policy as modified at the meeting.

The motion carried unanimously:

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

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Kent, Lanier,

Anyone can submit ideas to the IPM Coordinator via email with a one paragraph pitch for the topic or speaker. Ideas coming mid-year should be new information on a topic, or something that a subcommittee is working on.

7. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

Larry Yost reported for the Agriculture Department.

- Ground squirrel treatments are ongoing. Last year ground squirrel populations were very high, and this year they are above average. More rain means more vegetation and more seeds for the ground squirrels to feed on.
- The Department is moving to 2380 Bisso Lane and the next IPM Committee meeting will be there. Contra Costa County Cooperative Extension will also move to that building.

The IPM Coordinator reported for the Maintenance Division

- Crews are working on tree trimming.
- For weed abatement in South County, they are using both mowing and grazing.

Carlos Agurto reported for the Facilities Division

- Argentine ants have been a big problem in many County buildings, and there have been fire ants again at the Head Start in Oakley.
- At the Children's Mental Health Clinic there have been ongoing, difficult rat issues because the building is old and has lots of holes.
- There have been no complaints so far about the 3-lined roach in Public Works Building 500 at 255 Glacier in Martinez. Last year Pestec spent several days thoroughly pest-proofing this building against the 3-lined cockroach.

8. Hear reports from the Decision Making, Outreach, and Posting subcommittees

Decision Making subcommittee, Andrew Sutherland, chair

- The committee approved final documents for roadside vegetation management and flood control vegetation management. These documents went through extensive review.
- The committee developed general changes that will apply to other decision documents.
- They continued reviewing the ground squirrel decision document and hope to have it completed this year.
- The committee has been meeting every month and will discuss possible new topics in November.
- Jim Cartan noted that the committee also explored the definition of a "sensitive site" with input from the public.

IPM Outreach subcommittee, Michael Kent, chair

Michael Kent being absent, the report was made by Susan Heckly.

- The committee has finished articles on ants, mice, sheet mulching for weeds, and Contra Costa's IPM program.
- The ant and CCC IPM Program articles are being submitted for publication in local media outlets.
- The last scheduled in-home visitor outreach presentation was given by Andrew Sutherland in June.
- Cece Sellgren asked to receive the articles because Public Works has just hired a public information officer who can distribute the articles and put them on the Public Works webpage.

IPM Posting Task Force, Jim Donnelly, chair

- The Task Force met on Monday, July 16 and approved a new posting policy and posting sign.
- The Task Force also developed three recommendations for the County: investigate using permanent signs, explore a way to make a complaint online, and explore a way to sign up for email notification of treatment.
- The policy, sign, and recommendations will be presented at the September full committee meeting.

9. Hear report from the IPM Coordinator

The IPM Coordinator

- worked on full committee and subcommittee duties
- met with staff at Riverhouse in Martinez about their on-going bed bug problems that have generated a number of complaints to the County.

- answered concerns and questions about bed bugs over the phone
- gave a talk in Foster City for the County of San Mateo on contracting for IPM services
- with Cece Sellgren, attended a field demonstration of water sampling and a vegetation management treatment on a flood control channel in Concord. This was organized by Blankinship and Associates who perform water sampling for the County. Regulators from two Regional Water Quality Control Boards also attended. Next year, this would be an excellent demonstration for the IPM Committee to help members understand how the County manages vegetation on flood control channels and how pesticide sampling of the water is conducted.

10. Plan agenda for next meeting

- Presentation from Cheryl Wilen on her recent herbicide research
- Approve annual report outline
- Hear and approve subcommittee final reports
- Hear and approve recommendations from the Posting Task Force
- Hear reports from the Departments

Next Meetings: November 15, January 17

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator