

**Minutes**  
**Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee**  
**January 17, 2019**

Members Present: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Jim Donnelly, Public Member At Large (Chair elect); Larry Yost, Agriculture Department; Susan Heckly, County Fish and Wildlife Committee; Michael Kent, Health Services; Gretchen Logue, County Sustainability Commission; Cece Sellgren, County Clean Water Program; Andrew Sutherland, Public Member at Large; Chris Lau for Allison Knapp, Public Works Maintenance

(9 members present, 6 voting members)

Members Absent: Susan Captain, Public Member at Large; Jerry Casey, Public Works Facilities; Dennis Shusterman, Public Member Alternate

Staff Present: Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator; Jill Ray, Supervisor Andersen's Office; Caroline Tom, Public Works

Members of the Public: Dave Shoemaker, Karolina Park, Shirley Shelangoski, and Susan JunFish, Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

There was none.

3. Announcements

There were none.

4. Approve minutes from November 15, 2018

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

The motion carried:

AYES: Heckly, Kent, Logue, Sellgren

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: Donnelly, Sutherland

ABSENT: Captain, Shusterman

5. Elect a committee chair

Jim Donnelly volunteered to be chair.

A motion was made and seconded (AS/MK) to elect Jim Donnelly as chair.

The motion carried:

AYES: Donnelly, Heckly, Kent, Logue, Sellgren, Sutherland

NOES: none

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Captain, Shusterman

Note that a new chair was elected because Jim Cartan resigned from chair of the Committee in 2018 before his term was up. Currently, Cece Sellgren is vice chair and Carlos Agurto is secretary. The terms of all officers end in December 2019. In January 2020 the Committee should elect new officers.

6. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

*Larry Yost reported for the Agriculture Department.*

- The Department does not perform any weed or rodent control work at this time of year.

- Staff met with East Bay Regional Park staff to discuss artichoke thistle and purple starthistle management in the coming season.
- The County is conducting interviews for Agricultural Commissioner.

Andrew Sutherland noted that this is the best time to use burrow fumigation for ground squirrels and asked about the possibility of the Department staff having time to use this tactic. Larry Yost responded that as has been explained before, all staff in the Department are fully engaged in winter activities such as registering pest control businesses, issuing and changing permits, and collecting data from farmers for the annual crop report, and will begin invasive weed management work in early February.

Larry noted that he has been having discussions with Pestec about their using smoke cartridges at the Byron Boys' Ranch soon. Pestec has submitted an estimate to Public Works Facilities and is waiting to hear back.

*Carlos Agurto reported for the Facilities Division*

- The Brookside Homeless Shelter has five bunk beds that are heavily infested with bed bugs. This is the first time since Pestec has been working in the County that this shelter has had an infestation. Shelter staff have been working hard to clean the beds of the insects, but the wooden bunks have too many cracks and crevices. Last week Pestec did a steam and Cedarcide treatment.
- There have been other problems at the County shelters, such as cockroaches and ants. Michael Kent suggested that the County's Weatherization Program could help the County shelters to close up holes that allow pests access.
- There have been termite sightings at the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center (CCRMC). Pestec is working on being able to handle termite problems through a subcontractor.
  - ◆ **Action Item:** Andrew Sutherland offered to include CCRMC in the termite bait trials he is conducting. Andrew will coordinate with Pestec and the Facilities Division.
  - ◆ **Action Item:** Susan JunFish will forward information to Pestec and the IPM Coordinator on a company that uses ultrasound to locate termite infestations.

Andrew Sutherland noted that Termatrac has the most sophisticated monitoring/location technology for termites, but that the device and the technology do have limitations.

*Chris Lau reported for the Public Works Maintenance Division*

- They currently have no one on staff with a Pest Control Advisor's license, so they cannot do any pesticide treatments along roads or flood control channels.

7. Hear report from the IPM Coordinator

The IPM Coordinator

- finished the Annual Report, but will present it to the Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee (TWIC) in February because the December meeting was cancelled.
  - ◆ **Action Item:** The IPM Coordinator will report on any actions taken by TWIC.
- arranged and staffed subcommittee and full committee meetings.
- worked on a bed bug outreach and education grant with Andrew Sutherland. The outreach and education will be for tenants and landlords.

Michael Kent noted that he is applying for grants to educate landlords on the County's low income weatherization program and would like to partner on the landlord education component of the bed bug grant.

8. Determine subcommittee assignments for 2019

Members of the Decision-Making subcommittee are Andrew Sutherland, Gretchen Logue, Larry Yost, and Jim Donnelly.

Members of the Outreach subcommittee are Michael Kent, Carlos Agurto, Susan Heckly, and Cece Sellgren.

9. Discuss 2019 presentation topics

The Committee decided on the following topics/speakers:

March: Chris Geiger of San Francisco—steam weeding trials, glyphosate alternatives and costs, and funding mechanisms for trials

- ◆ **Action Item:** Andrew Sutherland will work with the IPM Coordinator to craft an email invitation to Chris Geiger.

May: City of Irvine—using steam in rights-of-way and costs thereof

- ◆ **Action Item:** Susan JunFish will forward the name of her Irvine contact to Jim Donnelly and the IPM Coordinator.

July: San Francisco and Santa Clara IPM Coordinators—pesticide lists in an IPM program

**September:** Vegetation Management Forum with managers from around the Bay (ideas for panelists include EBMUD, East Bay Regional Parks, CCC Maintenance staff, Mike Blankinship who is a consultant to CCC and who has been hired to develop EBMUD's IPM program)

- ◆ **Action Item:** The Committee will form a task force to arrange the panel.

Other ideas for future topics/speakers:

- Larry Yost—explain all the duties and programs of the Agriculture Department.
- County Clean Water Program—explain outreach to cities around pesticide use
- Department Heads—explain funding and how alternatives might be funded

- ◆ **Action Item:** Cece Sellgren will procure Public Works budget information for Susan JunFish.

*Public Comment:* Susan JunFish submitted a list of ideas for priorities, speakers, and topics. (See attached)

10. Plan agenda for next meeting

Chris Geiger's talk (30 minutes for his talk and 10 minutes for questions)

Establish the task force for the Vegetation Management Forum (10 minutes)

Next Meetings: March 21, May 16, July 18, September 19, November 21

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator