

Revised Minutes
Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee
Subcommittee on IPM Decision-Making
April 25, 2019

Members Present: Susan Captain, Gretchen Logue (Vice Chair), Andrew Sutherland (Chair), Larry Yost

Members Absent: Jim Donnelly

Staff Present: Jill Ray, Supervisor Andersen's office

Members of the public: Susan JunFish, Dave Shoemaker, and Fred Schneider, Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

The subcommittee acknowledged that the meeting was in the absence of a county IPM Coordinator, considering the recent retirement of Tanya Drlik. Gretchen agreed to take notes in her absence, and all subcommittee members agreed to communicate with Andrew and Gretchen about items they may have missed.

~~Jill Ray provided an update on the search for a new IPM Coordinator. She mentioned that Tanya may return in a limited role to provide support to the County during the transition, but that this was contingent upon a vote by the Board of Supervisors. Jill Ray said there is an item on the upcoming Board of Supervisors' agenda, that if approved, would provide support to the IPM Committee.~~

All members agreed to widely share the open call for applications.

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

There was none.

3. Approve minutes of March 11, 2019

Susan JunFish asked for a correction to her public comment under Item #4. The sentence that reads, "*She would like the committee to look at approved categories of pesticides to make it easier for staff to choose materials.*" should be changed to "*She would like the committee to look at establishing approved, limited, and restricted categories of pesticides as other counties have adopted to make it easier for staff to choose materials.*"

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

Ayes: Captain, Logue, Sutherland, Yost

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Donnelly

4. Report from Jim Donnelly and Susan Captain on their research regarding counties that use fumigation on roadsides to control ground squirrels

The research has not yet begun. Susan Captain and Jim Donnelly will work together to contact manufacturers to ask them to share information on counties and other entities using their equipment along roadsides and rights-of-way. They will report on their findings at the next meeting.

Gretchen Logue mentioned that she had spoken to staff at the Los Vaqueros Reservoir about their ground squirrel management program, which includes on-site relocations and grouting (burrow destruction). The Reservoir staff does not use fumigation because of potential effects on nontarget animals inhabiting burrows.

Public Comment: Susan JunFish offered to provide contact information for manufacturers of fumigation equipment.

5. Formulate questions for Public Works staff

The subcommittee realized that this agenda item may be referring to two different things:

- 5(a) working with Public Works staff to prepare their response to TWIC (associated with the recommendations in the 2018 IPM report provided by IPM Coordinator Tanya Drlik at a recent TWIC meeting (February 11)
- 5(b) questioning Public Works staff about the inclusion of *access roads* within the site *flood control channels*, as covered in the 2018 decision document “Weed Management along Flood Control Channels”

With regards to 5(a), Andrew Sutherland agreed to contact Public Works staff members Warren Lai and Allison Knapp to begin the conversation about how the Decision-Making Subcommittee might help their process and response to TWIC. Andrew will report back to the subcommittee at the next meeting.

With regards to 5(b), Larry Yost agreed to contact staff at Public Works who are directly involved in vegetation management to understand existing weed management practices on and along flood control channel access roads. He will report his findings to the subcommittee at the next meeting so that it may be decided whether a new decision document is needed to cover access roads or the decision-making process used along access roads can be added to the existing document.

The committee discussed the inherent differences between the flood control channels themselves, which must allow for flow of water and may have mandated weed management thresholds, and the roads used to access these sites. Public Works may lump pesticide use at both sites within the category ‘Flood Control Channels’.

6. Discuss developing recommendations for the County

This item was taken broadly to refer to ways in which the Subcommittee can best communicate its findings and recommendations to decision makers in the county government. Members were heartened by the ongoing conversation among Contra Costa’s IPM program, TWIC, and Public Works. The subcommittee also discussed whether this item referred to the recently-approved “Ground Squirrel Management on Critical Infrastructure”, since recommendations have not yet been constructed and captured within the document. It was agreed that these recommendations would be discussed and captured during the next meeting.

7. Plan next meeting agenda

The next meeting will be May 30, 2019, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

- Report from Jim Donnelly and Susan Captain on their research regarding counties that use fumigation along roadsides to control ground squirrels (20 min)
- Report from Gretchen Logue on Los Vaqueros Reservoir ground squirrel management program (10 min)
- Report from Andrew Sutherland on his conversations with PWD staff (10 min)
- Report from Larry Yost on PWD’s current weed management practices along flood control access roads (10 min)
- Discuss recommendations to include in the ground squirrel decision document (20 min)
- Regular business (20 min)