

**Revised Minutes**  
**Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee**  
**November 21, 2019**

Members Present: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Debbie King, Public Works Facilities; Jim Donnelly (Chair), Public Member At Large; Larry Yost, Agriculture Department; Susan Heckly, County Fish and Wildlife Committee; Michael Kent, Health Services; Kimberly Hazard, Sustainability Committee; Andrew Sutherland, Public Member at Large; Teri Rie, acting County Clean Water seat; Dennis Shusterman, Public Member Alternate (voting in the absence of Susan Captain)

(10 members present, 6 voting members)

Members Absent: Susan Captain, Public Member At Large; Allison Knapp, Public Works Deputy Director; Environmental Organization Seat

Staff Present: Jill Ray, Supervisor Andersen's Office; David Hallinan, Agriculture Department; Wade Finlinson, IPM Coordinator

Members of the Public Present: Dave Shoemaker (PASE), Susan JunFish (PASE), Shirley Shelangoski (PASE), Karolina Park (PASE), Priscilla Witt (PASE), Karen Perkins (PASE), Sarah Aminoff (PASE), Mackenzie Feldman (Herbicide Free Campus)

1. Introductions:

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Mackenzie Feldman from Herbicide Free Campus described how the University of California has implemented Chip Osbourne's organic turf management program and are pleased with the results. She noted that maintenance personnel have been receptive to the changes. She also highlighted several similar successful projects that have eliminated the use of herbicide and commended County staff who recently attended the Chip Osbourne training in Richmond. (Full transcript of comments attached)

3. Announcements

- Wade Finlinson introduced Kimberly Hazard, newly appointed representative of the Sustainability Commission.

4. Approve minutes from September 19, 2019

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

The motion carried:

AYES: Donnelly, Heckly, Kent, Rie, Sutherland, Hazard, Shusterman

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Captain

Public Speakers: none

5. Report from the Public Works Department following up on their presentation to the Transportation, Water, Infrastructure Committee (TWIC) regarding the status of their implantation of recommendations of the IPM Committee in the 2018 Annual Report

Teri Rie mentioned that Chris Lau reported to TWIC on November 14<sup>th</sup> and confirmed that the Department has incorporated IPM programs into training, they are exploring equipment decisions, and are nearing finalization of posting documentation of flood control channels.

Wade Finlinson, Andrew Sutherland, and Jill Ray also offered input on the TWIC meeting and noted that much of the discussion centered on aspects of the posting policy and signage. It was reported that TWIC members encouraged staff to clarify on the signage that posting is only for County properties and to add a QR code to redirect to the IPM website for more information. Additional concerns were expressed that all recommendations from the 2018 report were not addressed. The IPM Coordinator was encouraged to meet with department representatives to list all recommendations that the Committee sought a written response to. The TWIC members previously advised Public Works staff to respond to the Committee in writing and to create a map that clearly delineates trails, access roads, and areas maintained by other public agencies that could be used by citizens to better understand which areas must be posted by County staff prior to herbicide applications.

Public Speakers: Susan JunFish, Karolina Park

Citizens reiterated concerns about herbicide applications along Flood Control access roads that look like trails. Others were grateful that the Maintenance Division was not currently using herbicides, but they remain concerned about the possibility of drift if the practice resumes.

6. Review and accept 2019 IPM Program Annual Report

The report was reviewed and the IPM Coordinator responded to several questions. Some modifications to the executive summary and IPM Coordinator recommendations were discussed and accepted.

A motion was made and seconded (AS/SH) to accept the report with the changes discussed

The motion carried:

AYES: Heckly, Kent, Rie, Sutherland, Hazard

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: Shusterman, Rie

ABSENT: Captain

(a copy of the final 2019 Annual Report is available at <https://cchealth.org/ipm/pdf/2019-ipm-annual-report.pdf>)

Public Speaker: Susan JunFish

The speaker mentioned that often recommendations in the annual report go into a black hole and are never implemented or followed up on.

7. Develop IPM work plan for 2020 and discuss which subcommittees and guest speakers will best support that work plan

Jim Donnelly and Wade Finlinson facilitated a brainstorming session that gathered input from Committee members and multiple citizens. Ideas were grouped into related categories and discussed. There was general consensus about establishing a subcommittee to review pesticide classification systems and reconvening the Posting Task Force. Citizens and Committee members suggested potential speakers for the upcoming year as well. Suggested priorities and speakers were documented on projected spreadsheets (revised versions are attached).

No votes were taken; the item will be continued on the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

8. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

Teri Rie reported that the Public Works Department is working with various public agencies to discuss paving areas to prevent weeds. She also announced the following events:

- Dec 5: Creek and Watershed symposium
- Dec 6: Field Trips to Flood Control Channels
- Dec 7: Clayton Valley Drain Event

9. Hear report from the IPM Coordinator  
Item not heard due to time constraints

10. Plan agenda for next meeting

- Form subcommittees
- Review bylaws
- Election of officers

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM

Next Meetings: January 16, 2020 and March 19, 2020



November 21, 2019

Dear IPM Advisory Committee,

My name is Mackenzie Feldman and I am the Founder and Executive Director of Herbicide-Free Campus, an organization with the mission of eliminating the use of synthetic herbicides at schools.

I first off want to thank the IPM Advisory Committee, as I hear wonderful things about this committee from Parents from a Safer Environment- that this Committee has recommended some tangible changes and improvements to Contra Costa County's IPM program, something that has not been done for the past 10 years.

Wade Finlinson, thank you for your efforts and your unrelenting commitment to keep going until we have a safe environment for everyone.

We already know that these herbicides are harmful, as they remain in the soil and seep into our groundwater. They are now in the air we breathe and the water we drink.

But it doesn't have to be this way: At UC Berkeley, Parents For a Safer Environment brought in Beyond Pesticides and Chip Osborne to UC Berkeley, we were able to make the two largest green spaces on campus organic, with aeration, overseeding, and compost tea. We have since made 10+ areas at UC Berkeley herbicide-free.

As a result, the soil is so healthy that it is able to retain more water and therefore less watering is required, with the added bonus of slowing climate change since healthy soils sequester carbon. In addition, we have begun working with the landscape architecture department to design more ecologically resilient spaces AND more culturally relevant spaces, and in some places, letting the natives grow.

We also do weeding days with our groundskeepers. We bring in the goats, and we are beginning to use steam machines and horticultural oils.

This is all to say, that the alternatives EXIST. We have expanded our campaign across the UC system, and now nationally. I worked with a group of organizations to ban all synthetic herbicides in every public school in the state of Hawaii. Since then, bills are underway in the state of Hawaii to secure herbicide-free parks and roadways.

CCC must follow the cities and countries around the world that have begun eliminating these toxic poisons. I am asking, no, I am begging you, for the sake of future generations, phase out the use of pesticides. The change will not be easy, but the people in this room are committed to helping you make it work.

And together, we can do this.

Thank you,  
Mackenzie Feldman  
Executive Director, Herbicide-Free Campus  
[mackenzie@herbicidefreecampus.org](mailto:mackenzie@herbicidefreecampus.org)

Brainstormed Priorities	Merged/Grouped Priorities	Potential Next Steps
Classification of chemicals in an IPM Context/PAN listing as bad actors	Review how we classify chemicals	Form a Classifications Systems Subcommittee to study whether or not a similar system would be feasible and effective in carrying out the Countywide IPM Policy
Develop a three tiered list		
What criteria are we going to use to determine what chemical we use in the decision making process		
Review of how we classify pesticides		
Glyphosate: Cost effective, least toxic alternatives		
Measure liability costs/impact on environment		
Brainstormed Priorities	Merged/Grouped Priorities	Potential Next Steps
Post on IPM webpage all pesticide treatments	Transparency/Right to Know	Reconvene Posting task force to implement recommendations from BOS and finalize policy and posting document.
implement posting recommendations		
posting policy task force be reconvened		

2020 Priorities of IPM Advisory Committee  
 11/21/2019\_Revised 1/7/2020

Brainstormed Priorities	Merged/Grouped Priorities	Potential Next Steps
Invasive species: potential tie in with Fish & Wildlife Committee	<b>Climate Impacts/External Drivers</b>	<b>Possibly create ad hoc subcommittees or project-based technical advisory committees as needed. Also include in ongoing work of existing subcommittees and the IPM Coordinator</b>
Ag Dept. noxious weed program		
Climate Connection: Update of climate action plan/ looking at IPM & Climate Change issues		
Vector Control Programs		
Wildfire threat-Impact on rangeland and noxious weeds		
Drought IPM impacts		

2020 Priorities of IPM Advisory Committee  
 11/21/2019\_Revised 1/7/2020

Brainstormed Priorities	Merged/Grouped Priorities	Potential Next Steps
What is our north star/what are the barriers, creative solutions	<p align="center"><b>Pesticide Reduction through Creative/Cost-Effective/Regenerative Solutions and Partnerships/ Outreach &amp; Education</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Possibly create ad hoc subcommittees or project-based technical advisory committees as needed.</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Also include in ongoing work of existing subcommittees and the IPM Coordinator</b></p>
piloting CO and steam weeding		
CO Pilot on PW Flood Control Channels at the right time of year		
Grants for test areas/pilots/volunteers		
Grant proposals for innovative IPM projects		
Inform and Educate general public by partnering with other programs and agencies		
Consider alternative work programs/Conservation Corps		
require attendance of staff-occupied seats on the IPM Committee		

2020 Priorities of IPM Advisory Committee  
11/21/2019

Speaker Name	General Topic
Classification systems expert?	
Susan Kegley	
Wade or other person	matrix of what classification systems are in place
Michelle Perro	Glyphosate
UC	
Toxicologist Physicians for social responsibility	
Dr. Stephen Franz	

—end of meeting minutes—