

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
January 18, 2018

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

(12 members present, 8 voting members)

Members Absent: Wayne Lanier, Public Member Alternate

Staff Present: Kevin Lachapelle, Public Works Facilities and Grounds; Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator

Members of the Public: Shirley Shelangoski, Karolina Park, Priscilla Witt, 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 16, 2017

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

The motion carried:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Lanier, Logue

5. Election of Officers

The Committee unanimously elected Jim Cartan, Chair; Cece Sellgren, Vice Chair; and Carlos Agurto, Secretary.

Carlos will record meetings and provide the IPM Coordinator a transcript.

Gretchen Logue arrived.

6. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

Larry Yost reported for the Agriculture Department.

- Currently the Department is not doing any pest management.
- Invasive weed management work ended in July.
- In November, work on ground squirrels ended. The Department has contracts with the Public Works Department, and with Contra Costa Water for ground squirrel control on critical infrastructure—roads, dams, and canals.
- The Department also handles exotic pest detection.
 - There are 15 seasonal trappers who work from the last week in March to the end of November.
 - Trapping for the Asian citrus psyllid is going on now. The entire County is under a quarantine that restricts the movement of citrus plants and fruit from the County to uninfested areas.

- The exotic pest detection program engages the public and uses their trees to place traps.
- If an exotic, invasive insect is found, the Department puts out numerous traps around the area where the insect was found. A second find triggers control measures that vary depending on the species.

Kevin Lachapelle and Carlos Agurto reported for the Facilities Division

- The Facilities Division acts as the County’s contractor for electricity, plumbing, carpentry, and landscape maintenance around County buildings.
- Funds for facilities and grounds maintenance at some County buildings come from the County’s General Fund. For departments not in the General Fund, money comes from the department itself. There are also landscaping and lighting districts that the County maintains. Funds for that maintenance comes from taxes on citizens living in those zones.
- Pestec manages structural pests in and around County buildings. Approximately 190 of the 450+ County buildings are on a regular monitoring schedule. The remainder are “on call” and Pestec visits them if occupants call in about a pest problem.
- There has been an increase in bed bug problems at the Concord Homeless Shelter and the Calli House Youth Shelter. Pestec and the IPM Coordinator suspect that this is due to changes in management and staff at both locations. Carlos and the IPM Coordinator have been doing refresher trainings on prevention for all 3 County shelters.

Chris Lau reported for the Roadside and Flood Control Maintenance Division

- Peter Gollinger who was acting as the supervisor for the Vegetation Management Crew took a job in Palo Alto last year, and Public Works is still looking for someone to replace him.
- The Division maintains County roads and flood control channels. Vegetation management is part of that maintenance.
- Funding for road maintenance comes from state and local gas taxes. Funding for flood control maintenance comes from taxes on flood control zones and drainage areas.
- The County also has 2 airports and a sheriff’s firing range that have vegetation management requirements.
- Brent Kelley, Senior Vegetation Management Technician, was unable to attend the meeting and sent a report that included the following:
 - The tree crew comprises 4 employees and is fully staffed.
 - The weed management crew should have 5 employees but currently has only 3 and no supervisor.
 - However, the tree crew assists the weed crew and vice versa, as needed.
 - Both crews are responsible for issues that occur throughout the entire county.
 - Currently, the tree crew is focusing on customer concerns as they relate to roadside and flood control management needs.
 - The weed crew is focusing on applying pre-emergent herbicide along roadways to reduce the weed load and the amount of herbicide used later in the season.
 - Weed management along roads is done for road safety, to preserve pavement integrity, and to prevent fires by providing a barrier between roadsides and vegetative growth.

7. Hear report from the IPM Coordinator

The IPM Coordinator

- Completed the IPM Annual Report and presented it to the Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee in December. The Committee accepted the report.
- Worked on making arrangements for giving the presentation created by the Outreach subcommittee. So far Jim Cartan has given 2 presentations and the IPM Coordinator has given 2 presentations. To date a total of about 112 County in-home visitors have been trained. On February 14, Andrew Sutherland will give the presentation to the Tuberculosis Outreach Program. Michael Kent and the IPM Coordinator are making arrangements for more presentations in the new year.
- Worked with Pestec to give bed bug awareness refresher trainings for both the Brookside and Concord Homeless Shelters.

8. Confirm members of 2018 subcommittees

Gretchen will join the Decision Making subcommittee and the Posting Task Force.

9. Discuss 2018 presentation topics

The new Chair and the IPM Coordinator will make the final decisions on presentations. Some of the suggestions were as follows:

- More information on glyphosate
- Steam weeding using the Weedtechnics machine
- Organic turf
- Converting turf to drought tolerant vegetation
- Emerging invasives
- Anticoagulant rodenticides
- Grounds squirrels
- The Healthy Schools Act and posting

10. Plan agenda for next meeting

- Presentation
- Hear subcommittee reports
- Hear reports from the Departments

Next Meetings: March 15, May 17, July 19, September 20, November 15

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator