

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
May 17, 2018

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

(9 members present, 6 voting members)

Members Absent: Jim Donnelly, Public Member At Large; Jerry Casey, Public Works Facilities; Michael Kent, Health Services; Andrew Sutherland, Public Member at Large

Staff Present: Susan Wright, Beth Slate, and Ralph Fonseca, Agriculture Department; Jill Ray, Supervisor Andersen's office; Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator

Members of the Public: Niamh Quinn, UC Cooperative Extension (via Zoom); Mikail Price and Joel Rayford, Pestec; Dave Shoemaker and Susan JunFish, Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

There was none

3. Announcements

Susan JunFish went to the Beyond Pesticides Conference. She was concerned that people would think that what has been done on the East Coast with organic turf would not be relevant to the West Coast, but she wanted the Committee to know that the City of Irvine has been conducting an organic turf pilot trial on one acre, and it is working very well. On June 9, Chip Osbourne will be doing another turf training in the East Bay.

4. Approve minutes from March 15, 2018

Gretchen Logue asked to have the last sentence of her comment in Item 6, 3rd bullet struck.

Susan JunFish will construct two sentences to clarify her comments on Item 5 to append to the minutes. She will send the text to the IPM Coordinator.

A motion was made and seconded (SH/GL) to approve the minutes as revised and with Susan JunFish's text appended (note that as of 7/14/18 the IPM Coordinator had not received this text).

The motion carried:

AYES: Cartan, Heckly, Logue

NOES: Sellgren

ABSTAIN: Captain

ABSENT: Donnelly, Kent, Lanier, Sutherland

Wayne Lanier arrived.

5. Hear presentation entitled Investigating Rodenticide Pathways: a Research Update from Niamh Quinn, Human-Wildlife Interactions Advisor for the U.C. South Coast Research and Extension Center.

Niamh Quinn and her team are investigating the pathways by which rodenticides are entering the food chain of non-target urban wildlife. Once this is better understood, regulations can be promulgated to minimize non-target exposure, which will allow rodenticides to be a part of an IPM plan without affecting other species, especially predators. Legislation has been passed to restrict the use of second generation anticoagulant

rodenticides, but researchers are still finding predators with these anticoagulants in their bodies. It is unclear if there hasn't been enough time to see the results of the legislation or if the legislation is not working.

Niamh Quinn and her team are currently most interested in the urban coyote, which has a particularly diverse diet. After examining the diets of a number of predatory urban wildlife species, her team has found that these predators consume an almost inconsequential number of commensal rodents. But they eat other things that could have potentially been exposed to anticoagulant rodenticides, not legally perhaps, but illegally. Homeowners could be applying rodenticides in illegal ways that make it very easy for all kinds of animals to access the poison. Or, pest management professionals could be legally applying rodenticides in bait boxes, and animals other than rats or mice could be accessing the poison bait. The system is very complex, and it's very difficult to determine where the rodenticides are coming from and how they are entering the food chain.

Some of the comments and questions from the Committee were as follows:

Gretchen Logue asked if there are fines for possession of illegal rodenticides.

Niamh Quinn answered that enforcement is broken. There is no enforcement for homeowners, and the County Agricultural Commissioners' enforcement is reactive. They don't have the resources to do more.

The IPM Coordinator asked where the California Department of Fish and Wildlife obtained the carcasses that Niamh and her team are using in their study.

Niamh responded that they are a random and haphazard collection of carcasses.

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

The Committee discussed the policy and asked the IPM Coordinator to make two changes. Members also discussed whether to ask speakers for their funding sources before they are engaged to speak, but came to no firm agreement.

Wayne Lanier brought up the idea of tracking things that go wrong, and Jim Cartan suggested saving this idea for the brainstorming session in November.

The Committee agreed to continue the discussion about choosing topics and speakers at the next meeting.

7. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

Larry Yost reported for the Agriculture Department.

- The Department has been working on their noxious weed program and will finish by June 1.
- Ground squirrel work will begin in late June.

Carlos Agurto reported for the Facilities Division

- Carlos had nothing to report.

Allison Knapp reported for the Maintenance Division

- Crews are working to catch up on weed abatement.
- They just finished mowing and grading in East County and are moving south.
- They are using both mowing and grazing.

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

Decision Making subcommittee, Andrew Sutherland, chair

Andrew Sutherland being absent, the report was made by the IPM Coordinator.

- The committee discussed the changes to two decision documents: roadside vegetation management and flood control vegetation management and made a few more changes.
- They approved both documents with the changes discussed that the IPM Coordinator will incorporate.
- The committee began reviewing the ground squirrel decision document.

IPM Outreach subcommittee, Michael Kent, chair

Michael Kent being absent, the report was made by the IPM Coordinator.

- To date the committee has trained 194 County in-home visitors with the outreach presentation the committee developed last year. There are a number of other presentations in the works.

- The committee has been working on print outreach and reviewed two articles from Pestec (on ants and mice), one article from Jim Cartan (sheet mulching for weeds), and one from the IPM Coordinator (Contra Costa's IPM program).
- There is a volunteer working on the details of submitting articles for publication in local media outlets.
- At the next meeting, the committee will discuss revisions to the 4 articles mentioned above, and review new articles.

IPM Posting Task Force, Jim Donnelly, chair

Jim Donnelly being absent, the report was made by the IPM Coordinator.

- Members discussed ideas for changes to the County's posting sign.
- At the next meeting, members will review the revised sign and discuss the posting policy.

9. Hear report from the IPM Coordinator

This item was skipped because of lack of time.

10. Plan agenda for next meeting

- Presentation from Bruce Badzik, IPM Coordinator for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Discuss policy for choosing topics and speakers
- Hear subcommittee reports
- Hear reports from the Departments

Next Meetings: July 19, September 20, November 15

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator