

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
November 15, 2018

Members Present: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Susan Captain, Public Member at Large; Debbie King, Grounds Division for 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; Cece Sellgren (de facto Chair), County Clean Water Program

(8 members present, 5 voting members)

Members Absent: Jim Cartan, Save Mt. Diablo (resigned); Gretchen Logue, County Sustainability Commission; Andrew Sutherland, Public Member at Large; Allison Knapp, Public Works Maintenance; Wayne Lanier, Public Member Alternate

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

Members of the Public: Wendy Hershey, member of the public; Sheila Hill, CCC Climate Leaders; Dave Shoemaker, Karolina Park, and Susan JunFish, Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Sheila Hill noted that the City of Concord voted for a one-year moratorium on the herbicide glyphosate in parks and no use in winter.

Susan JunFish noted that the UC Berkeley forum with DeWayne Johnson (plaintiff in the Monsanto trial) was a full house. She advised the County to look for alternatives to glyphosate.

3. Announcements

Susan Captain announced that the USDA has updated the National Road Map for Integrated Pest Management. The Road Map provides guidance to the IPM community on the adoption of effective, economical, and safe IPM practices, and on the development of new practices where needed. The USDA defines IPM as "a science-based, sustainable decision-making process that uses information on pest biology, environmental data and technology to manage pest damage in a way that minimizes both economic costs and risks to people, property and the environment."

4. Approve minutes from September 20, 2018

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

The motion carried:

AYES: Captain, Donnelly, Heckly, Kent, Sellgren

NOES: none

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Logue, Lanier, Sutherland

5. Review and accept IPM Program Annual Report

The IPM Coordinator gave a brief summary of the report.

Public Comment

Karolina Park said she is seeing mulch that is being sprayed with pesticide on Monument Blvd.

Debbie King responded that there are no areas on Monument Blvd. in which the County is working.

Sheila Hill asked if the County has changed to using Netafim® instead of drip irrigation.

Debbie King responded that yes, the County has replaced traditional drip irrigation lines with Netafim drip irrigation.

Susan JunFish asked if there is a rodenticide-free buffer area around the owl box in Livorna Park.

The IPM Coordinator responded that no rodenticides are used in the park. Jill Ray responded that the Boy Scouts conducted an extensive education project with the neighbors around Livorna park about not using rodenticides. Susan Heckly mentioned that rodenticides are not the only cause of barn owl mortality. Great horned owls prey on barn owls, and this can be a reason for the failure of barn owls to raise young. It takes two parents to raise chicks. If one dies, the other cannot incubate the eggs.

Sheila Hill asked if the public could obtain posting notices from the County.

The IPM Coordinator answered in the affirmative.

It was moved and seconded to accept the Annual Report as written (JD/SH).

The motion carried:

AYES: Captain, Donnelly, Heckly, Kent, Sellgren

NOES: none

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Logue, Lanier, Sutherland

Note: Jim Donnelly left the meeting at this point.

6. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

Larry Yost reported for the Agriculture Department.

- The ground squirrel management program is winding down for the year. It will shut down when the first rain comes.
- The Department has a new part-time, interim Agricultural Commissioner named Scott Paulsen. He will serve until the County hires a new commissioner, which may happen by April 2019.
- The Department conducted their annual hand removal of red sesbania at Dow Wetlands.

Public Comment

Karolina Park asked if the Department could use prescribed burning for red sesbania.

Larry Yost responded that he didn't know if burning would be effective on red sesbania, and that Dow would have to make that decision, not the Department.

Carlos Agurto reported for the Facilities Division

- Argentine ant complaints are slowing down.
- Pestec worked with the Facilities Division to rodent-proof the West County Children's Mental Health Clinic. Since then they have found no rodents in the building.
- Twice this year, and once last year, there have been fire ants at the edge of the play yard at the Head Start in Oakley. Pestec treated with a fire ant bait that they put out on Friday night and left over the weekend. Early Monday morning a tech picked up any remaining bait. For the second treatment this year, Pestec put the bait in petri dishes to make picking it up easier. There is a detention basin around the Head Start, and Pestec would like to contact the owner to obtain permission to inspect the field and possibly treat for fire ants there instead of in the play yard.

Cece Sellgren gave Carlos the name of the person to contact in Oakley.

Debbie King reported for the Grounds Division

- Grounds crews are putting out mulch everywhere they can.
- This year the Division created around 800 cu. yds. of wood chip mulch mainly from dead trees in the County.
- The Division has installed 8 smart irrigation controllers and is looking at installing 2 more.
- The Division has about half the staff it did in 1999, and although it has somewhat less work now, staff is still stretched very thin.

7. Discuss IPM Committee priorities and presentations for 2019

At the September meeting, the Committee agreed that the Decision-Making subcommittee should be a standing subcommittee.

The Committee agreed that the Outreach subcommittee should continue working in the new year.

There was discussion about the Decision-Making subcommittee (or some other subcommittee) doing more work on pesticide alternatives.

Susan JunFish presented the Committee with a list of priorities and presentation topics from Parents for a Safer Environment. (See attached.)

It was moved and seconded that the Decision-Making subcommittee finish the decision documents they feel are necessary, and as they identify specific alternatives that they want to review, they should review them. (MK/SH)

The motion carried:

AYES: Captain, Donnelly, Heckly, Kent, Sellgren

NOES: none

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Logue, Lanier, Sutherland

There wasn't time to discuss presentation topics, so they will be discussed January.

8. Plan agenda for next meeting

Discuss topics for presentations at the 2019 meetings.

Next Meetings: January 17, March 21, 2019

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator