

Minutes
Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee
Subcommittee on IPM Decision-Making
January 8, 2019

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

Members Absent: Jim Donnelly

Staff Present: Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator

Members of the public: Dave Shoemaker, Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

There was none.

3. Approve minutes of November 6, 2018

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

Ayes: Captain, Sutherland, Yost

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Donnelly

4. Set goals for 2019

Some ideas proposed by the committee were the following:

- Continue developing decision-making documents
- Research to evaluate alternatives (the committee cannot do research)
- Make a presentation to the Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee on recommendations the committee has already formulated.
- Work on convening the vegetation management panel for a full committee meeting.

It was decided to set goals at the next meeting when Jim Donnelly can attend.

The IPM Coordinator will determine the best path for presenting the committee's recommendations to County decision-makers.

5. Discuss Ventura raptor perch study

Members discussed the study and had the following questions and concerns:

1. No pre-count of ground squirrels or raptor density was reported so it is hard to evaluate control.
2. No predator pellets were collected from the control site.
3. There was no indication of which predator pellets produced which prey remains.
4. It's impossible to know if prey remains were from the study area or somewhere else since the predators have large ranges.
5. The study did not appear to correct for land use variables.
6. The study was not replicated anywhere else.
7. No action threshold was reported in the study.
8. Since they filled all burrows with grout before the study began, did they count the number of burrows?
9. Are they using the grouting as part of their control strategy? One of the big differences in cost was the grouting: they calculated 4 crew days per year in the rodenticide program and 2 crew days per year in the raptor perch program but did not explain the reason for the difference.

10. In their projected costs, why does the raptor perch program only have quarterly inspections (as opposed to the rodenticide program having weekly inspections)?

11. What is the situation in the study area now and in the rest of the County?

Susan Captain will try to contact the study's authors to get answers to the committee's questions.

6. Review ground squirrel decision document

Time did not allow for this item to be addressed

7. Plan next meeting agenda

The next meeting will be February 21, 2019, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

- Discuss the ground squirrel decision document (55 min)
- Communicating recommendations to County (20 min)
- Set goals for 2019 (20 min)
- Elect chair (5 min)