

Revised Minutes
Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee
Subcommittee on IPM Decision-Making
March 11, 2019

Members Present: Susan Captain, Jim Donnelly, Gretchen Logue, Andrew Sutherland (Chair), Larry Yost

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator

Members of the public: Dave Shoemaker, Karen Perkins, and Susan JunFish, Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

There was none.

3. Approve minutes of February 21, 2019

The committee asked for an addition and a correction:

- Add that Gretchen Logue agreed to serve as vice chair
- Correct the meeting time for this February 21st meeting to 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm

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

Ayes: Captain, Donnelly, Logue Sutherland, Yost

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

4. Report from the IPM Coordinator

The IPM Coordinator spoke to Joe Yee, Deputy Director, Public Works, who said that Allison Knapp will be the person to answer questions for Roadside and Flood Control Maintenance and Kevin Lachapelle will be the person to answer questions regarding the Grounds Division.

The IPM Coordinator has not yet been able to contact a person at Animal Services to determine their policy on feral cats.

Public Comment: Susan JunFish said she appreciates that the committee has been looking at rodenticides and where the most pesticide is used—on roadsides and flood control channels. But the Grounds Division needs to improve. What are they doing around clinics and Head Starts?

County staff has not identified all the Bad Actor pesticides. She could make a presentation on Bad Actors. She would like the committee to look at establishing approved, limited, and restricted categories of pesticides as other counties have adopted to make it easier for staff to choose materials. She would like the committee to look at approved categories of pesticides to make it easier for staff to choose materials.

5. Review ground squirrel decision document

Susan Captain reviewed the new information from Karl Novak in Ventura County (see attached).

She also noted that she attended a workshop on Organic Pest Management for Vegetable Crops where she spoke to Roger Baldwin to ask if any counties are using CO equipment for ground squirrels. He didn't know and suggested she contact the manufacturers. She called Allen Herbert at HM Gopher Control who said there are a number of places where entities have adopted the equipment: Fresno, Bakersfield, Paso Robles (a large area of vineyards), Manteca, and Santa Barbara. He said it only needs to be used twice a year.

Larry Yost said that the Agriculture Department doesn't use fumigants for ground squirrels. They don't have the personnel to use smoke bombs. The labor to fumigate individual burrows would be much more than spreading grain bait. Almost all of the ground squirrels that feed on poison bait die underground. Staff conduct surveys for dead and dying animals to remove them and reduce the hazard to predators. Bait stations are used infrequently. The Department has used them in a homeowner association and in a flood control basin.

Larry sees real limitations to using fumigation with CO along roadsides: often there is not adequate road shoulder on which to pull off while working which puts staff in danger, staff can't climb over the barbed wire in some areas to fumigate on the other side of the fence, the labor needed would be much more and the Department is acting as a contractor to the Public Works Department and has limited time and a limited window of time to get the job done.

The committee asked a number of questions:

- Are there counties that are actually using this technology along the side of the road?
- If so, how long have they been using it? What is their experience?
- What is the cost of the machine that is adequate for roadside?
- How many burrows can staff treat per hour with the device?
- How many staff would it take to operate the machine to treat on the roadside?
- How well does it work in dry soil when the Department has the time to treat?
- Would connected burrow entrances have to be sealed before treatment?
- What should the recommendation regarding this technology be?

Susan Captain and Jim Donnelly will pursue answers to these questions.

The committee discussed a number of revisions to the decision making document that the IPM Coordinator will make.

Public comment: Susan JunFish noted that Roger Baldwin says a combination of approaches works best for controlling ground squirrels. The PERC machine is for large areas and there are models that cost \$6K, \$10K, and \$17K. The Burrow Rx costs \$2K and is for smaller areas. The County should have contractors come in and do trials. The County could buy a machine and rent it out to make money.

Karen Perkins said the County should contact other counties that have done their own cost estimates for the machines.

It was moved and seconded to accept the ground squirrel decision making document as revised. (JD/AS)

Ayes: Captain, Donnelly, Logue Sutherland, Yost

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

6. Formulate questions for Public Works staff

There wasn't time for this item. It will be addressed at the next meeting.

7. Plan next meeting agenda

The next meeting will be April 25, 2019, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

- Formulate questions for Public Works staff (45 min)
- Report from Jim Donnelly and Susan Captain on their research regarding CO fumigation (15 min)
- Discuss developing recommendations (40 minutes)
- Regular business (20 min)