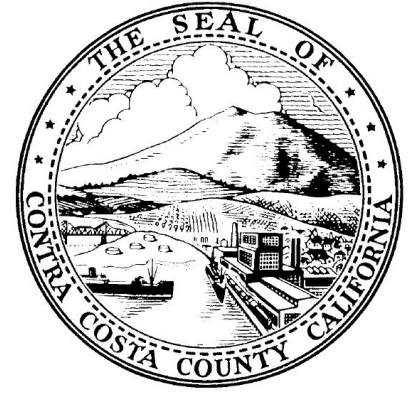


Minutes

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE An Advisory Body to the Board of Supervisors

January 21, 2021
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM



This meeting was held remotely per Governor's Executive Order N-29-20

Voting Members Present: Jim Donnelly (Chair), Susan Captain (Vice Chair), Stephen Prée, Michele Mancuso, Susan Heckly, Michael Kent

Voting Members Absent: Kimberly Hazard, Andrew Sutherland

Non-Voting Members Present: Carlos Agurto (Secretary), Jocelyn LaRocque (for Chris Lau), Larry Yost, Dave Lavelle

Non-Voting Members Absent: Amy Budahn

Staff Present: Jill Ray, Wade Finlinson

Members of the Public Present: Shirley Shelangoski, Erin Engstrom

1. Call to order and introductions

Jim Donnelly called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

There were no public comments

3. Approve minutes from September 17, 2020 and November 19, 2020

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

Ayes: Kent, Mancuso, Heckly, Captain, Donnelly

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Sutherland, Hazard, Prée

Public Speakers: None

4. Receive report from the IPM Coordinator

The IPM Coordinator briefly reviewed the update as submitted in the agenda packet. A copy of the report is attached. No action was taken.

Pubic Speakers: None

5. Advise the Chair regarding new assignments and any proposed changes to subcommittee roles in 2021

The Committee discussed the two subcommittees and potentially a new technical advisory committee (TAC) identified in the approved 2021 Work Plan. After members indicated levels of interest, the Subcommittees were filled as follows:

Decision-Making: Andrew Sutherland (Chair), Jim Donnelly, Susan Captain, Carlos Agurto, Larry Yost

Grants & Pilots: Chris Lau (Chair), Jim Donnelly, Andrew Sutherland, Susan Heckly, Michael Kent, Carlos Agurto

There was no interest expressed amongst Committee members present in chairing or participating a geographic information systems TAC. It was determined to consider this portion of the item in the March meeting in order for absent members to indicate their interest in serving in this capacity.

No vote was taken as subcommittee assignments are made by the Committee Chair.

Public Speakers: None

6. Continue to discuss the new visualization tool for pesticide risk assessment that was introduced in the September meeting and determine next steps

The IPM Coordinator presented a brief staff report summarizing the work of the Committee on the topic up to this point. He referenced Dr. Sutherland's September presentation about a potential new pesticide risk visualization tool that among other considerations, included a reference to the designation of certain chemicals as highly hazardous pesticides (HHP's). It was noted that the recent upgrades to the Pesticide Action Network of North America (PANNA) available at <https://pesticideinfo.org/> also includes HHP's. The IPM Program has historically included PANNA "bad actor" pesticide usage in annual summary reports and there have been occasional disparities about when certain chemicals used by the County were listed as bad actors and the rationale behind the listing. Additional review of this database and the others referenced in association with the various risk panels discussed is warranted.

The Chair framed the discussion with the following questions: 1-Are we happy with what we are doing now? 2-Do we think there is a better way? 3-Do we want to continue to explore this tool as a better way to evaluate pesticides in the future? Committee member comments included the following:

- There was a preference indicated for individual risk assessments instead of the development product lists of what can and can't be used.
- The departments must have some rationale for selecting a pesticide that presents the lowest risk but is still effective.
- This methodology could be an effective starting point to be able to justify one pesticide over another.
- Right now, it is easy for departments to check a database to see if a chemical is a bad actor or not; this tool could expand their evaluation to view wider risks.
- Rationale for placement in each panel should be based on unbiased sources
- Nice to see all of these risk factors side by side.
- The general determination of these factors may not be able to capture the actual risk of each unique situation.
- If a pesticide has been selected based on cost and efficacy, it may be hard to identify credible third party sources on the other risk factors that have universal credibility

- Cost is a very important factor
- There is a different level of risk assessment depending on the location of an application. A public park versus a rural roadside inaccessible to pedestrians presents very different risks to the applicator and bystanders.
- This gives a framework for chronic assessment which we currently don't have.
- The model needs more development in order to be useful to departments.
- The end goal is to transparently show how decisions involving pesticide choices are made. It must be the best choice, not just an acceptable choice.
- Alternative tactics should somehow be captured, if possible.

No vote was taken, but the Committee generally agreed to refer the topic to the Decision-Making Subcommittee for further discussion and development.

Public Speakers: None

Stephen Prée entered the meeting at 10:51, toward the end of the item #6 discussion.

7. Consider the conceptual plan for the IPM Coordinator to provide limited service to other public agencies and possibly recommend related grant application consideration considerations to the Board of Supervisors

The IPM Coordinator described a recent discussion with the Alameda County's IPM Committee. They were discussing the need for an IPM Coordinator for their recently reassembled program, but generally agreed that the request likely would not get traction in uncertain economic conditions. The IPM Coordinator encouraged the group to explore other possible arrangements if a full time position isn't approved. Those included private sector consultants and contracting with other County IPM programs for specific services. The IPM Coordinator indicated a preliminary interest but also encouraged them to simultaneously explore other arrangements moving forward.

This type of scenario would essentially be a grant per Contra Costa County policy and some benefits of this type of agreement include the leveraging of operational synergies, funding to pay for part time program support personnel, and the promotion of regionally consistent IPM policies. Some drawbacks of the concept involve decreased accessibility of the IPM Coordinator and potential vulnerability of the position if the perception suggests that a full time position isn't needed in this jurisdiction.

The intention of this agenda item was to obtain Committee feedback to help determine if further pursuits are in the interest of the IPM Program. Members provided insight that acknowledged the benefits and risks and encouraged further exploration. A suggestion included developing a detailed plan that clarifies what Contra Costa elements would need to be adjusted in order to provide services to other public agencies.

No action was taken on this item.

Public Speakers: None

8. Updates & announcements from Committee members

The following updates were given:

- Larry Yost noted that the Agriculture Department has started the process of hiring two seasonal pest control technicians for the noxious weed control program that focuses on Artichoke Thistle and Purple Star Thistle on rangeland.

- Carlos Agurto noted that the current structural IPM contract is ending soon and they plan to submit a proposal in response to the recent RFP and hope to continue providing service.
- Michael Kent mentioned that the County received a 3-year grant from the Sierra Health Foundation to do assessments of people's homes to identify and mitigate asthma triggers such as cockroaches and mold. That program will kick off soon and they aim to serve 150 homes.
- Jocelyn LaRocque reported for the Public Works Maintenance Division and announced that three new Vegetation Management Technicians started last week.
- Michele Mancuso indicated that their main contact with Our Water Our World (OWOW) is retiring and there is some uncertainty about how to provide the contracted services currently offered by OWOW.
- Susan Heckly said that the Fish and Wildlife Committee recently reviewed 8 grant applications, including one that focused on ground squirrels in Briones Regional Park.
- Stephen Prée highlighted the value of OWOW in providing outreach and education for IPM principles for the general public. He also inquired about the impact of AB 1788 regarding second-generation anti-coagulant rodenticide which was recently signed into law.
- Jill Ray suggested contacting the Walnut Creek Watershed Council to inquire about possible organizations that may be able to provide services similar to OWOW. She also encouraged everyone to stay updated on changes to the vaccine roll out by visiting www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/vaccine.

Public Speakers: Shirley Shelangoski suggested looking into whether Food & Water Watch works locally and could provide some of the services previously provided by OWOW.

9. Plan agenda for the March 18, 2021 meeting and adjourn.

Suggested agenda items included beginning the revision process for departmental IPM plans and to hear a report on the Healthy Schools Act and how it impacts certain County properties.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.



Contra Costa County

Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee

Agenda Item #4 Staff Report

Meeting Date: 1/21/2021
Subject: Receive Report from the IPM Coordinator
Department: Health Services
Presenter: Wade Finlinson, Staff to Committee
Contact: Wade Finlinson, 925.655.3214

Update from the IPM Coordinator:

Here are some program highlights that occurred since the last meeting of the IPM Advisory Committee:

- The Board of Supervisors passed [Resolution 2020/326](#), authorizing the submittal of a research grant application to the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) at their meeting on December 8, 2020. The approved board order is available [at this link](#). This grant would fund research related to the development and implementation of enhanced monitoring and control strategies near critical infrastructure in Contra Costa County and other public agencies in the region. The grant application was submitted prior to the deadline on December 18, 2020. Letters of support were provided by the UC Cooperative Extension, Eco-Alpha Environmental and Engineering Services, the Alameda County IPM Committee, East Bay Regional Park District, and Reclamation District No. 2025, who maintains 11 miles of levees around the Holland Tract. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California owns a majority of Holland Tract and would be involved as a partner in the project if funded. East Bay Municipal Utility District and Santa Clara County have also offered to include some of their properties as study sites as well.
- The Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee (TWIC) of the Board of Supervisors received the [2020 Annual Report and 2021 Work Plan](#) on [December 14, 2020](#). Most of the feedback in that meeting focused on concerns about the resumption of the Public Works Maintenance Division's herbicide application program. TWIC was provided with a [table](#) that tracks all recommendations from the IPM Advisory Committee from 2018 to the present. Since they were not able to give insight on those recommendations in the 12/14 meeting, the IPM Coordinator is interested in returning to TWIC in June or July to specifically obtain feedback on those submissions.
- The full Board of Supervisors accepted the 2020 Annual Report and 2021 Work Plan at their meeting on [December 15, 2020](#).
- The IPM Coordinator participated in the following trainings/collaborations: [Organizing Community-Based Wildland Fuels Management Projects](#), [Challenges and Opportunities for Increasing Prescribed Fire on Federal Lands in the West](#), Contra Costa County Sustainability Exchange, Alameda County IPM Committee, Head Start IPM Plan Update, a discussion on the development of a Roadmap for Sustainable Pest Management with DPR.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

No action is required.