

Minutes

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT DECISION-MAKING SUBCOMMITTEE A Subcommittee of the IPM Advisory Committee



**August 6, 2020
9:30 AM to 11:00 AM**

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

Subcommittee Members Present: Andrew Sutherland (Chair), Kimberly Hazard (Vice Chair), Jim Donnelly, Susan Captain, Carlos Agurto, Larry Yost

Subcommittee Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Chris Lau, Dave Lavelle, Jocelyn LaRocque, Debbie King, Wade Finlinson

Members of the Public Present: Susan JunFish, Dave Shoemaker

The meeting convened at 9:33 AM

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda.

None

3. Approve minutes from February 26, 2020.

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

Ayes: Hazard, Donnelly, Agurto, Yost, Sutherland

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Captain

Public Speakers: None

4. Update on potential ground squirrel pilot involving carbon monoxide or carbon dioxide injection on Flood Control property and consider next steps.

The Subcommittee received a report detailing a brief history of efforts that lead up to the recommendation to implement the pilot as well as a summary of subsequent developments. The IPM Coordinator made a recommendation to refer further investigation and implementation of the pilot to the Subcommittee on Grants and Pilots.

Members discussed various aspects of the proposed pilot study. Some suggestions included collaborating with subject matter experts from the University of California and finding ways to engage citizens in the process. It was acknowledged that the feasibility of timing and funding a

comprehensive study would be unlikely prior to the early spring of 2021. The Subcommittee encouraged Public Works that it would still be worthwhile to work at procuring a contractor to provide injection services on a case study-basis by February.

A motion was made and seconded (JD/KH) to formally refer further investigation and implementation of the pilot to the IPM Subcommittee on Grants and Pilots.

Ayes: Hazard, Donnelly, Captain, Agurto, Yost, Sutherland

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Public Speakers: Susan JunFish (via Zoom Chat and read by the Chair) "PASE has extensive experience designing a study with UC Berkeley and discovered the errors that we tried to prevent that wasted 2 years of resources that occurred during the pilot trial led by the county. I ask that you consider an ad-hoc subcommittee that includes a PASE community member."

5. Continue discussing the development of decision documentation for vegetation management at West County Detention Facility

The IPM Coordinator detailed the revisions requested in the February meeting and highlighted the importance of getting feedback from the Office of the Sheriff prior to the next meeting. The Facilities Services Division offered assistance in helping to connect this effort with onsite personnel.

Subcommittee members encouraged County staff to capture all the mandates regarding vegetation management at this site in addition to those cited from the fire department. It was reiterated that the primary objective of decision documents is to make the process transparent so the public can see that we're working toward specific goals and we need to be particularly selective about which tactics are appropriate to meet those goals at facility such as this.

The IPM Coordinator agreed to forward a soft copy of the draft to Subcommittee members so they could propose further revisions before the next meeting.

Public Speakers: None

6. Plan next meeting time and agenda

The subcommittee requested that a Doodle Poll be sent out to determine the best date for the next meeting in mid-September. It was determined that the agenda would include 20 minutes for regular business, 30 minutes to wrap up discussion and possible approval of the WCDF document, 20 minutes to discuss drafts of decision documentation for other sites, and 20 minutes to discuss new business.

The IPM Coordinator was asked what other areas could potentially be explored as new business. He responded that there is room for refinement in how IPM training programs can better address the needs of County Departments and employees. It was mentioned that a separate subcommittee may be better suited to make that pursuit more broadly than just through the lens of decision-making.

Public Speakers: Susan JunFish (via Zoom Chat and read by the Chair) "I wish to thank the committee for focusing on the key issues of discovering sustainable choices for rodent and weed control at this time. PASE received numerous anonymous complaints from the community about herbicide spraying into their private property and I wish to see the Committee visit the protocols in

place for providing a buffer and considering wind direction prior to treatment along the Flood Control District. Even if they are not spraying now, if that is the case. Please provide an update.”

Ms. JunFish also spoke in favor of retaining a statistician from UC Berkeley to help set up the ground squirrel pilot trial to avoid having to throw out data and wasting resources from the first two years of the County and its consultant's goat grazing study conducted in Walnut Creek.

—end of meeting minutes—

—approved 9/15/2020—