

Minutes
Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee
Subcommittee on IPM Decision-Making
February 26, 2020
2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Susan Captain

Staff Present: Chris Lau—Public Works, Jocelyn LaRocque—Public Works, Wade Finlinson—IPM Coordinator

Members of the public: Shirley Shelangoski (PASE), Susan JunFish (PASE), Dave Shoemaker (PASE)

The meeting convened at 2:05 PM

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

None

3. Approve minutes of January 30, 2020 (item taken after number 5 on the agenda)

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

Ayes: Donnelly, Yost, Agurto, Sutherland

Noes: None

Abstain: Hazard

Absent: Captain

Pubic Speakers: Susan JunFish requested the minutes be corrected in reference to her comments about the costs cited by a previous Agriculture Commissioner as well as a minor modification to the Ventura County study. The Subcommittee agreed to corrections.

4. Elect a Subcommittee Chair and Vice Chair

A motion was made and seconded (JD/CA) to nominate Andrew Sutherland as Chair and Kim Hazard as Vice Chair.

Ayes: Donnelly, Yost, Agurto, Hazard, Sutherland

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Captain

Public Speakers: None

5. Update on potential ground squirrel pilot involving carbon monoxide or carbon dioxide injection on Flood Control property (item taken after number 2 on the agenda)

Subcommittee members and Maintenance Division staff reviewed the current arrangement that solely relies on the Agriculture Department's use of diphacinone-treated grain bait. Possible goals of the pilot were discussed in addition to ways in which the efficacy of the pilot could be measured and compared to current methods.

Staff and Subcommittee members agreed that it would be best to carry out the pilot on Flood Control property. Possible next steps were discussed and may include the identification of two or three sites each ranging from one to four acres. Additionally, a draft scope of work should be developed and include pest density counts and quantitative monitoring throughout the study. Informal engagement with service providers was encouraged in order to estimate cost projections and other technical input to refine the scope.

It was mentioned that only visual inspections are performed currently, and no baseline or post-treatment data is collected regarding ground squirrel populations or number of burrows at a treated site. That information—coupled with the phenomena of ground squirrels from adjacent properties coming to eat the bait on County properties—makes it difficult to compare methods subjectively. However, existing product use data may be available for the pilot sites and may be useful in a comparable study of treatment tactics over time.

No formal action was taken, but staff and Subcommittee members generally indicated an interest in further pursuing many of the concepts discussed.

Public Speakers: Susan JunFish, Dave Shoemaker and Shirley Shelengoski

One citizen recommended including PASE, UC Berkeley Statistics Department, UCCE in order to avoid many of the mistakes made in the grazing study, where two years of data had to be thrown out. Another citizen highlighted a UCLA project done in cooperation with public agencies, indicating that there may be funding or other resources available in the community.

6. Continue discussing the development of decision documentation for vegetation management at West County Detention Facility and review the initial draft.

The committee discussed the second draft of the decision document for West County Detention Facility (WCDF). The IPM Coordinator agreed to revise the draft and discuss it further at the next meeting

Public Speakers: None

7. Plan next meeting agenda

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 19th from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

- Update on potential ground squirrel pilot (40 minutes)
- Continue discussing draft decision document for WCDF (30 minutes)
- Standing items (20 minutes)

Meeting adjourned at 3:35

--end of meeting minutes--