

Integrated Pest Management Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 11, 2013

Time: 9:30 A.M.

Attendees:

Henry Brouwer	GSA
Scott Gray	PWA Watershed Student Aide
Pam Lindsey	PWA Watershed
James Martinez	Parks
Ed Niedzweicki	Dept. of Airports
Steve Offerman	Supervisor Bennett's Office
Sean Payne	GSA
Cyndy Taschman	GSA

Background – The main purpose of the IPM meeting was to discuss the possible further reduction in the use of pesticides on all county facilities. This includes the possible reduction in the use of Tier I pesticides, as compared to Tier II and III pesticides, at all County properties and facilities.

Criteria for Tracking of Pesticides – Sean refreshed the requirements from the last meeting, stating criteria needs to be uniform. Handouts of the pesticide usage in the county were distributed, using the base year of fiscal 2010-2011. Listed were Tiers I, II, and III poundage, and Tiers I, II, and III pounds per acre. Data from the Harbor, HCA, and PWA Watershed departments is still missing, and needs to be received by 1/31/13.

Since usage is based on poundage, the exact weight is required, but a question was brought up as to how to measure the potential harm. The active chemical ingredient in the pesticide will provide some statistics, but more study is needed. Sean discussed the need to better our benchmarking to get an understanding of the precise amount of actual ingredient that we are applying, as we only list the amount of pounds of material, not the actual ingredients, which is a much smaller amount of material.

Pam stated that with the increasing number of facilities, we will require more rodent and weed control, as well as more maintenance. We will show more usage of the higher tiers, but it will be spread out over greater acreage. This will offset the higher levels of use. Pam suggested we still need to use some of the higher tiers in an effort to prevent rodent infestation, rather than attempt to manage infestation later on. Bait stations are used to prevent infestation, but Fish and Game have already learned they

cannot leave bait in the box. Alternative chemicals are on the list, so we may be able to trade out some Tier I to Tier II or Tier III. She also suggested working with Henry Gonzalez at the AG Commission in order to change some of the labels.

Ed asked if Pam was responsible for the drainage ditch at Camarillo Airport. She said she was, and that there are bait stations there. Ed stated that weeds are a problem, not squirrels, and that the weather has helped. With no rain and very cold temperatures, less pesticide has been needed.

Also discussed was the difference between a closed system of application and an open application. The closed system is much safer system because of the lack of exposure to the public. It was mentioned that there is physical harm, and public perception harm, of which we need to be mindful. It was suggested that early morning use of pesticides is the best, as minimal public would witness the usage, so there would be fewer complaints. Mid-day usage of pesticides generates casual complaints from the public, as it is more visible. As soon as the public sees Hazmat suits, problems arise – but Hazmat suits are required by law.

Henry explained the differences in the tiers, and said that while Tier II is less toxic and effective, Tier III is ineffective, and should be used for conditions such as ant control, as it is quickly broken down. His comments were the same as Jeff's last year - if Tiers I and II pesticides are reduced, and more Tier III pesticides are used, the number of pounds of pesticides used will increase, but toxicity will decrease. The alternative to replacing all Tier I products with lower tier material would require more applications. We therefore need to keep certain Tier I pesticides available because of their efficacy.

Unit of Measurement –A consensus at the previous meeting was reached that pounds per acre per each tier (Tiers I and II) will be the pesticide measurement used. Ed confirmed that his vendor does the conversion. Pam confirmed that they use dry weight, so the measurement is different.

Format of Reporting – No issues were reported.

Frequency of Reporting – At the last meeting, consensus was reached that agencies will report pesticide usage twice a year for the periods ending July 1st and January 2nd. The missing data from Harbor, HCA, and PWA Watershed is due by 1/31/13.