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**MARIN COUNTY  
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

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**MEETING MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING  
FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2011**

**IPM Commission Members Present:**

Dave Hattem	Sandy Ross	Steven Swain
Matt McCarron	Maggie Sergio	Kraemer Winslow
Michelle Miller	Stuart Smith	

**IPM Coordinator Present:** Ed Hulme

**Guests:**

Steven Ash, IPM Consultant	Arthur Slater
Richard Estrada, ATCO	Ginger Souders-Mason
Dani Hamilton, Open Space Planner	Rich Wallace, DPW
Rob Ruiz, County Ranger	Valerie Wynn

Chair Kraemer Winslow called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM in the Marin Civic Center Planning Commission Chambers.

**Agenda.** M/S (Ross/Swain) and approved as submitted.

**Chair's Introductory Remarks.** Chair Winslow reviewed two documents that guide Commissioners:

*IPM Commission Purpose in IPM Ordinance* (Section 23.19.15 (a) in County Ordinance 3521)  
"The Marin County Board of Supervisors shall convene an IPM Commission to oversee implementation of the County of Marin IPM Ordinance, Policy and County Department IPM Site Specific Pest Management Plans. The IPM Commission may advise and make recommendations to the IPM Coordinator and the Board of Supervisors as needed."

*Responsibility of Commission Members* (from County Board and Commission Handbook):  
"The primary purpose of a commission is to serve as an advisory body to assist governmental bodies in the decision-making process. Commissions serve as a conduit for citizen input by gathering, analyzing and recommending options to the Board of Supervisors..."

Kraemer also announced the following: 1) Sandy Ross will continue as a District 3 appointee until there is a new appointment, and Kevin Davis is continuing until someone else is appointed to fill the seat reserved for a licensed pest control applicator or pest control advisor. 2) The Commission's revised bylaws have not yet been approved by the Board of Supervisors so the Commission is still operating under old bylaws. 3) Commissioners must complete a Form 700. 4) Time will be set aside at the July meeting for a session on the Brown Act

**January 28, 2011 Minutes.** M/S (Ross) and approved as amended with two word changes: p. 3, line 17, should be Precor and methoprene; p. 4, line 41, change "accept to "adopt"

1 **Open Time for Items not on Agenda**

2  
3 Ginger Mason recommended a book entitled *Invasive Plant Medicine*. She also suggested  
4 individuals support SB394, the Healthy Schools Act of 2011, now in committee. The bill would  
5 require all school sites to participate in IPM training.  
6

7 **IPM Coordinator’s Report.** Ed Hulme reported, including the following remarks:  
8

- 9
- 10 • Weed and fire fuel, spurred by late rains, are now growing rapidly and efforts are being  
11 made to remove these before they set seed. Rats also have been a problem. As the weather  
12 warms pests and fungus begin appearing, so sites are being monitored carefully.
  - 13 • Volunteers have been very helpful and contributed 5,160 volunteer hours to the County so  
14 far in 2011 through the end of March.
  - 15 • Consultant Steve Ash is working on a site –specific plan for the airport.
  - 16 • The requirement that County contractors adhere to the IPM ordinance is working well. The  
17 renovated Hal Brown Creekside Park in Greenbrae, designed and built to be organically  
18 maintained, has been a great success.
  - 19 • He (Ed) is actively pursuing new funding sources for IPM programs and welcomes  
20 suggestions. He also works cooperatively on IPM with other departments and agencies such  
21 as the Health and Wellness campus.

22 **Report on Approaches to Rats at Civic Center**

23  
24 DPW Building and Maintenance Manager Rich Wallace, ATCO representative Richard Estrada  
25 and consultant Steve Ash outlined the serious rodent problem, both rats and mice, which  
26 emerged over the winter and described steps being taken to address this situation.  
27

28 Rodents have been entering vehicles at the county garage and chewed on components including  
29 brake cylinders, electrical wiring and hoses. The animals go into the vehicles when rain  
30 inundates their nests and they are seeking dry refuge and also because the engines are warm  
31 after they have been parked. Along with the cost of the damage to the vehicles there is a major  
32 concern about the danger this situation creates for employees who may, for example, drive off  
33 in a vehicle with inoperable brakes. Rodents have also found in the communications center  
34 where damaged equipment would be a serious problem in the event of a county emergency.  
35

36 At one point there was a meeting to review the rodent problem that involved Ed Hulme,  
37 Richard Estrada, Maggie Sergio, Steve Ash and several county personnel.  
38

39 Richard Estrada said the damage that has been found was surprising because rat trap  
40 monitoring around the campus had not indicated an activity increase. As a result stations were  
41 increased in affected activity areas like the motor pool, check time frequency was increased and  
42 some stations were repositioned to be accessible to rodents before they reach the vehicles.  
43

44 Steve Ash has looked for access points and found places where equipment close to the wall  
45 provides good hiding places for rodents and found evidence of most action between the outdoor  
46 dining area and the loading dock. He recommends cleaning out vegetation in the garage area

1 and perhaps spreading a fine gypsum powder on the ground to make it possible to see where  
2 rodent tracks are coming from. He also suggested using night vision goggles to observe the area  
3 at night as rodents generally don't come out until dusk.

4  
5 There was a suggestion to use an insect repellent called NBS 30 which is being marketed as a  
6 non-toxic agent and could discourage rodents from Civic Center premises. However it is not  
7 registered with EPA, and ATCO or County personnel would need exemptions to apply it.

8  
9 Since trapping has been stepped up the rodent problem appears to be abating and traps caught  
10 12 rats and 23 mice in the last two months. Rich Wallace noted that the broadened rodent effort  
11 has so far cost him about \$10,000 more than was budgeted for this activity.

### 12 13 **Updates on Coyotes in Marin County**

14  
15 Chief Park Ranger Rob Ruiz reviewed the characteristics of the County's coyote population  
16 and recent upsurge in sightings. Until the 1970's farmers used strychnine to kill coyotes that  
17 threatened their livestock but that poison killed other wildlife as well so its use was stopped.  
18 This resulted in an upswing in the population and eventually wider disbursement of coyotes  
19 around the county. Coyotes were only seen in West Marin until the early 1990s, but sightings  
20 are now reported in many areas along with reports of coyotes attacking housecats.

21  
22 Coyotes, he said, are the fastest terrestrial carnivores, running up to 40 mph, and can cause  
23 property damage by doing things like eating irrigation lines. They breed in winter and pupping  
24 season is about in April, a time when there is a lot of interaction as they work to keep people  
25 away from their dens. However, he believes Marin can be an excellent model for co-existence  
26 with coyotes and he recommended visiting [www.projectcoyote.org](http://www.projectcoyote.org) for information.

### 27 28 **Overview of County Structure Relating to IPM**

29  
30 Ed Hulme gave an overview of county programs associated with IPM use and regulation:

- 31
- 32 • The Public Works and Parks departments are the County's designated IPM program  
33 managers. Dave Hattem is the primary manager for landscaping. There was formerly a  
34 system of departmental IPM liaisons but it did not work effectively and the system has been  
35 simplified. No employee is allowed to use chemicals on County property and departmental  
36 trainings are held to underscore this.
  - 37 • MCSTOPPP (Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevision Program) is the county agency  
38 responsible for IPM public education and outreach. The IPM Commission's role is not  
39 education.
  - 40 • UCCE's Marin/Sonoma environmental horticulture advisor Steven Swain works with local  
41 arborists, landscapers, with MMWD and individuals, on a number of issues, including  
42 proper irrigation, Sudden Oak Death, community gardens, invasive plants and pesticide use.  
43 He also oversees the Marin Master Gardener program, which comprises about 300 trained  
44 volunteers who answer homeowner questions about plants and pesticides and encourage  
45 non-polluting techniques.

- 1 • The Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures is the department with  
2 responsibility for regulating pesticide use and enforcement, and it supports the County's  
3 organic agriculture through a certification program that was one of the first in the state.  
4

5 **Topics and Suggestions for Future Commission Meetings**  
6

7 Kraemer Winslow summarized some of the suggestions for Commission meeting topics and  
8 other ideas she has received from meeting with individual commissioners. The list compiled so  
9 far included the following: MCSTOPPP, UC's role in Marin, Wildcare, the County volunteer  
10 program, employee training, the Brown Act, and structural updates.  
11

12 Commissioners brainstormed additional ideas: health effects of various products, a homeowner  
13 pesticide tax program, fundraising ideas, status of bees, public education strategies.  
14 Commissioners were asked to email Kraemer and Ed with any additional ideas and they will  
15 arrange for an educational component at future Commission meetings.  
16

17 Ed will also circulate to Commissioners web links or reports on relevant educational topics as  
18 he learns about them. These may also be posted on the IPM website.  
19

20 **Reports and Announcements**  
21

22 Dave Hattem reported on two items relating to County Parks and Open Space. 1) On the  
23 previous Saturday he and Steve Ash washed all the interior plants with plain water, which he  
24 plans to do on a quarterly basis. He noted that inside plants do not have the benefit of wind and  
25 rain to clean them. 2) To combat a beetle larva that feeds on turf roots, creating large die-back  
26 areas, the department is adding beneficial nematodes to the turf. This biological control is  
27 parasitic to the larva and kills the pests.  
28

29 Maggie Sergio circulated a copy of an April 17 article in the *Sacramento Bee* about a widely-  
30 used rat poison that is now turning up at dangerous levels in wildlife across California.  
31

32 **Adjourned** at 12:00 PM. Next meeting will be July 22, 2011 and will include a session on the Brown  
33 Act.  
34

35 Minutes, Ann Thomas