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**COUNTY OF MARIN
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

Marin Civic Center, Room 410B, San Rafael, California
Minutes for Meeting of October 28, 2011__

4 **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Anderson, Jeffrey
5 Eberhart-Phillips, Jason
6 Hattem, Dave
7 McCarron, Matt
8 Miller, Michelle
9 Ross, Sandy
10 Sergio, Maggie
11 Swain, Steven

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13 **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Fakharzadeh, Saaid
14 Frost, Michael
15 Slater, Art
16 Smith, Stuart
17 Winslow, Kraemer

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20 **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

21 The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Commission Vice Chair Maggie Sergio.

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23 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF July 22, 2011**

24 M/S (Ross/Anderson) to approve minutes of July 22, 2011 as amended (note "Stuart" Smith).

25 **AYES:** Commissioners Anderson, Hattem, Miller, Ross, Sergio.

ABSENT: Commissioners Fakharzadeh, Frost, Slater, Smith, Winslow

ABSTAIN: Commissioners Eberhart-Phillips, McCarron, Swain

3. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME:

1) Myrto Ashe, M.D., San Rafael stated that her research into long-term toxicity leads her to believe that chemical pesticides are more harmful than previously thought, some may be more harmful at low levels than at high levels, and the diseases presently on the rise are caused by body systems that aren't normally studied by toxicologists.

2) Ginger Souders-Mason stated that Roundup may be related to manganese deficiency.

1 **4. COMMISSION EDUCATION**

2 **WildCare.** Hungry Owl Project Director Alex Godbe, Commissioner Sergio, who is WildCare's
3 advocacy director, and Hungry Owl Project volunteer Maggie Rufo showed a video and slide
4 presentation about the work of WildCare and the Hungry Owl Project.

- 5 • WildCare was begun in 1954 as the Marin Junior Museum, became the California Center
6 for Wildlife in 1974 and in 1994 officially became WildCare in a merger with the
7 Terwilliger Center. Each year three to four thousand animals are cared for at the Center
8 and about 40,000 people participate in their education program.
- 9 • WildCare is the fiscal agent for The Hungry Owl Project, a separate program underway
10 for about 10 years, the purpose of which is to reduce the need for harmful pesticides and
11 rodenticides by encouraging use of natural beneficial predators. The barn owl in
12 particular is a top rodent predator.

13 **5. TIMELY TOPICS**

14 **U.C. Cooperative Extension and the County of Marin.** Commissioner Swain, who is
15 Environmental Horticulture Advisor with UC Cooperative Extension in Marin County, gave an
16 update on the UC program's relationship with the county. Most of the land grant universities
17 were expected to provide service to community in return for the public funding that created the
18 university system. The UC program, housed in county offices, provides this service, including
19 research and expertise on livestock and agriculture. In Marin the UC office hosts the Master
20 Gardener program, provides research on oak death and other diseases and played a big role
21 in building the county's organic farming industry. Steven has worked in IPM professionally and
22 a current focus of his work is fungi research.

23 **6. IPM COORDINATOR'S UPDATE**

24 IPM Coordinator Ed Hulme reviewed an informational packet he distributed earlier with the
25 agenda and went over highlights of the program. He noted the following:

- 1 • The Parks District volunteer coordinator recorded about 20,000 volunteer hours provided
2 by 3,000 volunteers so far this year.
- 3 • No chemicals are being used on playgrounds and if any are used on turf areas the area
4 is fenced off. However, the county cannot control plant pests that originate on adjacent
5 property, so pepperweed, for example, has spread from neighboring sites.
- 6 • A Coastal Conservancy program to eradicate non-native Spartina along Corte Madera
7 Creek has been under way for several years and is ongoing. The exotic plant not only
8 crowds out native flora but creates large clumps that block floodwater movement.
- 9 • Exemptions were approved for several pest infestations. These include for Wasp Freeze
10 for yellow jackets (exemption was to waive the four day notice requirement as the
11 problem was urgent); Fusilade, a grass herbicide used to kill Bermuda grass at Hal
12 Brown Creekside Park; Eco-exempt Ic-2 for sow bugs that had infested the county jail,
13 County Counsel and other offices; and MaxForce, used on ants at the jail.
- 14 • EcoWise product use has been up over the past year, due in part to a couple of sow bug
15 infestations.
- 16 • The January Commission meeting agenda will include a request to add these products
17 to the Allowed List: EcoExempt Ic-2 insecticide, MaxForce Roach FC bait stations,
18 Fusilade II (special use product) and Botani-Gard.

19 **7. PARKS AND LANDSCAPE UPDATE**

20 Commissioner Hattem reported, including the following comments:

- 21 • The Marin Center lagoon had only had one nest of goose eggs in 14 years but as the
22 Las Gallinas Sanitary District has been driving out the geese from their property the
23 birds have begin re-locating at the lagoon.
- 24 • One –time treatment with Aquamaster has been used for poison oak on areas including
25 the Lucas Valley corporate yard, which has become popular with visitors.

1 **8. IPM COMMISSION 2011 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2011-2012 WORK PLAN**

2 IPM Coordinator Hulme had distributed copies of the current year's annual report to the Board
3 of Supervisors with the agenda packet and Commissioner Ross distributed copies of a draft FY
4 2011-2012 annual report. The annual report will be on the agenda at the January 2012
5 Commission meeting.

6 **9. IPM COMMISSIONER REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

7 Acting Chair Sergio announced that Sandy Ross, Ginger Souders-Mason and Kraemer Winslow
8 would serve on an ad-hoc committee to select a recipient of this year's IPM award.

9 Several suggestions were offered by commissioners for future meeting topics. These include
10 field trips to see the cafeteria and owl boxes, and presentations of the status of bees,
11 fundraising, public education strategies, MCSTOPPP, and the health effects of various
12 products.

13 **10. ADJOURN MEETING**

14 The meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.

15 The next meeting of the IPM Commission is scheduled for January 27, 2012.

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18 Maggie Sergio, Acting Chair

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18 Ed Hulme, IPM Coordinator