



**A Meeting Of The IPM Task Force
Minutes
Wednesday, July 18, 2007
Albany Senior Center
846 Masonic Ave.
7:30 p.m.**

- 1. Call to Order:** 7:35 p.m. Task Force Members present: Chair Wishner, Piller, Mattson, Thomas, Glasner and Carlsen. Excused Fabian and Linden.

Staff present: Richard Cunningham and Robin Mariona

2. Review of Minutes: June 13, 2007:

Motion:

Approval of the minutes as corrected of June 13 by Member Glasner and seconded by Member Mattson. Motion carried all in favor.

3. Public Comment

4. Announcements/Communication:

5. Discussion and possible action on matters related to the following items, which could include reports and/or proposed resolutions if any:

5.1 Latest draft of the IPM policy: Chair Wishner welcomed IPM consultant Steven Ash and stated that fertilizers had been inserted into the policy where applicable. She further stated that the evening's emphasis would center on the questions to Mr. Ash with regard to sections 1,3,10,11,13 and 14.

The Task Force began with section 10 and whether it was practical to post permanent signage for Special Protection Zones and the wording on the sign so that the public wouldn't assume there was pesticide use occurring. Mr. Ash stated that signage didn't necessarily imply pesticide use, but there should be some place to acquire information. Chair Wishner questioned the Task Force as to whether they wanted signage. Member Thomas stated that signage would be too much trouble and expense. Member Glasner and Member Carlsen agreed. The permanent signage was removed.

Chair Wishner questioned Mr. Ash as to the distance the Special Protection Zones should be from a creek. He replied that 60 ft. was standard in Alameda County due to protections for endangered species. After discussion about whether 60 ft. was more space than needed a motion was made.

Motion:

Member Carlsen motioned to exclude the use of permanent signage around Special Protection Zones and include language stating that any use of chemicals closer than 60 ft would require an exemption process. Motion seconded by Member Glasner. Motion carried all in favor.

Public Comment: Albany resident Allan Maris questioned Manager Cunningham as to what Public Works did to maintain creeks. He replied that there was Lighting and Landscape funding and Shelterbelt took care of the maintenance.

The Task Force returned to section 1 and Chair Wisher stated that Mr. Ash had opted for alternative #3 in the draft. She further stated that Member Linden had urged the Task Force to be more proactive in defining Albany IPM as holistically based and sustainable, and had submitted some draft wording to that effect for section 1. Member Piller questioned Mr. Ash as to his preference for alternative #3. Mr. Ash stated that as a supporter of sustainability, alternative #3 had wording that was preferable, and also made a separation of pesticides and fertilizers which he thought was important.

Member Mattson proposed accepting alternative #3. Member Carlsen stated that alternative #3 was close to being acceptable except for a lack of specificity with regard to fertilizers. Chair Wishner suggested the addition of some language to alternative #3.

Motion:

Motion by Member Mattson to accept alternative #3 with the modifications discussed and seconded by Member Piller. Motion carried all in favor.

Chair Wishner proposed inserting a sentence incorporating some of the language suggested by Member Linden. Chair Wishner took some time during a break in the meeting to write a sentence and presented it to the Task Force. Manager Cunningham suggested that the proposed sentence as stated might intervene on the jurisdiction of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Motion:

Motion to add the sentence as stated by Chair Wishner from Member Linden's drafted wording made by Member Mattson and seconded by Member Thomas. Motion carried 5 in favor, 1 opposed.

After going on to section 1 paragraph 2, it was determined that the above motion was redundant as paragraph 2 included all the language and wording in the draft by Member Linden.

Motion:

Motion to include the BIRC IPM definition made by Member Glasner and seconded by Member Thomas. Motion carried all in favor.

The Task Force agreed that paragraphs 3,4 and 5 in section 1 were all acceptable as written and moved on to paragraph 6 on the Precautionary Principle. Chair Wishner stated that Member Linden had conveyed that it was her suggestion to have the Precautionary Principle be part of the guidelines for the Oversight Committee. Mr. Ash stated that he was in favor of it as well, and suggested some modifying language to make it more specific to Albany's IPM.

After some discussion and adaptation with regard to modification of wording, the Task Force agreed on paragraph 6.

Motion:

Motion to accept paragraph 6 with modifications as discussed made by Member Mattson and seconded by Member Glasner. Motion carried all in favor.

Paragraph 7 was discussed in terms of clarification of wording in section 1, 2 and 3. Mr. Ash stated that practices involving monitoring and threshold levels may be an initial investment with regard to costs but problems should be addressed as they occurred or if there was an established history of problems. After the language was adjusted, the Task Force agreed that paragraph 7 sections 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 were acceptable.

Member Carlsen stated that before the Task Force proceeded further, it was important to discuss the cost issues for implementation of fertilizing. Mr. Ash stated that some soil testing could be done using a student program, and ball field soil should be the only areas that required twice a year testing due to the level of use that occurred. The cost of the tests would be \$60-\$110 each. He further stated that the turf should be fertilized with 6-8# of nitrogen and other nutrients to keep the playing areas in optimum condition and testing kits could be purchased at garden centers for \$30.

Member Carlsen stated that there would be new costs associated with areas that were currently not being fertilized at all, that would need to be addressed. Mr. Ash stated that testing the ball fields would give the City a good baseline for determining the needs of other areas Member Piller stated that Mr. Ash should be prepared to answer questions about costs to the City Council.

The Task Force moved on to paragraph 11 regarding the IPM Implementation Manual. It was agreed that some additions to the banned list be added and the paragraph would be acceptable.

Chair Wishner suggested discussion of section 14A, the Preferable Fertilizer List and the IPM Oversight Committee. Member Carlsen expressed concern about including specific language to give adequate tools to the Oversight Committee to assist them in making good choices. Mr. Ash suggested using the University of California as a horticultural resource and reference to Best Management Practices would be appropriate for this part of the document. Chair Wishner stated that the IPM Implementation Manual would be the most appropriate place to address those concerns and would add language to 14A to that end.

Member Carlsen stated that he was hesitant not to refer to a specific manual with regard to Best Management Practices so the Oversight Committee would have guidance. He further stated that he wanted to be sure that the Oversight Committee had other tools to use in case natural and organic methods didn't work. Mr. Ash questioned Member Carlson as to why he didn't believe natural fertilizing methods would work. Member Carlsen stated that he wanted the Oversight Committee to have access to other fertilizing methods if the natural methods didn't produce the desired results or the cost was too much.

Member Carlsen questioned Mr. Ash as to how to avoid a conflicting expert situation. Mr. Ash suggested getting information from as many sources as was possible including product label information, the latest study information, and expert opinion. He further stated that information that San Francisco had already gathered could be useful to Albany in terms of a Reduced Risk List, and he would e-mail that information. The process of replacing products on the San Francisco list was relatively easy.

Chair Wishner stated that given the late hour, was the Task Force comfortable with the drafting committee meeting with Ann Chaney in August to work on the ordinance and policy and the Task Force agreed.

Chair Wishner stated that it was her hope that the IPM Task Force could complete their charge with two more meetings in September.

6. Adjournment: 10:07pm

Motion:

Motion to adjourn by Member Mattson and seconded by Member Thomas

