

MINUTES
California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Ocean Mist Facility, Castroville Headquarters
10855 Ocean Mist Parkway, Castroville, CA 95012
October 14, 2015

Members Present

David Kratville, CDFA
Dr. Mark Novak
Ruben Arroyo
Dale Huss
Dan Spangler
Dr. Robert Timm

Members Absent

Dan Spangler
Karen Sweet
Art Foster
Dr. Paul Stapp

CDFA Department Personnel

Michelle Dennis, Env. Scientist
Sara Richards, Staff Services Analyst

Guests Present

Bob Roach, Monterey County Assistant Agricultural Commissioner
Roger Baldwin, UC Cooperative Extension
Niamh Quinn, UC Cooperative Extension
Sara Kross, UC Davis
Dale Donaghe, San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Department
Steve Schweizer, Kings County Agricultural Department
Elizabeth Hiroyasu, UC Santa Barbara
Terry Robinson, City of Pacific Grove
Ryan Meinerz, UC Davis
Fred Rinder, Fresno County Agricultural Department
Thomas Schmit, Liphatech
Guadalupe Romer

Teleconference Guests

Ed Duarte, Alameda County

INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee Meeting convened at 9 a.m. by Chairman, Dennis Bray and introductions were made.

BAGLEY-KEENE OPEN MEETING ACT AND VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPLIANCE

The Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee (VPCRAC) Meeting is held in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

MINUTES FOR MAY 27, 2015 MEETING

Motions: *Dr. Mark Novak moved that the Committee recommend approving the minutes of the May 27, 2015 Meeting, with correction. The motion was seconded by Dale Huss and passed unanimously.*

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
Dr. Mark Novak Ruben Arroyo Dale Huss Dr. Robert Timm David Kratville	N/A	N/A

CDFA UPDATES

Mr. Kratville reported Assembly Bill 751 was approved by the Governor on September 30, 2015. The bill was introduced to reauthorize the VPCRAC legislation set to expire in 2016. The current bill is set to expire in 2026.

Mr. Kratville stated CDFA developed a web based and smart phone application 'Report a Pest' (<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/apps/reportapest.html>) to test the state's report a pest process. During September 2015, CDFA, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and various counties participated in a mock exercise to test the communication process between entities. The application has a database for plants, insects, and pathogens. Mr. Kratville asked if anyone knew of many vertebrate pests being reported.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Kratville attended a Fish and Game Commission Meeting reviewing predator management within California. The goal is to review existing policies and regulations to identify and address inconsistencies. The Commission is addressing structural issues first and will later review ethical and ecological concerns. They are currently requesting nominations for the predator policy support group. The first group will draft potential regulations and a second group will review the information. Their next meeting will be on December 3, 2015 in Van Nuys, CA.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Kratville reported both Wilco and Kaput, Diphacinone based rodenticides, are available for residential use targeting California ground squirrels.

Mr. Kratville spoke with the head of law enforcement for CDFW regarding the use of the Kania trap. The official confirmed the trap is legal for use on squirrels.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Kratville stated Stella McMillan with CDFW was contacted for outreach addressing secondary poisoning from Pentobarbital, a euthanasia drug used for large livestock. During 2014 in the Marin County area, six turkey vultures died from secondary poisoning and in 2015 one turkey vulture was found sick and then rehabilitated. They believe the issue could be due to improper disposal of euthanized animals. Due to the large flight range of turkey vultures, it is difficult to determine the source of secondary poisoning.

Mr. Kratville stated county commissioners requested copies of original Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) documents between CDFA and counties regarding plagued squirrel control.

Discussion followed.

Ed Duarte requested information from CDFA and rodenticide mixing counties pertaining to hazmat regulations for storage and disposal of waste generated by manufacturing pesticides.

Discussion followed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Ms. Dennis presented the Committee with the current financial reports. Form (A) displayed the 2015/2016 Fiscal Year Budget that was approved during the December 12, 2014 meeting and the proposed 2016/2017 budget. Form (B) showed the CDFA Administrative Budget through the 2016/2017 proposed budget. Form (C) displayed the current Research Expenditures. Form (D) showed Rodenticide Surcharge Totals from fiscal year 2011/2012 through the 2014/2015 fiscal year. Form (E) displayed the Fund Condition Statement that displays the current fund status for the Vertebrate Pest Control Program as of September 14, 2015.

Discussion followed.

Motions: *Dale Huss moved that the Committee recommend approving the Financial Reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mark Novak and passed unanimously.*

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
Dr. Mark Novak	N/A	N/A
Ruben Arroyo		
Dale Huss		
Dr. Robert Timm		
David Kratville		

Motions: *Dale Huss moved that the Committee recommend approving the proposed budget of \$630,293.18 for the 2016/2017 fiscal year, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robert Timm and passed unanimously.*

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
Dr. Mark Novak Ruben Arroyo Dale Huss Dr. Robert Timm David Kratville	N/A	N/A

RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Ms. Dennis stated CDFA is developing new guidelines for submitting research proposals in 2016. Research proposals need to be submitted at least 30 days prior to the meeting for review. She proposed selecting target research priorities in the future. The Committee decided to not set research priorities for 2016.

Discussion followed.

Motions: *Dale Huss moved that the Committee recommend funding the research proposal from Dr. Roger Baldwin, UC Davis, “Can population dynamics, habitat use, and spatial-use patterns be used to more effectively manage wild pig damage to croplands and rangelands?” in the amount of \$75,416.00, contingent on the proposal receiving additional funding from either Western Sustainable Agriculture and Resource Education grant or Russell L. Rustici Rangeland and Cattle Research Endowment. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robert Timm and passed unanimously (Appendix D).*

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
Dr. Mark Novak Ruben Arroyo Dale Huss Dr. Robert Timm David Kratville	N/A	N/A

Motions: *David Kratville moved that the Committee recommend funding the research proposal from Dr. Roger Baldwin, UC Davis, and David Goldade, USDA/ APHIS/ Wildlife Services, “Refinement of zinc phosphide-coated cabbage for Belding’s ground squirrel control.” in the amount of \$21,850.00. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robert Timm and passed unanimously.*

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
Dr. Mark Novak Ruben Arroyo Dale Huss Dr. Robert Timm David Kratville	N/A	N/A

RESEARCH UPDATES:

Mr. Baldwin presented updates on the following research:

- *“Maintenance of VPCRAC website.”*
- *“A Field Test of Rodenticides for Pocket Gopher (Thomomys spp.) Control.”*

Ms. Kross presented an update for the following research:

- *“Encouraging Owl Predation of Rodents by Erecting Owl Boxes: Myth or Potential Management Strategy?”*

Ms. Quinn presented an update for the following research:

- *“Ground Squirrel Best Management Practices Website-Expansion of Passive Extension Capacities.”*

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

The Committee discussed the need to find an applicant for the current vacant Agricultural Industry Committee Position. Interested applicants from Farm Bureau were unable to attend the meeting.

Motions: *Dennis Bray moved that the Board elect Dale Huss as the Vice-Chairman of the Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by David Kratville and passed unanimously.*

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
Dr. Mark Novak Ruben Arroyo Dale Huss Dr. Robert Timm David Kratville	N/A	N/A

OTHER ITEMS

POLLINATOR HABITAT

Ms. Dennis reported CDFA developed a Healthy Pollinator Working Group (HPWG). The main focus of the group is to enhance forage for bees and creating opportunities for foraging. Dr. Baldwin presented a PowerPoint presentation "*Impact of Field Edge Habitat on Rodents in Adjacent Crops.*" created by Laurel Sellers and referenced during the last HPWG meeting. Ms. Dennis suggested this research may be good to investigate through a vertebrate aspect.

Discussion followed.

VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE

Dr. Timm stated the Vertebrate Pest Conference is scheduled for March 7- March 10, 2016 in Newport Beach, CA.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULE

Date: April 20, 2016

Location: Northern California (Redding, Chico, etc.)

The Meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.



David Kratville
Secretary to the Committee