

MINUTES
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 12, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Bodner, Paul Clements, Doug Graves, Molly Hoffer, Mike Kesling,
Mike Koivula, Chris Melotti
MEMBERS ABSENT: David Bingham, Jack Harris
STAFF PRESENT: Mike Perkins, Sonny Chickering, Doug Putschler, Bill Manewal, Caroline Manewal

Chair Mike Koivula called the meeting to order.

- I. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 8, 2003

MOTION: Melotti moved to approve the January 8, 2003 Minutes as written. Bodner seconded. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

- III. IVM COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Members absent – Perkins announced that Harris and Bingham had both called in and let staff know they were unable to attend tonight.

Operations update – Perkins noted a lot of effort is currently going into tree work and chipseal preps. Crews are working out the “bugs” in the new tractors.

Irvington Road project – Perkins reported the big project right now is Irvington Road, adding the utility company topped trees under lines and PW will remove the remainder of the tree and either grind or pull stumps to below road-bed level. Manewal added the project is going quite well considering how many crews are involved: EWEB has a contractor on site, NW Natural Gas has 3 crews on site working on boring down both sides of the road, and PW has 2 separate crews on site. Starting soon, power lines will be moved, EWEB will be trenching for water lines, and then the phone/cable TV, etc. will be putting their lines in. Manewal noted there has been great cooperation from EWEB and their line clearance people. Staff responded to questions, and there was discussion, on what happens to logs/chips taken from the site. It was noted that the adjacent property owner has first right to the wood and one person actually will be using some of the cedar logs for totem poles.

Training – Perkins reported on the joint ISA/USFS trainings on “How to Prevent Hazard Trees.” Perkins noted half the vegetation crew attended in Albany, and the other half went to Roseburg.

Board agenda item for 2/19 – Perkins reported the Board of County Commissioners has placed the following item on their agenda for February 19, 2003; “Oral Report/Discussion of the Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) Program Policy.” Staff explained the facts, as they understand them, are that two commissioners have been opposed to the use of herbicides in the Program for quite some time, and that the new commissioner gives them the 3rd vote to bring up the discussion. Staff doesn't know how/where the discussion will go. Staff noted VMAC members would be welcome to give public comment or send in written statements if they chose to do so.

Members asked questions and discussed the following: effects of the 1980's moratorium on roadside vegetation, habitat for native species, the agricultural community, and County equipment; who has/does not have jurisdictional authority in restricting herbicide usage; other counties/cities with restrictions; that the item is written as a discussion item, but it may turn into an action item; what impact it would have on the Program in general if herbicides were further restricted; how long the Board normally allows staff to prepare information for items such as this; different options/ideas from members on how they might

respond; that the Program wouldn't be integrated without the option of all the tools; different options as to how/if VMAC, as a group or as individuals, could get their opinions before the Board; VMAC's "charge" from the Board as written in Lane Manual, and Article II of VMAC's By Laws; that this Board item process seems to be out-of-line with the Board Chair's welcome letter to new VMAC members stating that advisory committees provide a valuable contribution to the Board and they look forward to working with the committee.

MOTION: Melotti moved that VMAC forward a statement to the Board, saying they support the IVM Program, it's a national model, and if the County Commissioners have concerns about particular parts of the Program, VMAC would like to be involved in that discussion in a formal way.

Continued questions/discussion included: expressed concern for protecting Oregon's native habitat and also listed threatened and endangered species; concerns over private citizens taking it upon themselves to spray vs. having the trained County applicators do the job; if one effect of the 80's moratorium had been private [T1S2] parties spraying the rights-of-way; the bigger question of spray/no spray is, generally, the trend is going towards studying the effects of spraying more often and this would be a good Board discussion; an important part of the IVM Program would be to continue evaluating the necessity and safety of herbicide use.

MOTION: Melotti moved that VMAC request the Board of County Commissioners involve the VMAC in discussion about the herbicide portion of the IVM Program.

Koivula requested the motion be revised to include "in accordance with Article II of the By Laws."

AMENDED MOTION: Melotti moved the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee (VMAC) request the Lane County Board of Commissioners involve the VMAC in discussion about the herbicide portion of the Lane County Integrated Vegetation Management Program, in accordance with Article II of the "By Laws of the Lane County Vegetation Management Advisory Committee." Graves seconded.

VOTE: 7-0, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion as to when/how VMAC wanted this information to be delivered to the Board, prior to or during the Board meeting. Consensus was to request the Recording Secretary type up the above motion and forward the material to the Board of Commissioners prior to the 2/19/03 Board meeting, and that it be sent to the Board independent of any materials from staff.

IV. IVM PROGRAM BROCHURE [T1S2-524]

Staff distributed 2-color copies, including photos, of the final draft IVM Program brochure. VMAC reviewed the format/layout. One typo will be corrected and a question regarding punctuation will be considered.

The Committee discussed the following subjects: if/when PW notifies neighbors about bio-release projects; torch burner weed control tests and results, hot foam weed control effectiveness and possible upcoming demo by Glenn Miller and, options for controlling weeds in pavement/curb cracks.

MOTION: Koivula moved to approve the "Citizen Guide to Road Right-of-Way Vegetation Control, Lane County Integrated Vegetation Management Program" brochure as corrected. Clements seconded. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

V. NO SPRAY AREA UPDATE [T1S2-1105]

Manewal referred to the packet of No Spray Area (NSA) materials that had been included in the agenda packets. She explained that although the renewal return deadline is January 31, the computer doesn't run its update program until March 1. This allows the month of February for staff to enter the renewals into the system. She then organizes all the needed repairs, new postings, and deletions by road, so the crew can do all the necessary work in one area at one time.

Approved March 12, 2003

Committee questions resulted in the following responses: yes, the total number of NSA applicants has been declining slightly over the past 6 years; new owners find out about the Program in various ways; and yes, there are about a dozen out-of-state property owners with active NSAs in Lane County. Koivula suggested that an e-mail address be added to forms and flyers that go out to the public. [end of T1S2] Staff responded to questions and explained the different features on the sample Roadside Inventory printout. Staff noted inventories are updated as roads are posted or as information comes in from other agencies, e.g. Native Plant Society telling us of a new population of a threatened and endangered species. Manewal added that an NSA Renewal Summary for 2003 will be included in the April packets.

VI. DRAFT 2003 WORK PLAN [T1S2-200]

The Committee reviewed their 2002 Work Plan, item by item, deciding which items to delete, keep, and/or add for their 2003 Work Plan. Staff will draft the recommendations/changes and distribute a draft 2003 Work Plan in the March agenda packets.

VII. VMAC APPOINTMENT PROCESS – Consensus to defer this item to February.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

March 12, 2003 - potential agenda items

- Report back on 2/19 Board discussion of IVM Program
- Finalize 2003 Work Plan
- Review VMAC vacancy process
- View video of Board discussion on West Nile Virus
- Distribute 2003-2007 CIP draft
- Report back or provide info source on RACs & invasive weeds

Meeting adjourned at or about 7:40 p.m.

Recording Secretary