

MINUTES  
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
June 11, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bingham, Karen Bodner, Doug Graves, Molly Hoffer, Mike Kesling,  
Mike Koivula, Chris Melotti  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Clements, Jack Harris  
STAFF PRESENT: Mike Perkins, Ollie Snowden, Sonny Chickering, Doug Putschler, Bill Manewal,  
Caroline Manewal  
GUESTS: Aimee Code, Jan Nelson, John Sundquist

Chair Mike Koivula called the meeting to order and noted there had been a request for introductions. Everyone present introduced themselves.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Aimee Code, 1275 Jackson Street, Eugene, 97402, stated she works with NCAP. She thanked the Committee for the efforts they have put into the last resort policy going before the Board. Code noted she had printed informational materials on the Thurston County policy and another policy that NCAP had created. She added that she wasn't sure if everyone had had the opportunity to see those; if not, we can contact her and she can get those to us.

John Sundquist, 31139 Lanes Turn Road, Coburg, 97408, stated he was here tonight as a parent to comment on the last resort statutory language. Sundquist referred to a Bainbridge Island policy as a good model and asked members to include a range of options in their recommendations to the Board. Sundquist criticized the current IVM Program and repeated his request for the inclusion of a range of options that would include the model plan.

Jan Nelson, 85354 Doane Road, Eugene, 97402, noted she didn't plan to comment, however, she had brought some materials [*The IPM Practitioner*, Vol. 23, July/August 2001] for staff to copy for members.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 14, 2003

MOTION: Melotti moved to carry over the approval of the May 14, 2003 Minutes until the July meeting. Bodner seconded. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

III. BLUE MTN. PARK/HERBICIDE USE

Snowden summarized the background of this item: Parks had harvested timber from park sites since about 1986; there are several different harvest units; one is in violation of the State Forest Practices Act; the Parks Manager had gone to the BCC with proposals on how to come into compliance by controlling problem vegetation; the BCC had directed Parks staff to use manual/mechanical only, no herbicides; on June 4, after staff explained the type of application, buffers, etc., the BCC had reversed their decision and agreed to the use of herbicides, which greatly reduces the overall cost to the Parks Division.

IV. LAST RESORT

Report on 5/21/03 BCC meeting – Snowden reported that staff had presented the last resort definition, as modified by VMAC on 5/14/03, to the BCC on May 21. The BCC made one addition to VMAC's wording, that the Board of Health (Board of County Commissioners) would be the body to consider or reject the other methods. The Board had then directed Legal Counsel and staff to work on drafting ordinance language to codify the definition and intent of the material submitted by VMAC. Snowden referred to copies of his June 4 memo, included in the 6/11/03 agenda packets, which shows the draft wording from Legal/staff. Snowden noted, unless the BCC indicates otherwise, staff would use the Control Option Matrix as the vehicle to

provide the "annual list" that is referred to in the proposed language. Snowden explained the BCC had asked for the proposed ordinance language to come back to them on June 18, at which time the BCC would decide whether to do this as a Lane Code change or a Lane Manual change. They would also set a hearing date for whatever language they decide to advance. Discussion about the Control Option Matrix and Clements' e-mailed comments.

Perkins noted he had talked with Karen Gillette, H&HS staff, and she had let him know the HAC subcommittee would be meeting on Friday to draft their concepts of last resort language to present to the BCC. Also, HAC had heard a presentation on some proposed last resort language for cities and counties, however, PW staff had not received any of this information. Code asked if she could clarify, noting she hadn't considered it a presentation at HAC; that she had copies of the model policy discussed at HAC if PW staff was interested in looking at it. Perkins noted that staff/VMAC had not received copies of the salmon information at this time. Code and Sundquist handed out some information. There were insufficient copies for all members, so Perkins said he would contact HAC to get the information to copy and distribute to VMAC. Koivula noted he had seen the documents and felt some of it would be valuable to include. Other members noted they needed time to read the information before making a decision.

Melotti suggested moving forward on discussion of the language to go to the Board on the 18<sup>th</sup> and leaving the reading and discussion of this material for next month. There was consensus. Continued discussion of the proposed language covered the following:

- o Would the Board of Health need to give concrete reasons for rejecting an herbicide
- o Concern this could be an emotional or arbitrary decision by another entity without having to give a viable reason
- o Feelings among some that they are backed in a corner, not being given any options
- o Delete the word "proposed"

MOTION: Melotti moved to forward the draft language, with the deletion of the word "proposed," to the Board of Commissioners. Bodner seconded. Discussion included the suggestion to add wording about record keeping and periodic evaluation, and the suggestion that VMAC become familiar with what records are being kept before making any further recommendation.

Commissioner Morrison clarified that the public is welcome to give public comment at advisory committee meetings and they may also stay and listen to the agenda discussions, however, aside from the period of time for public comment, all discussion and input is to be between committee members and staff.

Melotti withdrew his motion.

Graves asked if ODA inspects PW's records. Perkins responded that ODA comes in to inspect any time there is a complaint or concern; PW has been told we exceed the ODA's record keeping requirements. Perkins noted there are also time records, safety logs, etc. that have to be kept and maintained. Graves asked if our records met FIFRA. Perkins responded yes. Morrison asked if it would be possible to have someone from ODA come comment about Lane County's IVM Program. Graves added another speaker possibility, to provide some balance, would be someone from Oregonian's for Food and Shelter.

Morrison shared that the Association of Counties (AOC) and the Oregon Association of County Engineers and Surveyors (OACES), recently worked on a project to develop policy on how to decide what is or isn't valid scientific information. This project began because policy makers, nationwide, are not always receiving valid scientific information to base their decisions on. This policy has been forwarded to Washington D.C. The intent of the policy is to set up a system to contract with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to review all information and come out with something policy makers can use. Terminology is one big issue, and the intent is for all parties to agree on one definition of a term that would be used nationwide. *[end of T1S1]*

Further discussion of record keeping and availability of records. Hoffer asked what kind of evaluation process we have in place, and if there is a way to constantly be challenging and looking for new techniques. Perkins noted PW has tried various alternative methods, however, to date he's not aware of any historical records that were kept. Morrison explained the evaluation process set up in Lane County's Strategic Plan

and asked Hoffer if her question was basically asking how well is this evaluation process taking place; is it being done. Hoffer agreed.

Snowden noted if the Board adopts this draft language, staff will be taking the Control Option Matrix to the Board each year, which will give the Board an opportunity to ask staff to look into something new, etc. Snowden added, since PW is not a research and development agency, he would expect that most of the research and evaluation would be literature research. Morrison added that VMAC could also put evaluation of various methods into their annual work plan.

Melotti expressed an interest in having evaluation language inserted into the draft. Lengthy discussion. Melotti read from "the model program" [?]. Snowden explained if the Board agrees to the use of the Control Option Matrix, that evaluation will be an integral part of that process. In addition, staff will be bringing new ideas to VMAC, and we would also expect VMAC members to be bringing new ideas and technologies to the table. More discussion. It was clarified that the Control Option Matrix would not be a one-time, static document; that it would be reviewed/changed as new situations and/or technologies came up, and that the document would be reviewed by VMAC and the Board of Health on an annual basis.

Manewal stated, as the recording secretary, she had a problem with discussing a document [the one being referred to as "the model program"] that wasn't available to all persons present.

Kesling expressed a desire to add some type of language into the draft to protect the program against emotional decision-making; something to give some sort of confidence that the Board of Health would be required to look at this more in depth in their annual review. Continued discussion on evaluations and the Control Option Matrix. Morrison noted, looking at the makeup of the people around the table, that everyone would be coming into contact with new information on a regular basis; and that it would be her hope that members would be bringing that information to the table as a "sharing information" piece for everyone. She continued by saying this is some of the role and responsibility of advisory committee members.

Continued discussion resulted in consensus to insert the following underlined phrase into the sentence stating: "The Director shall also report on new control methods that have replaced herbicide use from the previous year, those methods that have been considered and rejected, or that the Department intends to investigate as an alternative to herbicide use during the coming year."

MOTION: Melotti moved to approve the Draft Last Resort Herbicide Policy language as amended [delete "proposed" and add "those methods that have been considered and rejected,"] for staff to forward to the Board of Commissioners. Bingham seconded. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

#### V. IVM COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Member absences - Perkins noted that Clements and Harris had both notified staff they could not attend tonight's meeting, adding that Harris had sent a fax noting he would also be absent in July, however, he would be able to attend future meetings. Considering the number of absences for Harris, consensus was for staff to relay to Harris the Committee's concern over his level of interest/commitment.

Operations update - Perkins reported the main efforts are on mowing; weather permitting some herbicide applications are taking place; crew vacancies are filled; there are a lot of new employees on the crew, so basic training is also happening.

#### VI. REPORT ON STEAM AS VEGETATION CONTROL

Infrared heat - Koivula explained that he had contacted the City's maintenance section, and the equipment they used was not steam; it was infrared heat. The name brand is Forever Green EcoWeeders. Koivula offered to rotate the information and CD among interested persons. Koivula noted this equipment would be useful in applications like around courthouses, sidewalks, facilities, etc. Members expressed an interest in hearing and/or seeing a demonstration. Perkins gave an Internet address for those interested in getting more information: [www.chemfree-weedcontrol.com](http://www.chemfree-weedcontrol.com).

Hot foam demo – Perkins passed around photos taken during the BLM hot foam demo [copies in file] and responded to comments/questions. Melotti noted he was aware the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council is proposing to do some restoration at Elijah Bristow State Park. They will be trying three different methods and one method will be using the Waipuna System on one acre of blackberries.

VII. REVIEW 2003 WORK PLAN

MOTION: Koivula moved to carry forward Agenda Item VI, "Review 2003 Work Plan," to the July meeting. Melotti seconded. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

Staff distributed updated copies of the 2003 Work Plan.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Potential agenda items for July 9, 2003:

- ODA presentation on evaluation of LCPW record keeping
- Report back on Board action from June 18, 2003
- Review 2003 Work Plan
- Discuss August meeting
- Discuss CalTrans Reports included in the June agenda packets

Melotti noted he would be out of town on July 9; Hoffer will be out of town the second week of August.

Meeting adjourned at or about 7:30 p.m.

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Recording Secretary