

MINUTES  
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
August 13, 2003

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

Chair Mike Koivula called the meeting to order.

- I. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 9, 2003

Melotti moved to approve the Minutes of July 9, 2003 as written. Bodner seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

- III. LAST RESORT ORDINANCE 12-03

Chickering reported the Board of Commissioners had voted 4-0 (Morrison absent for medical reasons) in favor of Ordinance 12-03. The Ordinance won't take effect for 30 days; however, Public Works has chosen to halt the use of herbicides on the right-of-way at this point in time to satisfy the spirit and intent of the Ordinance. Staff is starting to work on the steps necessary to implement the Ordinance, with one of the first goals being to check the current herbicide products against the requirements/criteria in the Ordinance. Chickering noted another step for management staff will be to define the subjective terms within the Ordinance and set policy so field employees will have a clear guide as to what is expected of them.

Bodner asked what kinds of changes are being talked about. Chickering and Perkins noted most changes involve posting requirements, creating larger signs, creating new record keeping formats, developing Web pages, phone recordings, hospital notification methods, etc. Chickering added that some of these efforts will need to be coordinated with the County's Information Services Department.

Koivula asked about the status of Commissioner Lininger's position. Chickering noted the interview process had been temporarily postponed due to Commissioner Morrison's absence. Snowden added that if the Board doesn't agree on a replacement, then the vacancy would stand until the election in May.

Chickering noted staff would keep VMAC up to date on the implementation progress; that if staff runs across problems, they will bring it to VMAC for feedback. Snowden added it is PW's intent to go back before the Board this fall with the first "annual" report.

- IV. REVIEW 2003 WORK PLAN [T1S1-350]

The Committee reviewed copies of their updated 2003 Work Plan/Accomplishments and requested that staff add the following items under accomplishments:

- 1.a. = "See 6.c., Review Last Resort Ordinance"
- 2.a. = Discussion on using existing data in lieu of re-testing alternatives
- 2.a. = Reviewed/discussed Cal Trans report on alternative methods
- 4.b. = Preliminary discussion on city's infrared methods/Koivula supplied CD
- 6.b.1. = Have staff look for/add discussions & dates on signs, etc.
- 6.b.1. = Reviewed/approved IVM Program brochure

Koivula asked members what items they would like to work on over the next few months. Melotti suggested item 2, a – d, which would tie in with the last resort policy and working on alternative methods. Koivula suggested item 5.a, looking at the CIP with the concept of last resort in mind. Melotti noted he could bring information back from the NW Oregon Invasive Weed Mgt. Partnership, which would fall under 5.b.

In response to a question, Perkins announced that October will be his last meeting with VMAC and, as of November 1, he will be officially retired.

- V. IVM RECORDS PACKET – Perkins noted the final ODA records inspection report should be available for the next meeting. Perkins also noted it appears the Pesticide Use Reporting System will not be funded, although PW has continued to collect and supply the data until they officially hear otherwise. Kesling stated he thought a notice had come out stating that as long as an agency maintains the data on-site, it doesn't need to be reported in the system.

VI. CALTRANS REPORT ON ALTERNATIVES

Members noted it was amazing the amount and types of alternative methods that had been tested and included in the "Final Report to Caltrans: Exploring Alternative Methods for Vegetation Control and Maintenance Along Roadsides," December 2002, Univ. of Calif., Div. of Agriculture & Natural Resources. There was a short discussion on a few of the alternatives and the cost data.

Bodner asked if the CalTrans report had included native and/or competitive plantings as an alternative. Perkins responded negatively, but explained that Washington DOT had information in that area. Perkins will supply WDOT information in the next packet.

VII. IVM COORDINATOR REPORTS

Operations update – Crew is just about done with single-pass, safety mowing. The vegetation crew has been starting work at 5:00 a.m. in order to compensate for the 1:00 p.m. shutdown due to Level III fire danger. Staff also explained the Level III fire danger requires a 1-3 hour fire watch after equipment shutdown. In response to a question, Manewal (Bill) explained what a fire watch is and that 3 years ago, a 5-gallon fire-suppressant can was sufficient; last year it was increased to 15 gallons; this year, in order to get any waivers on the length of fire watch, 100-200 gallons were required. To respond to this new waiver requirement, PW fitted several follow-vehicles with 123-150 gallon water tanks with hose reels and pumps. [end of T1S1] Perkins stated the Department of Forestry is the agency that sets the fire levels and the related requirements. Manewal (Bill) added he has also been running one top trimming crew, and that brush mowing will start up soon.

Training – Perkins reported that three members of the crew would be attending an upcoming ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Conference.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting dates for remainder of the year - Committee discussed future meeting dates and the fact that they hadn't taken a summer month off due to the last resort issue.

MOTION: Melotti moved that VMAC take the month of September off. Kesling seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Next regular VMAC meeting will be October 8, 2003.

Agenda items for October 8 – Karen requested that staff give a status report on work plan item 2.b., e.g. review where VMAC left off, supply any printed information that had been drafted, etc. Bodner also noted that a Commissioner had been interested in VMAC's review of the committee selection process, e.g. whether to include applicant interviews, etc.

Member attendance – Members asked about Harris. Perkins stated he had contacted Harris and passed on the Committee's concerns. Melotti read Article III, Section 2 from the VMAC Bylaws. It was noted that input

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from someone in Harris's position would be very valuable, however, the Committee hasn't had that benefit, even in written format during some important issues.

MOTION: Koivula moved that VMAC, according to Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws, ask the Board of Commissioners to request that the delinquent member resign and that a new member be appointed. Melotti seconded. Discussion. All present voted in favor, motion carried. Discussion on timing resulted in staff noting that a packet could be to the Board by September 10.

Staff distributed copies of a Eugene Weekly article, which had been written by Commissioner Lininger regarding Ordinance 12-03.

Bodner gave staff a copy of "The Hendricks Park Forest Management Plan" and requested that copies be included in the next VMAC packet.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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Recording Secretary