

MINUTES
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 8, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bingham, Karen Bodner, Paul Clements, Doug Graves, Molly Hoffer,
Mike Kesling, Mike Koivula, Chris Melotti
MEMBERS ABSENT: One vacancy
BCC PRESENT: Commissioner Morrison
STAFF PRESENT: Mike Perkins, Doug Putschler, Bill Manewal, Arno Nelson, Howard Schussler,
Caroline Manewal

Chair Mike Koivula called the meeting to order.

- I. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 13, 2003

Clements referred to page 2, Item VII, "Operations Update" – regarding the sentence "To respond to this new requirement, PW fitted . . ." Clements requested the Minutes clarify that the ODF hasn't changed their standard fire watch requirements; these changes are due to negotiated waivers between ODF and PW.

Melotti moved to approve the Minutes of August 13, 2003 as amended. Clements seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

- III. IVM COORDINATOR REPORTS

Operations update

- Crew vacancies - The Vegetation crew currently has two vacant RM2 positions generated by employees transferring to different jobs; one within the County and one outside. Also, the IVM Coordinator position will be open after October 30. Chickering will act as the PW liaison to VMAC.
- 2003 Herbicide Index – Perkins referred to the index supplied in the October agenda packet and responded to questions. Perkins noted this information/form would probably change and become more specific under the new Ordinance. Manewal (Caroline) noted this database was intended to be an index only. It was created to facilitate finding/referring back to the original posting and application records when more specific information was needed.

Bodner asked how one knows how many roadside miles were treated on a specific road. Perkins responded the application record and truck tape would give that information.

- Mowing – Manewal (Bill) reported full-width mowing and heavy brush mowing are going on now. Two machines, a 90/30 and an IT, are working on a large project on Champion Creek. Also, some hydroseeding is scheduled. Manewal added, although spring is the ideal time to hydroseed, that timeline doesn't fit in with the finalizing of road maintenance projects in early fall. The wetlands project on Pennyroyal has also received a hydroseeding application.

- IV. LCSO NEWSLETTER

Perkins read an e-mail staff had received from the Lane County Sheriff's Office (LCSO), which explained they were developing a quarterly newsletter. LCSO would like to supply this newsletter, electronically, to advisory committee members. Discussion. Consensus was for staff to supply the e-mail addresses to the LCSO for the quarterly newsletter distribution.

V. VMAC VACANCY PROCESS

Current vacancy – Perkins explained, after the last VMAC meeting/motion, Harris had resigned from VMAC. Staff had posted the vacant position for 30 days; no applications had been received, so staff had re-posted the vacancy. The current posting closes October 31 at 5:00 p.m. Staff handed out blank application forms.

Recruitment process – Perkins outlined the current process used for VMAC. Morrison noted there isn't any consistency right now among departments/committees regarding terms, interviewing, participation, etc. She added this is an area the Commissioners will be talking about during an upcoming goal setting session.

MOTION: Clements moved to go forward with filling the current VMAC vacancy in the same manner as before, except to put a notice in one new place. Discussion.

AMENDED MOTION: Clements amended his motion to go forward with filling the current VMAC vacancy in the same manner as before, with the addition that staff send/post the notice at three different bicycle shops. Melotti seconded. All present voted in favor and motion carried.

VI. 'LAST RESORT' IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT

Perkins reported that after reviewing the final Ordinance, Chickering had created an outline, set up meetings, and given out individual assignments to several people. Each staff person present talked about the status of his or her assignments.

Perkins noted his primary assignment had been to review the current list of chemicals and do an evaluation of each one under the different criteria in the Ordinance. Perkins stated he has completed this project. He added that if VMAC gets to review the information, they need to look at some of the Ordinance criteria areas, e.g. the Illinois list was developed in 1996, however, nothing was ever done with it.

Morrison requested that after Chickering returns, staff e-mail the list of, and status of, assignments out to her and VMAC.

Manewal (Caroline) reported her assignments had to do with changes in notification. She has contacted the four Lane County hospitals, set up the contact points, and drafted a sample fax cover sheet. She also showed the Committee a sample draft of the larger roadside posting signs to give them an idea of the size the signs will be.

Manewal (Bill) stated he was primarily working on record keeping. He noted most of the requested information was already being recorded, however, the format of the reporting forms will probably change. He added that to meet the weather information requirement, they plan to print off and attach the weather service report to the application record for that day. Discussion.

Nelson reported he has been working on compiling a list of where County-maintained roads cross over or are adjacent to streams, wetlands, school areas, parks, and bus stops. Discussion on bus stops covered: 1) The previous system allowed for parent-choice regarding whether to have a no spray area for their child's bus stop, under the Ordinance it could be mandatory; 2) notification to parents occurs each fall; 3) currently no way to know about new stops which might come up during the school year; 4) currently only way to know a family has moved is through the annual renewal process; 5) visible school bus shelters are automatically skipped during applications; 6) under the Ordinance each bus stop will now include 800' of no spray area; 6) under the Ordinance, that within the 800' school bus stop buffers or within 100' of water, PW will not be able to deal with noxious weeds that do not respond to manual treatment, e.g. Japanese knotweed.

Morrison asked if PW would be documenting problem areas that show up during implementation of the Ordinance, e.g. Japanese knotweed in an area that can't be treated. Perkins responded that would be covered in the annual report to the Board on results of alternative methods that have been tried. Morrison

noted she had recently read in the minutes of a watershed council that now, because of the new Ordinance, Lane County will no longer be able to participate in cooperative efforts for the eradication of noxious weeds. Perkins agreed, stating one watershed council had already contacted him. He added that our partnership with this watershed council had allowed them to get ODA monies; also PW would have been able to give them a facility permit and the watershed council was planning to treat the noxious weed sites at their expense. This will no longer be possible.

Morrison asked if PW has given formal notification to other agencies regarding the Ordinance, explaining that each spring the Board reviews projects from other agencies regarding funding. Morrison noted it would save the Board a lot of time if the staff from these other agencies already knew which projects Lane County would not be able to partner in, so they would not even present those to the Board.

Clements asked if PW was tracking time spent on implementation of the Ordinance. Lengthy discussion.

MOTION: Clements moved that, if possible, Public Works assign a project number to track the cost, so when the annual report goes to the Board it can include the cost of doing this. Lengthy discussion.

AMENDED MOTION: Clements amended his motion and moved that Public Works figure a way to accurately know the costs and that these costs be included in the IVM Program's annual report to the Board. Melotti seconded. All present voted in favor, motion passed. Morrison requested that staff let VMAC know what method(s) they come up with to track/figure those costs.

VII. WORK PLAN ITEM 2b – "Enhancement Projects" [T1S2-925]

Perkins noted the enhancement project process is outlined in the IVM Program's Standards and Guidelines (Aug. 2001) document. Lengthy discussion.

MOTION: Koivula moved that staff ask Legal Counsel if someone from their staff could report back to VMAC on potential liability and other legal issues involved with citizens working on roadside enhancement projects along the right-of-way. Seconded. Discussion. All present voted in favor and motion carried.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

WashDOT document – The Committee discussed: that Washington State appears to control noxious weeds with herbicides regardless of an individual county's no spray policy; Lane County's reforestation efforts at Blue Mtn. Park; that many Washington counties have weed boards that deal with the noxious weeds; the reasons behind the high cost of "pulling shoulders"; possibly mixing a weed barrier product into the shoulder ballast following an overlay project; the difficulty of finding comparable data from other states/counties due to geographic and climatic differences.

Agenda items for November

- Further discussion of WashDOT report
- 2003 Work Plan item 5b - possible guest speaker, Patrick Smith, from the NW Oregon Invasive Weed Management Partnership (NoWMP) [Melotti will let staff know for sure]
- 'Last resort' implementation status report

Members expressed their appreciation and best wishes to Mike Perkins.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Recording Secretary