

MINUTES  
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
December 10, 2003

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bingham, Karen Bodner, Paul Clements, Sandra Corbin, Doug Graves,  
Molly Hoffer, Mike Kesling, Mike Koivula, Chris Melotti  
BCC PRESENT: Commissioner Morrison  
GUESTS: Patrick Smith  
STAFF PRESENT: Sonny Chickering, Bill Manewal, Arno Nelson, Caroline Manewal

Mike Koivula called the meeting to order.

- I. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER - All present introduced himself or herself to Sandra Corbin.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 12, 2003

MOTION: Clements moved to approve the Minutes of November 12, 2003 as written. Melotti seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

IV. GUEST SPEAKER

Melotti introduced guest speaker, Patrick Smith, who is the Coordinator for the Northwest Oregon Weed Management Partnership (NoWMP). Smith used a PowerPoint presentation to give a brief overview of what the partnership does. Smith stated the basic goal of NoWMP is to stimulate and coordinate regional weed management and information sharing. The local partnerships, called Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs), work on the same goals locally.

Smith's presentation covered the following topics: [hard copy of PowerPoint slides available in file]

- Maps of the areas covered by NoWMP & the CWMAs
- The strengths of weed management partnerships
- The different members of NoWMP
- An overview of the Upper Willamette CWMA
- An overview of the Mid-Coast CWMA
- Accomplishments of the regional NoWMP
- Accomplishments of the local CWMAs
- 2004 Plans/goals of the CWMAs

In response to questions, Smith said that:

- Japanese knotweed grants came in from OWEB [Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board], another was a cost-share grant from BLM, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> is still in process
- One plan for 2004 is to emphasize working with other agencies like the railroad & Weyerhaeuser
- There are plans to develop a State-wide weed database
- There is discussion on reviving weed districts
- Each of the partners of NoWMP will be signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU)
- Expenses to NoWMP partners is commonly in the form of staff time or providing office space
- He showed photos of Japanese knotweed in its different growing stages
- The objective of the knotweed control project is to stop the spread and effectively contain current infestations; a main focus will be infestations at the upper watersheds &/or a complete tributary
- Basically the only effective knotweed control method is chemical; Clark Co. has developed an injection gun that uses glyphosate; there's bio-control research going on in England, but results are probably about 10 years out

Smith announced the next meeting of the Upper Willamette CWMA is Dec. 18, 9:00-12:00, at the USDA Service Center in Tangent. The focus of the meeting will be refining their management plan and preparing their 2004 operating plan. He stated anyone is welcome to attend.

Bodner requested hard copies of Smith's PowerPoint presentation. Smith will e-mail a copy to staff. Smith distributed copies of *the Upper Willamette Cooperative Weed Management Area Five-year Management Plan, October 2003 draft*, the *Mid-Coast Cooperative Weed Management Area Five-year Management Plan, December 2003 draft*, a master copy of the *Cooperative Weed Management Area Memorandum of Understanding*, and copies of *Selected Noxious Weeds of Oregon, BLM*. Smith noted NoWMP is working with BLM to update the noxious weeds of Oregon booklet. Bodner suggested adding a photo of an immature plant/seedling next to the mature plant.

Chickering asked Manewal (Bill) about the status of knotweed problems along County-maintained rights-of-way. Manewal responded his crew has been dealing with quite a few sites with varying levels of success; it is a tough plant to control, and it's definitely a multi-year process.

Morrison reported on her experience regarding the Resource Advisory Committees (RACs) and funding for the weed management partnerships. Morrison explained: the broad makeup of the advisory committees; that members are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture; that one of their duties is to disperse Title II monies that are given to the RACs; the reasons behind some RACs turning down funding for NoWMP for 2004; some local RACs have chosen to apply money to eradication efforts, but not to planning.

Smith explained the reasons behind the formation of NoWMP, noting that there are a lot of independent interests and efforts and the goal of NoWMP is to coordinate joint efforts and not have repetitious work being done. He acknowledged that each funding source legitimately has its own set of priorities as to how they want to spend their monies.

Koivula asked Smith if he would be willing to bring a progress report back to VMAC in about 6 months. Smith agreed. Members thanked Smith for his presentation.

#### V. INTRODUCTION OF NEW ROAD MAINTENANCE MANAGER

Introduction - The new Road Maintenance Manager, Arno Nelson, introduced himself. Nelson gave a brief background of his work history. He has worked for Lane County for 21 years and has work experience in several areas including field surveying, construction inspection, planning, bridge maintenance supervisor, and most recently, he's been working directly under the previous Road Maintenance Manager dealing with the chip seal and overlay projects, fish culvert replacement projects, etc. Nelson noted his weakest point regarding experience is in the vegetation management area.

Continuation of IVM Program - Nelson gave his thoughts regarding a continuing IVM program for vegetation management. He noted the existing program appears very solid, however, he is not sure where the last resort policy will be taking PW. Nelson noted he's been working on mapping all the potential no spray areas under the last resort policy and it appears to include approximately 400 road miles at this point, which is a major concern. Nelson distributed copies of a color-coded map showing the restricted areas, along with an explanatory page.

Recruitment of new IVM Coordinator – Nelson noted the duties of this position would probably change quite a bit from what it was. Nelson added that staff members would be meeting over the next couple of months to try to decide what the real needs will be.

#### VI. FINAL VMAC 2003 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MOTION: Clements moved to approve the VMAC 2003 Work Plan/Accomplishments. Bodner seconded. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

Clements asked Melotti if there had been any follow-up regarding the amount of success of the BLM hot foam demo on Weiss Road. Melotti will find out and report back in January.

## VII. ROAD ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

Chickering referred to materials supplied in the agenda packets, noting VMAC members had requested an opinion from Legal Counsel regarding liability associated with volunteers working on roadside enhancement projects. Chickering showed members a copy of the current Adopt-a-Road pamphlet/packet, adding that most of this material could be adopted for enhancement projects. Legal Counsel had noted two additional items, parking of vehicles needed to haul in plants/materials for the project and discretionary immunity.

Chickering noted the original intent of roadside enhancement projects was different from what is proposed in the new last resort ordinance. It was noted the facility permit would need to be amended to match the restrictions in the new ordinance. There was lengthy discussion on the possibility of single, volunteer situations, e.g. a Boy Scout doing project for Eagle badge, versus a group taking on long-term maintenance. There was also discussion of if/how to establish documentation methods, e.g. have summer help take photos of an all-day process, etc., to be able to show what efforts have been involved in alternative method trials [end T1S2] and the efforts put in by some other states to establish native wildflowers successfully growing on rights-of-way.

## VIII. LAST RESORT ORDINANCE

Review of Ordinance tasks already performed - Chickering referred to the *Draft Implementation Plan/Checklist* provided in the packets, noting that the highlighted sections show items we were already doing in some fashion, however, he clarified that it doesn't necessarily mean we have been doing these items to the level required by the new ordinance. Clements noted Section III. 6. E. is the part where it would be good to photo-document each step, including any breakdowns or downtime. Chickering summarized the background of the new ordinance for Corbin.

Project number for Ordinance implementation – Chickering reported that #03807 has been assigned for employees to use on timecards in order to track time spent on implementation of the Ordinance.

Draft letters to spray program partners – Chickering referred to the draft letter in the packets, adding that he would appreciate any comments on the letter and also any suggestions for a list of recipients. Members made the following suggestions for word changes in the letter:

- Change the first sentence to read something like “The Lane County Public Works Department wishes to inform...” or “Public policy for the use of herbicides along County-maintained roadsides has changed....”
- Define VMAC in the 3rd paragraph since it's been taken out of the first sentence
- In the 4th paragraph, add the word “voluntarily” in the first sentence; “...Lane County has voluntarily suspended all use of...”

Members suggested the following recipients: watershed councils, Corp. of Engineers, rural fire departments, electronic copy to Patrick Smith for further distribution, and possibly making a public service announcement.

## IX. OTHER BUSINESS

- Agenda items for January 14, 2004
  - Election of officers
  - Draft 2004 Work Plan
  - Report back from Melotti on BLM demo
  - Info from Patrick Smith – PowerPoint hard copy and recipients of letter
  - Update on last resort Ordinance

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Recording Secretary