

MINUTES
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 14, 2004

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bingham, Karen Bodner, Paul Clements, Sandra Corbin, Doug Graves, Molly Hoffer, Mike Kesling, Mike Koivula, Chris Melotti

STAFF PRESENT: Arno Nelson, Bill Manewal, John Petsch, Caroline Manewal

Mike Koivula called the meeting to order.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 10, 2003

Staff distributed hard copies of Patrick Smith's PowerPoint presentation, which is referenced in the December 10, 2003, Minutes.

MOTION: Bodner moved to approve the Minutes of December 10, 2003 as written. Melotti seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Koivula opened nominations for chair. Discussion. Kesling asked if Koivula and Melotti would agree to reverse roles. Discussion.

MOTION: Kesling moved that the current Chair and Vice-chair exchange roles, making Chris Melotti the Chair and Mike Koivula the Vice-chair for 2004. Hoffer seconded. All present voted in favor, motion carried.

Koivula turned the meeting over to new chair, Chris Melotti.

IV. 2004 COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

Manewal (Caroline) noted there were several different work plans and formats included in the packets; that Committee members are not "locked" into keeping the same headings, etc., year after year. Nelson added that staff might have some items related to the last resort policy to propose for VMAC's Work Plan; that if VMAC would leave some space in their work plan, staff could bring these items to the February meeting.

Regarding format, it was agreed to keep the current format with the addition of a "timeline" column.

The Committee discussed each 2003 Work Plan item one at a time, making decisions to keep, delete, or add to. See attached 2004 Draft Work Plan for details.

V. NO SPRAY AREA INFO. PACKET

Manewal (Caroline) reviewed each page of the NSA informational packet that had been included in the agenda mailing and responded to questions.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Report back on BLM hot foam demo – Melotti reported he had spoken with the BLM botanist regarding the effectiveness of the Waipuna hot foam treatment of false brome on Weiss Road. It appears the hot foam was effective on plants where the foam had completely contacted the foliage; waiting to see if seeds were also affected. Melotti will try to get more information about a false brome Web site he heard about.

Kesling asked if BLM could supply VMAC with a statistical analysis of the control level with this test plot. Melotti will check.

Update on Last Resort Ordinance implementation – Nelson reported the biggest change currently taking place is that Bill Manewal will be filling in the IVM Coordinator position, along with being the Vegetation Supervisor. Some of the Vegetation crew RM3's will be rotated to work in a 2nd lead worker position; this will hopefully free up enough of Manewal's time for him to work on the last resort implementation.

Staff also met to re-identify and make some changes in responsibility for the original assignments. Nelson introduced John Petsch, the new Road Maintenance Planner, who will also be working on the implementation process. Nelson summarized the following assignments:

- Define subjective terms found in Last Resort Ordinance 12-03 – Sonny Chickering
- Acceptable tolerances for various types of vegetation/action thresholds – Bill Manewal
- Draft permitted products list w/justification that each chemical meets mandatory requirements; draft matrix showing how closely each chemical meets "other factors" to be considered – Bill Manewal and/or a consultant
- Define and field-verify areas along County roads that are specifically off-limits for herbicides – John Petsch
- Pre- and post-application notification signs; and other methods of notification – Caroline Manewal
- Revise record keeping formats – Bill Manewal
- Preparation of Annual Report to be presented to the Board – Betty Mishou

Nelson noted he is reluctant to fill the IVM Coordinator's position until the details and direction of the last resort ordinance implementation are in place.

VII. DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled VMAC meeting will be February 11, 2004. The following agenda items were suggested:

- Finalize the VMAC Work Plan for 2004
- Report back from staff on the Transportation Research Board Conference – Chickering and/or Snowden
- Update on Last Resort Ordinance implementation – Nelson

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Recording Secretary