

**MINUTES**  
**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday March 10, 2004**

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bingham, Karen Bodner, Paul Clements, Sandra Corbin, Doug Graves,  
Molly Hoffer, Mike Kesling, Mike Koivula  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Melotti  
STAFF PRESENT: Sonny Chickering, Stephonee Colley, Arno Nelson, Bill Manewal, Caroline Manewal,  
John Petsch, Ollie Snowden  
BCC PRESENT: Commissioner Anna Morrison

Vice-Chair, Mike Koivula called the meeting to order.

- I. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 11, 2004.

C. Manewal announced that she would not be continuing to act as recording secretary for the VMAC. She explained that over the years she had seen the benefits of knowing the “history” of a program, so now, at the beginning of implementing the last resort ordinance, seemed to be the best time to make any changes. S. Colley was introduced as the new recording secretary. C. Manewal will continue to do vegetation management support in other areas, such as no-spray and last resort implementation.

Koivula noted, under III.C, Sub-item 3, that he was not the person who made the suggestion that “thresholds need to be defined”; that Clements had made the suggestion.

MOTION: Corbin moved to approve the Minutes of February 11, 2004, as corrected. Bingham seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

- III. VINEGAR AS AN HERBICIDE – Not discussed due to Melotti’s absence.
- IV. CIPM GRANT OPPORTUNITIES – Karen Bodner

Bodner referred to agenda packet materials and said this information would be good to consider looking into, and see if it could work into the roadside enhancement program. Chickering also stated that he was thinking of grants as a possibility for the roadside enhancement program. Morrison pointed out the grant money offered (\$5,000) may not be enough to do a lot. She added that most grants require you to have a specific project in mind when you apply; and that with the amount of monitoring required, it would be better to pursue larger amounts. Morrison said that if the VMAC wanted to do research to find available grants of a substantial nature, then they would need to apply for it and then probably go before the Board for approval.

Bodner suggested using both grant monies and volunteers; Morrison noted that using volunteers can create union issues. Chickering said this information may be good to pass on to groups that approach the Committee about an enhancement site; that the group may be able to apply for the grant. Snowden said that if volunteer groups were going to do that, it would be good that they coordinate with the County before they apply for any grant.

There was Committee discussion on CIPM grants, identifying grant sources, application deadlines, and that OWEB [Oregon Water Enhancement Board] grants could possibly be tied in.

Corbin asked who chose enhancement sites (County or VMAC). Chickering said there haven’t been any enhancement projects, so a system will be created to deal with that as soon as either VMAC nominates one or an outside group asks for one. Chickering referenced an email sent to members that contained criteria of where enhancement projects should be, how they should be done, conduct rules in the right-of-way during the enhancement and suggested that the members refer to it (Standards And Guidelines Manual).

Morrison suggested that the members take notes of areas for enhancement and bring it back to the Committee for discussion, develop what the enhancement projects and costs would be, and figure out how to apply for a grant to accomplish a particular project. Kesling was concerned that potential guidelines haven't been established.

MOTION: Bodner moved that the members add to the Work Plan, as Item 2., e), "Continue to research grant opportunities related to roadside vegetation management," with a timeline of 6/04. Corbin seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

V. NSA ANNUAL RENEWAL UPDATE FOR 2004 – Caroline Manewal

C. Manewal referred to the 2004 No Spray Area Annual Renewal Stats and explained the numbers, how the mailings work, and answered questions.

VI. ROAD MAINTENANCE MANAGER / OPERATIONS UPDATE – Arno Nelson

A. General: Nelson reported the Vegetation Crew is now on (4) 10-hour days/week, but may move to (5) 10-hour days for a couple of weeks as of March 15<sup>th</sup>. This is to accommodate storm clean up, as well as preparing for the upcoming duties for spring. Federal aid money may be used to recoup some of the cost for storm clean up.

B. Update on Coburg Tree Situation: City of Coburg hired Nelson Tree Services to conduct inspection of second tree subject to removal, but found that the tree did not contain rot and did not warrant being cut down. Nelson said that he and B. Manewal are going out to inspect 6-8 other trees in Coburg for rot and possible removal during the next week (3/15/04).

C. Noxious weeds – B. Manewal reported he had attended a recent meeting of the Upper Willamette Valley Weed Coop where Glenn Miller had been a guest speaker. Miller had reported that there have been some very encouraging results using a seed weevil on meadow knapweed, that false brome is more of a problem than originally thought, that distaff thistle is in Douglas County, and there is some gorse back in the Pleasant Hill area.

VII. REVIEW OF PROPOSED 04-05 IVM BUDGET – Arno Nelson

Nelson explained that the budget reports included with the agenda ~~is~~ are for Road Maintenance as a whole. He said they do have actual vegetation costs for last year, but there is no separate budget for vegetation. Snowden explained how the budget is prepared for each year, and that approximately 15% of the Road Maintenance budget is for vegetation. Chickering said PW currently tracks accomplishments for each task, so increases will be seen in mowing and brushing hours. Nelson added that information is not always consistent due to unexpected storm clean up and other projects. Koivula asked if there was any place in the budget for an enhancement project. Nelson explained the cost of enhancement projects would involve having County staff pulled off other projects, which would effect those other projects not being attended to more than the actual dollar cost of the enhancement itself. Nelson confirmed that the new budget would be close to last year (\$1.6 to \$1.7 Million). Chickering stated that the budget has been through the County Administrator's review, and the next step is Budget Committee review (April, 2004).

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Potential VMAC Projects Handout:

Chickering referred to the handout that was distributed last meeting and passed out additional copies to those members who did not have one on hand. Chickering also referred to last meeting's Minutes, and that Items 1, 2, and 3 would be discussed further during this meeting. Chickering asked Corbin for comments relating to her item (2), and Corbin explained 2 different landscape architecture studios offered to students, one is design only, the other is design/build. Corbin said that she has provided the name of the department head to C. Manewal. Morrison said that the enhancement project offered to the students would offer some

creativity, but it would also have to fit into criteria to be developed by VMAC. Corbin said that she would try to get more information about the studio design/build program.

Pursuant to Bodner's request to see a map showing what an area looks like now under LRP versus the old IVM (last meeting February 11, 2004), Nelson distributed two "No-Spray Analysis" maps, the first showing IVM (299 miles countywide, not spraying), and the second showing LRP (393 miles countywide, not spraying). Nelson said that the current 393 miles of no-spray do not have all the bus stops included (40 plus bus stops are currently on record). Bodner pointed out a discrepancy between the 2 maps; Nelson explained the 2 systems have not been reconciled, but he hopes to have an updated map at the next meeting. Chickering reviewed Item #1, and members discussed guest speakers, e.g. someone from OSU Extension Service, Glenn Miller, and Jed (Calhoon?) from OSU. Kesling will get more information about Jed. Bodner agreed to research a weed and present information in May.

**B. Last Resort Ordinance Status Report:**

B. Manewal said he had contacted our different herbicide suppliers asking if they have products that would fit into the last resort criteria. He hopes to have responses before the April meeting. Chickering said he was concerned about current workload of County staff affecting their ability to put together the first annual report, so he has an environmental consultant on retainer (Jones & Stokes, Portland) with expertise in herbicides and herbicide programs that will provide the County with an estimate based on the scope of work given to them by John Petsch. Chickering said that he would like this to result in a finished operator's manual for the Last Resort Policy that can be used by the Vegetation Crew, as well as a template for future annual reports. Bodner asked if a test plot had been selected and Nelson said that next month he should have some ideas and locations for the Committee.

**IX. TIMELINE FOR 2004 COMMITTEE WORK PLAN**

Chickering asked members to discuss timelines/target dates on the work plan. The following was done:

- Item 1: Moved "Glenn Miller, guest speaker" to Item 5.c.
- Item 1.a: Timeline: March 2004, and accomplishments include "discussed budget".
- Item 2.a: Timeline added: April 2004.
- Item 2.b: Timeline added: April 2004.
- Item 2.e: New item added: "Continue to research grant opportunities".
- Item 5.c: Revised to read, "Noxious weed information sharing" (followed by 2 bullets)
  - VMAC members
  - Glenn Miller
- Item 6.a. Deleted question in parentheses

**X. DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled VMAC meeting will be Wednesday, April 14, 2004.

The following agenda items were suggested:

- Continue to discuss VMAC Work Plan, Items 2.a and 2.b
- Vinegar as an Herbicide – Chris Melotti
- Update on Possible Herbicides – Bill Manewal
- Thresholds - Discuss Timelines from the VMAC Work Plan for 2004
- Road Maintenance/Operations update

Bodner distributed copies of "Japanese Knotweed" from The Nature Conservancy of Oregon.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

---

Recording Secretary

**APPROVED: 4/14/04**