

**MINUTES
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 8, 2004**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Bodner, Doug Graves, Molly Hoffer, Mike Kesling, Mike Koivula, Chris Melotti

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Bingham, Paul Clements, Sandra Corbin

STAFF PRESENT: Sonny Chickering, Bill Manewal, Arno Nelson, John Petsch, Ollie Snowden, Debby Woodruff

BCC PRESENT: Anna Morrison

GUESTS PRESENT: Jodi Lemmer, East Lane Lost Creek Knotweed Project

Chair, Chris Melotti, called the meeting to order.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Melotti read suggestions provided by Sandra Corbin (absent) as regular items under the Agenda:

1. Noxious Weed Activity – Provide action, comments, etc. taken
2. New Ideas Section – For Committee/Staff to make suggestions, comments, etc.
3. IVM Coordinator Update

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 10, 2004

MOTION: Koivula moved to approve the Minutes of November 10, 2004 as corrected. Kesling seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

(Corrections include misspellings of alfalfa, drought, and beets; changed “salt tolerance” to “salt tolerant”; changed “he (Koivula) missed the October meeting” to “he missed the September meeting”).

III. CONTROLLING KNOTWEED IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST – PRESENTATION BY JODI LEMMER, COORDINATOR FOR THE EAST LANE LOST CREEK KNOTWEED PROJECT

Lemmer gave information on her background in environmental science, with interest in stream ecology. She was hired in April as the project manager for the knotweed project along stream corridors. Morrison asked how much this was overlapping the Senate Bill 10-10 implementation and Lemmer answered that as far as the business district goes, the Bill and her project are joint.

Lemmer referred to the handout (nature conservancy information), that her organization follows for study and treatment, and began her presentation:

Japanese Knotweed: This plant is from Asia, introduced to US as an ornamental. It is a non-native, invasive, and aggressive plant. Stems are light green, leaves are smooth, and flowers

are produced as large clusters in white to tinted yellow in color. Knotweed is growing in the coastal areas, as well as in the Lost Creek area among the blackberries. Knotweed can grow from three to six feet tall, produces very large, broad leaves, and has a very dense under-story, which shades out any potential natives. Knotweed is able to compete for habitat with blackberry and English ivy. It is capable of creating so much biomass in just one season that the plant is able to shade out even the more aggressive plants. Regarding reproduction, knotweed has extensive rhizomes (potato-like root underneath). During high water and/or disturbances, the root is transported downstream and easily re-establishes itself. Branches will root if they are broken from the root source (beavers use it in building materials and will clear it, which leaves the plant the ability to sprout from its nodes). Initially, it was thought that the seeds were not viable, but now research is suggesting otherwise. If viable, then the plant can reproduce from the root, stem, and seed.

Problems that infestation can cause, specifically for the County, is encroachment on bridges along riparian areas. A problem for East Lane is infestation on private land. Landowners deal with knotweed by mowing or ignoring it. If it is mowed, landowners are asked to burn the debris. Knotweed is being found in heavily compacted, grazed, and used areas, where other plants will not or cannot grow.

ODA has a program online called Weed Mapper (www.weedmapper.com). The program consists of all kinds of data inventory points so that searches can be used to find out where certain plants are being found in the state.

The first objective of the project was to locate, treat, and eliminate knotweed at the Lost Creek Watershed (it is reasonable that "eliminate" may be changed to "control"). The second objective is to encourage re-vegetation in the treated areas with a desirable plant. The timeline is 3-5 years to be able to claim any success. Budgeted funding for the project in 2004 is \$8,000 (\$4k for inventory and outreach education, and \$4k toward treatment of 8.1 acres for the year). Both BLM and OWEB contributed funding. The project was initiated by sending out 137 mailings in the Lost Creek area inviting landowners to a workshop, of which nine people attended. Five of the attendees signed up to participate in the project. In all, the project ended up with 28 participants. At the workshop, participants were presented with the knotweed facts sheet, and it was explained that Lemmer would inventory their property and then would hire an applicator to treat the acreage. Herbicide treatment was the main option chosen because of time and budget constraints (mechanical control would be too time consuming and expensive). The herbicide method was a choice, and the injection method was mostly chosen (injection is made at the bottom of the stem, 5 cc's of herbicide per injection). Landowners may use the herbicide injection guns to treat their own property, but would need to be licensed to apply the herbicide using the guns on another property owner's land. Some property owners who had very small areas of infestation chose mechanical control. Garlon and glyphosate were the main herbicides used, which are working well.

Data that is being collected on the East Lane Lost Creek project will be shared with federal and state land use agencies that are dealing with control issues, who are also conducting research on how different plants are growing, and making predictions of future establishment/treatment methods. The Lost Creek project is also partnering with Benton, Marion, and Polk County. Lemming said her project began from the top of the watershed down to the railroad tracks, and during the next year, they hope to continue from this area and move toward the confluence. The infested locations were put on an aerial photo and put in a GPS system, and the project will continue with more mailings and workshops (next one in May 2005).

Lemmer said that knotweed is not poisonous, but animals don't eat it because it's not palatable, a sour plant (she's heard that beavers and some insects will eat on it).

Lemmer summarized the project as follows: Currently, 28 Lost Creek area landowners are participating, their land totaling 99 acres; the area is 1.6 miles upstream; a total of 8.1 acres has been inventoried and treated (with injection gun and spray); the herbicide amount applied was approximately 1.7 gallons per acre; outreach, education, and partnerships with landowners, Union Pacific Railroad, Middle Fork Willamette Watershed, and Elijah Bristol State Park were key elements. Educational materials used for this project were developed by the Nature Conservancy and ODA. Lemmer conducted the workshops in partnership with Glenn Miller (ODA), Amy (Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council), and personnel from the Lost Creek project. Objectives for the project are to continue to target infestations, replant where knotweed is treated, educate landowners, and continue to enhance natural resources.

IV. NOXIOUS WEED SUBCOMMITTEE PRIORITIES – SONNY CHICKERING

Chickering referred to a previous handout, Potential VMAC Projects, and asked for comment.

Item 1. "Each committee member could pick an invasive/noxious weed...include the use of guest speakers...": Hoffer asked if there was an order of priorities, and Manewal said Gorse, Meadow knapweed, and Puncturevine should be priorities for the next round of guest presentations.

Item 2. "Recommend tolerance levels for the various invasive/noxious weeds...Last Resort Ordinance...": Bodner asked how the Committee would do this, and said she thought that Staff would be responsible for this item. Melotti suggested that the Committee meet with Shane Latimer, or Staff could present this item to him for more information. Chickering said that when Latimer's first draft is complete, this information should be provided.

V. ROAD MAINTENANCE MANAGER / OPERATIONS UPDATE – NELSON, MANEWAL

Nelson reported that road maintenance crews are working on 2005 chip seal and overlay roads. Snowplows are ready and CMA tanks are loaded for storm events.

VI. REVIEW & RECOMMENDATION OF APPLICATIONS TO THE BCC

Chickering handed out applications and a template he created as possible criteria for selection of new members (relevant experience, prior participation on other committees, stated position on herbicide, and other concerns found on applications). He explained that since Staff re-advertised the Vacancy Notice, all motions from the last meeting in November are void, and the Committee will select members from the applications given to them today.

Bodner asked current members where they are geographically located within Lane County, and Committee responded. No one currently represents north or south Eugene/Springfield areas. Committee agreed to move forward and Hoffer motioned to reappoint Mike Koivula, David Bingham, and Chris Melotti. Graves seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

Snowden said that other committees have voted for members by submitting secret ballots with their top two choices, and then votes were tallied. Committee decided to do the same, and

APPROVED: 1/12/05

submitted their votes (Clements submitted his recommendations in writing prior to the meeting due to an excused absence). The top two vote tallies were for Douglass Moser and Susan Forester.

Chickering will submit recommendation to the BCC on January 3, 2005, that Susan Forester and Douglass Moser be appointed new members to VMAC, and that David Bingham, Mike Koivula, and Chris Melotti be reappointed to serve from 1/1/05 to 12/31/08.

VII. FAIRWELL TO OUTGOING MEMBERS – SONNY CHICKERING

Graves thanked the Committee for its interest and work. Morrison commented that she felt this Committee has been the most productive. Melotti thanked Graves for his input and being part of the Committee.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

2. DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: WED., JANUARY 12, 2005:

- Welcome to new members
- Nomination & election of new officers
- Completion of Annual Report
- Develop 2005 Work Plan
- Test Plot Planning – Staff nominate locations

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Recording Secretary