

**MINUTES  
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
February 9, 2005**

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Karen Bodner, Paul Clements, Susan Forester, Molly Hoffer, Mike Kesling, Mike Koivula, Chris Melotti, Douglass Moser
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** David Bingham
- STAFF PRESENT:** Sonny Chickering, Stephonee Colley, Bill Manewal, Arno Nelson, John Petsch, Ollie Snowden
- BCC LIAISON PRESENT:**
- GUESTS PRESENT:** Bruce Newhouse

Chair, Chris Melotti, called the meeting to order.

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Jan Nelson – Introduced herself as a member of the Health Advisory Committee (HAC). She informed VMAC that HAC met last night and Sonny attended to share information regarding the Jones & Stokes report. She asked if Shane Latimer, Jones & Stokes, would be able to attend the next HAC meeting scheduled March 8<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7 p.m. at the Health Building on 6<sup>th</sup> Street, and Chickering said he had already arranged that, so Shane will be attending. Nelson said that the NCAP consultant who worked on the ordinance would be attending. She also welcomed VMAC to attend the same meeting to hear their discussion of the Jones & Stokes report.

John Sundquist – He explained that he was a VMAC member from 1996-2000: He said he wanted to apprise current VMAC members that he was very interested in no spray, and also that it was he who brought what he thought were problems with the spray program to the attention of the Lane County Commissioners. He said he hoped that the Vegetation Crews would continue to generate and actively maintain productive roadsides that filter road run-off and keep ditches and waters running to the rivers clean. He wished VMAC members the best of luck in no-spray.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 8, 2004**

MOTION: Hoffer moved to approve the Minutes of January 12, 2005, as corrected. Forester seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

(Corrections include: Under Items 7 & 8 – Changed “this item to be discussed at” to “Moved to”).

**III. INVASIVE PLANTS – BRUCE NEWHOUSE, GUEST SPEAKER**

Melotti introduced Bruce Newhouse, a dedicated volunteer who has personal and professional commitment to the protection and enhancement of the community’s natural environment. Newhouse has been a leader in wetland programs, a founding member of the Willamette Resources & Education Network, a founding member of the Cascade Mycological Society, past president of the Native Plant Society of Oregon, and current president of the local chapter of the

Native Plant Society, and has been a member of the Eugene Storm Water Dept. Advisory Committee. Newhouse is a graduate of the OSU School of Forestry (& Landscape Architecture), and has worked for the Cities of Grants Pass and Springfield.

Newhouse began his presentation by explaining that he worked for Lane County during the summer of 1989 conducting surveys for County roads; his responsibilities included mapping of T&E (threatened and endangered) vegetation communities on about 700 miles of County roads. Currently he is doing a lot of botany work in Lane County, including projects for the forest service, BLM, and private landowners. He deals with many natural habitats, and sees a lot of invasive species that find their way to these wildlife areas via roads, birds, and other means.

Newhouse said that from an ecologist's perspective, there really is no pure native habitat that remains in western Oregon because of weed encroachment from farming, grazing, logging, and development (150 years or so of Euro-American settlement).

Newhouse discussed the following definitions:

Native – Plant that evolved on a site without human involvement

Non-Native – Alien, exotic, introduced by humans

Exotic Invasive Plant – Competes for space, water, and nutrients. They form monocultures and lower native diversity. They also may hybridize, pollute the gene pool, and deprive animals of food. Plant introductions can happen accidentally by hitchhiking or escaping from roadsides.

Waifs – Persist only for a short time

Naturalized – Long lasting persistence

### **Highest impact Invasive Plants:**

- European beach grass
- Magellanic fuchsia
- Montbretia
- Pampas grass
- Sweet vernalgrass
- Armenian Blackberry (also known as Himalayan blackberry)
- Butterfly Bush – Currently banned from sale
- Candy Plant attracts butterflies; choking out the willows (Salmon Creek, Oakridge)
- Creeping Buttercup – A common yard weed also found in coastal areas; tough to get rid of
- English Ivy – Found in Hendricks Park; once this ivy is at a location for a long time, it becomes dense and will choke out natives
- Himalayan Balsam – Found in Seattle, Washington, Wolf Creek in Benton County, and in coastal areas
- Purple Loosestrife
- Pennyroyal – Forms monocultures and reduces diversity (found in Fern Ridge/Eugene wetlands)
- Yellow Flag Iris – Choking out flytails in West Eugene areas (these are still sold in nurseries)

**Invasive Weeds:**

- Gorse – Sold in nurseries and found in Douglas County, the Umpqua, and coastal areas (takes mechanical means to get thru it)
- English Hawthorn – Has genetic problems, and hybridizes with native hawthorn, which has leaves without fingers (don't know if bees and other insects will be able to adapt to these polluted genes)
- Garlic Mustard – Found in Portland area, Columbia Gorge scenic area, and Lane County
- Green Alkanet – Found in North Junction City, and is naturalizing in the Tillamook area
- Harding Grass – Found in Willow Creek area; jumping the road to other fields (BLM bought the land, so they may get it under control)
- Lesser Celandine – Not on roadside yet, but found in Hendricks Park down to Willamette River banks; resistant to spray – leaves will die, but roots live
- Multiflora Roses – State of Oregon planted it along I-5; found in the Fern Ridge area; birds love to eat it and then spread it around. Very long arching stems, beautiful, but bad
- Norway Maple – Found in Skinner Butte Park; similar to the Sugar Maple; this plant grows up through ivy
- Portugal Laurel – Birds love it and spread it around
- Spurge Laurel – Loves shade and is a beautiful plant that will flower in January and February, then produce blue berries that birds eat in April and May (found in Washington State and 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Eugene)
- Potpourri 1 – Blac Locust and Foxglove (found moving toward mountains and coastal areas, and by rivers)

**Super Weeds:**

- Himalayan Knotweed – One of the four giant knotweeds (Found along roadside at Blue River Dam and Tillamook coastal roads)
- Japanese Knotweed – Growing at Skinner Butte Park, and may have been planted there (City of Eugene is trying to cut it)
- Giant Knotweed – Injection method is getting 100% kill if applied correctly (Found in Tillamook County, Lane County coast off 101, and Triangle Lake)
- Hybrid Knotweed (Japanese?) – Not huge, but most common along Lane County rivers
- False Brome – Perspective is that it's the worst invasive to hit Oregon prairies, dense shade areas, and wetlands – very tolerant and is a monocultural plant. BLM is using the Waipuna treatment to gain control. The plant is very green into summer and fall; hairy, broad, and shiny leaves (plant was originally found in Eugene and SE Springfield in 1939; now also found at the Metolious)

**IV. DEVELOP 2005 WORK PLAN – COMMITTEE / STAFF**

Revisions include:

- 2.e. – Moved to 5.d.
- 3.b. – Review consultant's report and provide recommendation to the Board of Health
- 4.c. – Focus on soil ecology as a role in weed management
- 5.c. – Replaced items 1 & 2 with "Guest speakers and subcommittee reports"

Moser commented that he would like to have some test plots started that focused on the food mix in the soil. He said that compost is a miracle substance for controlling weeds and that the County would have access to tons of it. Melotti suggested that a speaker address soil and

Moser said he would contact a speaker to try to schedule a presentation.

**V. FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> REPORT TO HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE:  
STATUS OF LAST RESORT ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTATION – CHICKERING**

Chickering attended the HAC meeting on February 8<sup>th</sup>, and shared with VMAC what he discussed:

- Provided update to bring Committee up to speed
- Provided copies of the August 2003 Ordinance
- Stated that Lane County imposed a no-spray policy until the first annual report is approved by the Board of Health
- Provided copies of on-going communications with NSA participants
- Stated there have been delays in implementing the policy due to Lane County staff turnover, but we now have a final implementation report
- Provided copies of the Table of Contents of the Jones & Stokes Report to inform HAC members of the topics covered
- Proposed the final Jones & Stokes Report and Staff Response be completed by March so that both HAC and VMAC Committees could elect to hold public hearings or joint meetings on the implementation plan
- Suggested that Shane Latimer and himself (Chickering) be present at the next committee meeting to discuss the report and staff response
- Suggested that an official joint meeting (HAC and VMAC) be scheduled in March. HAC decided instead to invite VMAC members to attend their next meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>

**VI. FINAL JONES & STOKES REPORT (LAST RESORT ORDINANCE) – CHICKERING**

Chickering said the Board of Commissioners, acting as the Board of Health, would provide direction based on an analysis of the report, the staff response, and the recommendations of the HAC and VMAC. Chickering estimated it would be July before the issue goes before the Commissioners.

**VII. DRAFT STAFF RESPONSE / JONES & STOKES REPORT – CHICKERING**

Chickering handed out and discussed a partial list of recommendations from the Jones & Stokes report. A full staff response to the recommendations will be presented to the HAC and VMAC at their respective March meetings.

**VIII. TEST PLOT PLANNING – MANEWAL**

Manewal presented a Japanese knotweed root from Wilkes Drive off River Road, which he said the Vegetation Crews were working on. They are placing heavy plastic over the invasive vegetation as part of weed control. The Vegetation Crews are also working out on Clear Lake, east of Green Hill, using mulch-type covers on Japanese knotweed. Bodner asked if there are any CIP projects that could provide an opportunity for a test plot. Chickering said that seed mix would need to be changed from current projects if they are chosen sites. Melotti said he's working on a hydro-seeding project and asked about a polymer – Manewal said that Weyerhaeuser is making one. Moser added that EWEB might be a source. Melotti asked for periodic updates on the knotweed status from Manewal.

**IX. ROAD MAINTENANCE MANAGER / OPERATIONS UPDATE – NELSON, MANEWAL**

Nelson reported that crews are working on paving season preparation, which includes: Drainage maintenance, changing out pipes, and dealing with vegetation issues on roadsides.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

1. DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: WED., MARCH 9, 2005:

- Review budget for road maintenance and vegetation management sections for last year
- Discuss J&S report and Staff Response (45 minutes)
- Update on HAC Meeting held March 8<sup>th</sup>
- Report on Roof Gone Product – Bodner
- Seed Mix Sources – Koivula, Melotti
- Soil Presentation – Elaine Langdon?
- Develop criteria for test plots – Subcommittee

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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Recording Secretary