

MINUTES

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 9, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bingham, Karen Bodner, Paul Clements, Molly Hoffer, Chris Melotti, Douglass Moser

MEMBERS ABSENT: Susan Forester, Mike Kesling, Mike Koivula

STAFF PRESENT: Sonny Chickering, Stephonee Colley, Bill Manewal, Arno Nelson, John Petsch, Ollie Snowden

BCC LIAISON PRESENT: Faye Stewart

GUESTS PRESENT:

Chair, Chris Melotti, called the meeting to order.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jan Wroncy: Served on VMAC for 8 years; interested in seeing this last resort policy have a chance to be used as it was written; concerned about J&S report and said a lot of important things were left out; regarding the J&S proposed list of permitted herbicides – she did internet research on some on the herbicides listed and found sodium sulfite, polythol glycol, dyes, formaldehyde, trisodium phosphate, Garlon 4 (contains petroleum solvent), and kerosene. The ordinance said that other ingredients have to be considered, and she said that the J&S report does not do that. She also commented that she would like to see more places where public comment can be part of process.

John Sundquist: He attended HAC meeting last night; he said he'd attempted to forward a letter to County Engineering, that he'd previously sent to Faye (Colley gave him correct email address to forward any correspondence to VMAC Staff and Committee). He said the ordinance is good and should not be amended and needs to be followed.

Jan Nelson: HAC member; She thanked Melotti and Chickering for attending the HAC meeting the night before. She said that HAC has reviewed the J&S report and also Chickering's staff response. She does not want to go through the amendment process, and said nothing prohibits Public Works from adding information at the intersections; said that time spent recruiting candidates with experience on these issues could have been accomplished and implementation of the ordinance could have began.

Melotti said that the decision was made that the ordinance would be up and running prior to hiring the IVM Coordinator.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 8, 2004

MOTION: Bodner moved to approve the Minutes of February 9, 2005, as corrected. Bingham seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

III. UPDATE ON HAC MEETING HELD TUES., MARCH 8TH – CHICKERING

Melotti, Morrison, Chickering, and Latimer (J&S Consultant) attended meeting. Latimer provided a general overview of the report to HAC. Chickering went over response document, explaining intentions, and that Latimer's role as consultant was to help find a means of understanding definitions, provide a recommended list of herbicides, and also provide an appearance of objectivity as an outside party. Chickering explained that Staff will be filling the IVM Coordinator position, but he is concerned with the ordinance in its current form. Chickering wanted more information on the ordinance to determine new requirements of the position.

Chickering reviewed J&S recommendations and chose what he should propose to move forward. He will give his recommendations, ask recommendations of both HAC and VMAC, and then the BCC will provide direction. HAC decided to create a subcommittee to work on the report and response and come up with their recommendations. HAC stated they felt it would be beneficial if VMAC created a subcommittee to do the same. Chickering handed out a Draft Response from NCAP (provided by Ameer Code).

IV. DISCUSS JONES & STOKES REPORT AND STAFF RESPONSE – CHICKERING

Chickering reviewed his staff response:

Herbicide Uses: J&S report suggested a number of ways of using herbicides, referring to Caltrans, which has much different roadsides than Lane County.

Monitoring Practices: Chickering explained that the County has a GIS system in place for monitoring systems, but would need to add layers to address vegetation management.

New Tech: Willing to research and try.

Action Thresholds: Credible goal to attempt to control noxious weeds; County Road Department can contribute in joint projects, weed management agencies, etc. Does not want to take on task solely, due to funding and other restrictions.

Proposed Herb Products: Hot topic – proposed list put together by J&S was intended for use by road maintenance staff without going to BCC for approval. Any desired use outside the list or procedure would then require going before the BCC. Concerns were regarding the list were brought up, such as “should products be eliminated from the list now, or wait for control prescriptions so that we don't throw out product(s) that may be needed?” Chickering will have J&S work on control prescriptions then decide what to keep on the list. Melotti suggested since the inert ingredients that Jan Nelson mentioned were missing from the J&S list, that it seems like important missing information, and suggested that it should be gathered before going to the BCC.

Control Prescriptions: Appendix has sample prescriptions – only samples, not intended for Lane County use.

Structural IVM Coordinator: Initial analysis – it makes sense to go forward and hire for this position.

Trainings: Always willing to learn more.

Public Notification System: Notification signs discussed.

Report Templates: Annual report lacking information he would like to see. Latimer will round that part out with the final report.

Chickering said the goal is to have HAC and VMAC review his staff response and provide separate comment/recommendation. He suggested that the Committees not limit comment to his own, but look through the J&S Report and his staff response document and comment on any items they feel need to be addressed.

Melotti suggested that each member provide comments in writing by the next VMAC meeting.

V. REPORT ON ROOFGONE, INC. PRODUCT – BODNER

Bodner reported that the product is made up of 50% asphalt shingles and 50% cedar shakes. It is used as a mulch to keep weeds down (PH = 6.9). The company is selling the product commercially at \$2 per cubic, but cannot market or sell to the public per DEQ at this time. Snowden asked if the shakes used are treated with fire retardant, and Bodner said she wasn't sure. Bodner added that the DEQ is concerned about the asphalt, but had no reliable information on the carcinogenic components. Manewal and Latimer visited the company, and Latimer said he was aware of DEQ concerns.

Melotti said he looked up the Roofgone, Inc., product on the DEQ website and read that there was various asbestos exposure. The company's permit to sell the product is good until 2014. Melotti recommended that the County probably should preclude usage.

VI. DEVELOP CRITERIA FOR TEST PLOTS – SUBCOMMITTEE / HOFFER

Hoffer said the subcommittee did not meet and is looking for direction from Staff of what exactly is of interest regarding a test plot. Manewal suggested different types of mulches that could be used in an area as means of the testing control. Chickering said that site preparation within a CIP (Capital Improvement Project) would be ideal and would entail a minor alteration of changing the seed mix. Moser would like to work toward fertilization trials. Clements suggested researching websites.

Moser said he could get a speaker for an upcoming meeting to discuss soil.

VII. GRANTWRITING WORKSHOP – BODNER

Bodner said the workshop she attended was very good. She asked for direction as to whether the County is interested in grants and if so, how should she proceed? Nelson said he would be interested, but if abutting landowners were not, then it would be futile. Melotti said he understood that permission would have to be granted by the BCC if the Committee was to apply and accept grant monies. He suggested that a presenter provide information to VMAC. Nelson added that once a grant is received and implemented, a five-year monitoring timeline would follow. Grant money is made available once a year, and this year's deadline has already passed. Bodner said the Watershed councils and BLM also attended the workshop. Clements suggested that the Siuslaw Watershed Council might be a good partner. He said that Lane County's goal might be similar to the watershed council. He spoke with someone in Corvallis, and will contact her again for more information.

VIII. ROAD MAINTENANCE & VEGETATION MANAGEMENT BUDGET REVIEW - 2004

Moved to April meeting.

IX. ROAD MAINTENANCE / OPERATIONS UPDATE – NELSON

Nelson reported that road maintenance crews are working on 70 miles of road, ditching, brushing, and changing out culverts. Main focus now and upcoming months is getting vegetation mowed and brushed back from roadsides.

X. JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE WITH HAC

Melotti said that at the HAC meeting, its members decided to create a subcommittee (members include Jim Lakehomer, Cynthia Roberts, Ruth Duemler, Jan Nelson). The subcommittee's role would be to discuss the J&S Report and Chickering's Staff Response document, and provide comment. HAC suggested that VMAC do the same (subcommittee of 2-4 members to work with HAC subcommittee to formalize response to documents). An additional purpose of the subcommittees would be to brainstorm and gather more information on the chemical aspects (HAC) and vegetation aspects (VMAC). After members responded, Melotti said that VMAC should hold off from forming a subcommittee until after the whole committee addresses the documents.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: WED., APRIL 13, 2005:

- Discuss Possible Joint Subcommittee with HAC
- Seed Mix Sources – Melotti
- Road Maintenance & Vegetation Management Budget Review 2004
- Grant Applications Policy (Lane Manual 21.137)
- MSDS – Additional Product Information

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Recording Secretary