

**MINUTES  
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
July 13, 2005**

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Karen Bodner, David Bingham, Paul Clements, Molly Hoffer, Mike Koivula, Chris Melotti
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Susan Forester, Mike Kesling (Resigned 7/13/05), Douglass Moser
- STAFF PRESENT:** Sonny Chickering, Stephonee Freeman, Bill Manewal, Arno Nelson, John Petsch
- BCC LIAISON PRESENT:**
- GUESTS PRESENT:**
- PUBLIC PRESENT:** Jan Nelson, John Sundquist

Chair, Chris Melotti, called the meeting to order.

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Jan Nelson: She referred to Agenda Item #6 (meeting with Health Advisory Subcommittee), and said she thought the subcommittee and VMAC should have met sooner; Melotti said that they'd agreed that they would meet after the control prescriptions had been received. Nelson said she would like to encourage a joint meeting without the control prescriptions.

John Sundquist: He said that he spoke with Stephonee the day before about getting copies of VMAC materials in advance of meetings that would include draft meeting minutes instead of waiting for the approved minutes being posted on the Lane County website. Chickering responded that he wanted to stay consistent with what the Board of Commissioners do, and that is to only post approved meeting minutes.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Hoffer moved to approve the Minutes of June 8, 2005, as corrected. Bodner seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

**III. SOIL BIOLOGY PRESENTATION SCHEDULE – BODNER**

Bodner asked that another Committee member follow up on this item. Melotti said he would try to get a speaker lined up for the September meeting.

**IV. BH 3316 NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL FUND (STATE) – CHICKERING**

Chickering said the bill has been introduced in the State House of Representatives and the purpose is to create a place for citizens to donate funds for weed control. The bill also discusses how the funds can be spent. Before Lane County could benefit from any funds, it would have to create one or more weed control districts. Chickering said that the weed control districts would have to be supported by taxation as well as grants and donations, and that creation of weed control districts could reduce VMAC involvement in noxious weed issues. Koivula asked if there were any local sponsors (of the bill), and Chickering said he wasn't aware of any.

**V. UPDATE – CONTROL PRESCRIPTIONS FROM JONE & STOKES – PETSCH**

Petsch said he received the first draft of the control prescriptions from Shane Latimer when he met with him last week. Petsch and Chickering determined that the prescriptions were too general and gave more specific direction to Latimer for the next draft. VMAC may expect the information in draft form by mail prior to the September meeting (no meeting to be held in August). Melotti said John Sundquist had asked for copies of meeting materials prior to actual meeting, and Chickering explained that there were problems with the current agenda on the website. He added that it is possible for the agenda and related handouts to be added to the website, although he would prefer that draft documents not be released.

**VI. REPORT ON CONSULTATION WITH HAC SUBCOMMITTEE/RECOMMENDATIONS TO J&S REPORT – MELOTTI**

Melotti said that he believed that HAC wanted to wait until the control prescriptions were released. He said he would schedule a time to meet with HAC subcommittee before the end of the month.

**VII. VMAC RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT (TO STAFF RESPONSE)**

Melotti asked if Chickering had discussed signage with the traffic engineer and Chickering said that since this is only a recommendation, he will wait until it is approved, and would then proceed.

Clements moved to approve the draft memo. Bodner seconded. Motion passed 5 to 1.

Koivula said that the proposed herbicide of Roundup should be prohibited due to recent findings from research, and if struck from the list of herbicides to be used, he would agree. Chickering said that he would be available to attend discussions between VMAC and HAC. Koivula asked that he also be included.

**VIII. IVM COORDINATOR POSITION UPDATE – NELSON**

The lateral opportunity notice was sent out, and one applicant was interviewed, but was not fully qualified. Nelson made some changes to the job description, and the position will be advertised on 7/17 and 7/24, in the following paper publications and/or websites: The Register Guard, Oregonian, Statesmen Journal, Corvallis Gazette Times, American Public Works Association, Siuslaw Watershed Council, Association of Oregon Counties, ODA Listserv – Weed Information & Invasive Vegetation, Oregon Chapter of APWA, and NW Oregon Invasive Weed Mgt Partnership. The position closes 8/1/05.

**IX. ROAD MAINTENANCE UPDATE – NELSON**

Nelson said that chip seals began July 5, and blade-patching crews have been working since mid-May. Special Projects crews have started fish culvert replacements (areas of Coburg, McKenzie, and the coast). Vegetation Crews are working overtime to catch up with mowing and trimming due to rainy weather in June, and are coordinating schedules to provide services to the different crews working on the roads.

Koivula asked if herbicide had been used in the past when working on the crack seals, and Manewal said not for the last 10-12 years. He added that illegal uses of county property should be reported to County code enforcement authorities. Manewal said Vegetation Crews have finished the safety strip mowing, except Oakridge, and that full width mowing is now in progress.

Bodner asked how Jan Wroncy knew that the private landowners spraying in the right of way didn't have a permit, and it was explained that the County had not issued any permits for this activity. Chickering said he was not going to contact one particular landowner regarding illegal spray, because then he would have to contact every landowner spraying, which would become a potentially huge undertaking. He suggested that, in the future, a letter could be sent to the landowner letting them know the County's policy and that the County has observed right of way spraying, but the issue of trying to track the correct owner of the property could become time consuming. Clements asked if County Staff will take a position on private spraying, and Chickering said no.

**X. COMMITTEE MEMBER RESIGNATION (MIKE KESLING)**

Melotti read Mike Kesling's resignation to the Committee, which was emailed to Chickering earlier today. He said that the Committee should also discuss Susan Forester's absences and that her position may turn into another possible vacancy. Chickering checked the bylaws, which directs the Committee to consider a member's termination after four unexcused absences.

Clements moved that Chickering send a formal letter to include the Committee bylaws and request a response of her intentions within a specified timeline, then report back to the Committee. Hoffer seconded. Motion passed 5 to 1.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS / NEXT MEETING ITEMS:**

1. Date and agenda items for next meeting: Wednesday, September 14, 2005:
  - Soil Biology Presentation – Melotti
  - Discussion of Weed Treaters, New Technologies Root out Non-Native Plant Species  
(Article provided by Faye Stewart at June meeting) – Committee
  - Road Maintenance Update – Nelson, Manewal
  - Introduction of IVM Coordinator – Nelson
  - Control Prescriptions from Jones & Stokes – Petsch

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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Stephonee Freeman  
Recording Secretary