

MINUTES
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 12, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Bodner, Molly Hoffer, Mike Koivula, Chris Melotti, Douglass Moser

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Bingham, Paul Clements

STAFF PRESENT: Stephonee Freeman, Bill Manewal, John Petsch, Orin Schumacher,
Ollie Snowden

B/CC PRESENT: Anna Morrison

GUESTS PRESENT:

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Chris Melotti called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

NA

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Moser moved to approve the Minutes of September 14, 2005, as corrected. Bodner seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

III. IVM COORDINATOR SELECTION – NELSON

Petsch introduced Orin Schumacher as the new IVM Coordinator, who graduated from Oregon State University, and has since been running his own consulting business. Schumacher will start on October 24, 2005.

IV. VMAC MEMBER APPLICATIONS / SELECTION & RECOMMENDATION PROCESS

Melotti asked if there is limitation on terms served, and Snowden explained that there is a limit of two consecutive terms, but can reapply for another term later. The Committee discussed each applicant and proceeded to vote.

Committee voted for the 1-year term position, and by 5/2, recommended Ross Penhallegon.

Committee voted for the 3-year term position, and by 4/3, recommended David Balthrop.

V. 2005 ANNUAL REPORT: INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – PETSCH

Petsch said he and Manewal attended the HAC meeting held 10/11/05 to discuss the report. He said the Subcommittee will review and respond to the report.

Petsch asked the Committee to make changes to table information in the report:

1. Page 5, Table 3: "The required 5%..." should read "The aspired 5%...";
2. "applied to no more than 9.9%" should read "applied to no more than 14.1%";
3. "...County roadside miles (284)" should read "...County roadside miles (405)."
4. Same page, Table 4 should read "The required 5%..." should read "The aspired 5%..."

Koivula suggested that Page 2, Item 3, be changed or deleted.

Snowden said the control prescriptions seem to focus primarily on efficacy, with little consideration to cost and action threshold. His preference is to present the Annual Report to the Board of Health with an addendum listing the corrections noted by Petsch, but not request adoption of the control prescriptions or permitted products list at this time. Rather, he feels that Staff should first ask the Board how it wants to consider cost when evaluating the control prescriptions. Once the Board provides direction, Staff can refine the control prescriptions and return to the Board for adoption of the control prescriptions and permitted products list in a few months. Snowden asked the Committee what their recommendation is, and Melotti suggested that Staff take the report "as is" with an addendum.

Bodner asked where the funds would come from should the Board not consider cost, and Snowden said that they would come from road funds. Cuts would hit modernization and revenue sharing with cities first. Health care, asphalt, rock, and fuel costs for County operations are going up faster than incoming funds. Without a change in these long-term trends, the County may eventually be faced with reducing the level of road maintenance service.

Committee reviewed comments to annual report faxed by Clements, who was absent from meeting.

Manewal told the Committee that his crews worked on creating a wetland project paid by Waste Management Division at Short Mountain (Quamish Prairie). The area was farmed years ago as a grass seed operation. Work included the removal of less than a dozen knotweed plants (involved digging down 5 feet into the ground to attempt to remove the plant roots, which were sprouting even under that depth). Dumping costs per ton was \$45 (dumping debris). The calculated weight per truck was 10-12 tons. In all, cost was \$12-\$15k for dump fees, plus other costs, totaling approximately \$15.3k. Project cost did not include removal of utilities, need for traffic control, or any pavement removal – so this was a simple project. Manewal said that should another project with those added complications be considered, cost would be considerable.

Asked how he would interpret the format for the RVM Prescriptions, Appendix A, Melotti answered that without any supporting information, he was not sure how manual/mechanical removal became #1 option for knotweed. He doesn't think that mowing or manual removal of knotweed is a good idea and added, why try non-toxic methods if they are non-effective and costly.

By consensus, the Committee agreed with Snowden's recommendation that the Annual Report be presented to the Board of Health, but that adoption of the control prescriptions and permitted products list be postponed pending direction from the Board and refinement of the prescriptions.

VI. SOIL BIOLOGY PRESENTATION UPDATE – MELOTTI

Melotti has an article regarding soil biology and will send it to Staff for distribution for next month's meeting.

VII. ROAD MAINTENANCE UPDATE – NELSON, MANEWAL

Manewal said crews are currently working on driveways and chip seal overlays; ditching and culvert work preparation is also in progress; hydro-seeding completed on culverts, and areas of Gibbs Creek and Delta Road; full-width mowing still in progress for areas of Cottage Grove, Dexter, and Oakridge; damaged and dead tree removal work in progress; Crews are currently running brush mowers. Also, due to retirements and promotions, there are many personnel changes currently in progress throughout Road Maintenance crews.

VIII. NEXT MEETING – WED., NOVEMBER 9TH

- Tentative Presentation - Soil Biology (40 minutes) – Melotti
- Journal Article on Soil & Weeds – Melotti
- IVM Update – Schumacher
- Report on New Member Appointments – Chickering
- Work Plan Discussion/Update – Committee

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Stephonee Freeman, Recording Secretary