

**MINUTES**  
**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**December 14, 2005**

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Balthrop, David Bingham, Karen Bodner, Paul Clements, Mike Koivula, Chris Melotti, Douglass Moser, Ross Penhallegon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Molly Hoffer

STAFF PRESENT: Sonny Chickering, Stephonee Freeman, Bill Manewal, Arno Nelson, Orin Schumacher

B/CC PRESENT:

GUESTS PRESENT:

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Chris Melotti called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

NA

**II. GENERAL COMMENT**

Chickering announced that he is passing the role of Staff facilitator over to Orin Schumacher beginning January. Schumacher will be responsible for agendas and other processes as the transition takes place.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**IV. REVIEW MEMBER STATUS – COMMITTEE**

A newly updated roster was distributed to Committee and Staff.

**V. WORK PLAN DISCUSSION AND UPDATE – COMMITTEE**

Committee reviewed and updated the 2005 Work Plan and will set up the 2006 Work Plan at January's meeting for submission to County Administration in February.

**VI. TEST PLOTS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS – COMMITTEE & STAFF**

Nelson said that test plots using mixed seed had been done before (When Mike Perkins served as IVM Coordinator), although monitoring was not consistent. Chickering said that 4 to 6% of the budgeted funds are directed toward landscaping. Chickering said that only 1% of a project's allotted funds are available for landscaping in rural areas.

Melotti asked if the County had any 2006 projects that could be considered for test plots, and Chickering said projects planned such as West Boundary Road, Jasper Road, Jasper Road Extension (has high embankments), and Bernhardt Heights may be possibilities. Schumacher added that there are riparian grasses on smaller-scale sites that may be available. Melotti suggested that an ideal site would be a long stretch of right of way, using the same seed mix.

Moser and Melotti both mentioned an idea from a book that they both have, or were reading, regarding a mix of wood-rotting mushroom and hog fuel with wood chips to control erosion and reclaim a road's right of way (mycelium breaks down the wood chips). This mix is then covered with native straw. Melotti said he will research the subject more and report back to the Committee.

Chickering said a bridge project planned on Row River Road involving a realignment (tearing out the old road and creating a new one) could be an ideal location for test plot activity. The project is planned for Summer 2006. Manewal said his hydro-seeder could complete the task of covering an area of up to eight (8) thousand square feet per load (8 ft wide, 1,000 feet long). It was suggested that Schumacher review sites listed in the CIP Program that would be possibilities for testing and report back to the Committee.

Koivula asked if a map could be generated based on the CIP program detailing vegetation areas, as well as have a wetlands component to it (plants, locations, etc.). Balthrop asked if a soil sample is taken before a test plot is considered, and Manewal said it will be done.

## **VII. IVM STATUS UPDATE – SCHUMACHER**

Schumacher reported that he has been working with the County GIS Department to establish GIS layers for threatened and endangered sites (for internal use). He is also working with the GIS Dept. to create a layer mapping noxious weeds. Road crews will be involved in noxious weed training in March and will participate in the physical mapping of such plants when found.

Chickering asked the Committee if there was interest in a GIS presentation next summer and the response was positive.

Schumacher reported that his agenda to the Board of Commissioners was approved today regarding the partnership between Lane County and the Northwest Weed Management Partnership, Upper Willamette Cooperative Weed Management Area. A Memo of Understanding will be signed to join the County with the Partnership, which is coordinated by Vern Holm. There is no cost to the County for this partnership, and will allow the County to be involved in dialog between the two agencies.

Schumacher reported that the City of Eugene is currently conducting research on the Sunburst thermal weed control equipment (prototype only) to find whether or not it is effective. The development phase is not ready for the County and is not a feasible alternative at this time.

Schumacher shared with the Committee some possible speakers for future meetings and will provide a list per Koivula's request:

- Doug Kruezer – Portland Nature Conservancy
- Vern Holm – Northwest Weed Management Partnership
- Dan Sherwin – Deschutes County (Schumacher's counterpart): Discuss their program as well as methodologies and equipment used that may be beneficial.

Melotti added Tanya Beard, Staff Botanist for Marion County.

**VIII. ROAD MAINTENANCE UPDATE – MANEWAL**

Manewal reported that full-width mowing for the County road system is complete with the exception of Northwest Expressway; in support of summer surface maintenance programs, heavy brush mowing is underway in Zones 1, 3, 4, and 5, and top trimming and pruning is underway in Zones 1 and 3, with Zones 2 and 4 scheduled next; tree removal is in progress in Zones 1 and 3; crop work with assistance from Lane Electric underway on Marlow Road (Lorane/Territorial), and crews are working with EWEB doing crop work along River Loop and Royal Avenue.

Nelson reported that each year crews work about three months on chip seal work and the other nine months are spent working on drainage maintenance. He said that the majority of the winter operations include sanding roads and applying deicer (focusing on bridges, corners, and shady spots), which has been the focus of crews during early morning hours for the past couple of weeks.

**IX. NEW / OTHER BUSINESS**

- None

**X. NEW ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – WED., JANUARY 11, 2006**

- Group discussion of Breaking New Ground: Soil Communities and Exotic Plant Invasion, June 2005/Vol. 55 No. 6, BioScience, article included in December 2005 agenda packet.
- Nomination for 2006 Chairperson and Co-Chair
- 2005 Annual Report – BCC Packet
- 2005 Work Plan (Final Review) – Committee
- 2006 Work Plan Draft – Committee & Staff
- Speaker/Presentation List – Schumacher
- Control Prescriptions – Discussion
- Permitted Products List – Discussion
- CIP Projects & Test Plot Sites – Chickering/Schumacher
- NWMP Informational Packet – Schumacher

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

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Stephonee Freeman, Recording Secretary