

MINUTES
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 9, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Bodner, Mike Koivula, Chris Melotti, Douglass Moser,
Ross Penhallegon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Clements, 3 Vacancies

STAFF PRESENT: Orin Schumacher, Bill Manewal, Caroline Manewal

B/CC PRESENT:

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jan Nelson, John Sundquist

Karen Bodner called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jan Nelson, 85354 Doane Road, Eugene, stated she was present to answer any questions members may have about her application. Bodner asked about Nelson's attendance on her other advisory committee. Nelson responded that the only months she would expect to miss would be May and June due to farming activities.

John Sundquist, 31139 Lanes Turn Road, Coburg, stated he was also present to answer any questions the group may have. He added that, during his previous 4 years serving on VMAC, he had not missed any meetings.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Melotti moved to approve the Minutes of June 28, 2006, as written. Koivula seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

III. GENERAL COMMENT

Book - Schumacher passed around a book, "Road Ecology Science and Solutions" by Richard T. T. Forman, Daniel Sperling, et al. He stated it is a very good book that discusses many European ideas and concepts on roadside vegetation management that have not yet come to the United States.

Member attendance – Koivula noted Clements' lack of attendance. Discussion.

MOTION: Koivula moved for staff to contact Clements and ask him about his ability to attend future meetings or if he would prefer to resign. Melotti seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

IV. APPLICATION REVIEW & SELECTION FOR VMAC VACANCIES – STAFF/COMMITTEE

Applicant recommendation - Melotti noted all three vacancies are intended to fill partial terms, and he wanted to be sure the Committee was aware of that. Members reviewed/discussed each of the seven applications. Members voted by secret ballot for their top three candidates; then re-voted amongst the top three to decide whom to recommend for the shorter term.

The Committee recommendations were for:

- Peter Graham, to fill the term ending December 31, 2008
- Jan Nelson, to fill the term ending December 31, 2008
- John Sundquist, to fill the term ending December 31, 2006

New member orientation – Current members requested that staff provide some type of complete orientation to bring new members up to speed on where VMAC currently is and where they are headed.

Term expirations - The Committee requested that staff include the current membership list with term expiration dates in the next agenda packet.

V. EQUIPMENT VIEWING, WAIPUNA – SCHUMACHER/MANEWAL

Members and staff went outside to view the hot foam Waipuna equipment. Schumacher gave credit to Mike Reel and Bill Manewal for all their work retrofitting the Waipuna equipment onto the truck bed. He explained: this equipment can only be leased, not purchased, and Public Works has the equipment through a Memorandum of Understanding with BLM; that the training and certification of PW operators on August 15-16 will be covered through BLM's existing lease agreement; PW will use the equipment to help BLM continue their efforts to control Japanese knotweed; PW plans to concentrate on using it for knapweed and false brome applications, plus experimentation on other problem species. Schumacher noted that hot foam applications are the most effective on young plants.

Schumacher will bring/show the Waipuna video at the next meeting.

VI. GIS & VEGETATION WEBSITE VISUAL PRESENTATION - SCHUMACHER

Schumacher explained the website is still in the building phase so what members will see is an internal version. The main reasons for this development are to convert paper documents to electronic ones and to provide an informational resource. He explained that Lane County's website is highly layered. Schumacher showed and explained the various screens. He stated VMAC will have its own page which will include agendas and approved minutes, adding that members are encouraged to provide input as to what they would like to see on their page.

Schumacher showed/explained pages that included GIS information on T&E (Threatened & Endangered species) locations that has been incorporated onto maps. The maps provide a site ID#, area measurements, and the actual number of plants (population) in each measured area. This data allows PW to continue to accurately track populations. Schumacher emphasized that T&E sites need to be managed to keep them from being overtaken by other plant species.

VII. TOP TRIMMING STANDARDS DRAFT, SERIES 2 – SCHUMACHER

Schumacher distributed draft copies of the "Lane County Vegetation Management Standards and Guidelines, Series 2, Top Trimming Standards" and asked members to review the information for discussion at the next meeting.

The Committee discussed the previously distributed "Lane County Vegetation Management Standards and Guidelines, Series 1, Brushing Standards." Schumacher clarified that the crew is currently working under the 2001 Standards and Guidelines; that these new guidelines will be implemented in December, after crew members receive full training.

Koivula stated he would like to see language to protect some species other than vegetation, e.g. some birds during bird nesting seasons. Discussion included: nesting season and fastest growing brush season occur at the same time; rapid-growth species need to be kept back; a lot of big machine brushing is done in the fall; check with Audubon Society about possible list of "hot spot" bird nesting areas; PW leaves shrubby buffers wherever possible; the Migratory Bird Act is more related to tree removal than to brushing. Koivula re-iterated he would like to see language in each of the series of standards and guidelines that indicates Lane County has a concern for species other than just vegetation.

VIII. IVM STATUS UPDATE – SCHUMACHER

See items V, VI, and VII above.

Private property owner spraying – Melotti said he had recently traveled on Papenfus Road and noted that a private owner had done a heavy amount of spraying, which included roadside trees.

IX. ROAD MAINTENANCE UPDATE - MANEWAL

Manewal reported that: the Delta overlay project is complete, so now the bowls can be mowed; chip seal operations are in full swing; dust oiling is complete; blade patch is on-going; Special Projects has been working five 12-hour days at Short Mtn. removing dirt for a new cell; safety strip mowing is completed; full-width mowing and cooperative projects with utilities are on-going.

X. REVIEW OF 2006 VMAC WORK PLAN – COMMITTEE/STAFF

Updated work plan.

XI. NEW ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – WED., SEPTEMBER 13, 2006:

- Welcome new members – Comm. Stewart/Schumacher
- Discuss Series 2, Top Trimming Standards Draft – Schumacher
- Review term expirations/upcoming vacancies - Schumacher
- Waipuna video - Schumacher

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Caroline Manewal, Recording Secretary