

**MINUTES**  
**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**September 13, 2006**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Bodner, Peter Graham, Mike Koivula, Chris Melotti, Jan Nelson, Douglass Moser, Ross Penhallegon, John Sundquist

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Clements

STAFF PRESENT: Orin Schumacher, Bill Manewal, Caroline Manewal

B/CC PRESENT:

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Karen Bodner called the meeting to order.

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**II. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Schumacher welcomed new members Peter Graham, Jan Nelson, and John Sundquist, then asked Committee members and staff to introduce themselves.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Melotti moved to approve the Minutes of August 9, 2006, as written. Sundquist seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

**IV. GENERAL COMMENT**

Mowing – Melotti noted the full-width mowing that is currently taking place looks good.

OSHA report on accident – Bodner said she had seen the Register-Guard article reporting that an equipment malfunction had been the main cause of the employee fatality in April. She asked staff for more details. Manewal explained the workings of the hydrostatic transmission on the tractor and what had broken. He also explained some of the new policies and procedures that have been put into place, adding that Schumacher has done an excellent job working on a new training process that will give PW formal documentation of trainings.

**V. ORIENTATION PART 1 – VMAC HISTORY**

Schumacher referred to the orientation packet supplied in the agenda packets and asked if anyone had any questions. He then summarized the VMAC history in more detail using a PowerPoint presentation.

**VI. REVIEW OF CURRENT MEMBERS' TERM EXPIRATION DATES**

Member attendance - Schumacher reported that he had contacted Clements regarding his interest in staying on the Committee, and Clements had expressed the desire to finish out his term. He added that Clements had called last week to say he would be unable to attend due to fire duty. Discussion. The recording secretary explained the timeline process involved in filling

vacancies, adding that the four upcoming term expirations, which includes Clements', are currently posted. Consensus was to take no action at this time.

Voting question – There was a question and lengthy discussion about the VMAC Bylaws language on voting and how it applies when there are vacancies on the Committee. Currently, the wording in Article VI, Section 4 states “The Chairperson shall be a voting member of the Committee. A majority of the voting members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum. Except as otherwise provided by these rules, all actions of the Committee shall require the affirmative vote of the majority of the Committee.” The Committee asked staff to get clarification from Legal Counsel on how this wording applies when there are several vacancies on the Committee, e.g. currently there are 3 vacancies, so the Committee needs to know how many members it would take to have a quorum, and how many affirmative votes would constitute a majority in order to approve minutes, etc. while those positions are vacant.

Upcoming term expirations – Schumacher noted that four members' terms will expire on December 31; Karen Bodner, Paul Clements, John Sundquist, and Ross Penhalligon. He noted that members who have not served for two consecutive terms are invited to re-apply. Those four vacancies were posted on September 8, 2006 and anyone choosing to apply or re-apply needs to have their application turned in by the closing date of October 9, 2006.

There was a question about how filling a partial term affects the limit of two consecutive terms. For example, if a citizen were to fill a partial term for 1 year vs. 3 years, would that make a difference in whether it would be counted as one of the consecutive terms; and if yes, then where would the dividing point be for length of time. The Committee asked staff to get clarification from Legal Counsel on this issue and to report back at the next meeting.

## **VII. TOP TRIMMING STANDARDS DRAFT, SERIES 2**

Schumacher referred to the *Draft Lane County Vegetation Management Standards and Guidelines, Series 2, Top Trimming Standards* and asked for input. In response to questions, he explained this is an internal operations document that does not go before the Board, and that until the new guidelines are finalized, the crew is following the 2001 Standards and Guidelines. Part of the reason for the updates is that the 2001 version did not give a lot of detail on how to actually perform the work so there were individual inconsistencies. Along with the updated standards and guidelines that are being developed, there is also a training program that will take place later this year so that everyone is following the same policy and performing the different vegetation activities in a consistent manner.

Schumacher also clarified that any document of this type is a dynamic one; that it is necessary for standards and guidelines to be an on-going, working, changing document. There was discussion as to whether the document needed to have actual wording to state this, ending with the suggestion that the last sentence on page 1 covers that area, “...Public Works manages vegetation within County right-of-way to accommodate new perspectives, technology, and ideas.”

The following suggestions were made:

- Since this document does not tell “how to” it needs to reference which document does (e.g. at the first mention of “prune to...arboricultural standards”, then reference which supporting document tells crew members what those are).
- Page 4, 1.3, Fixtures, 5<sup>th</sup> bullet – Change “around” service lines to “from” service lines.

- Page 12, Tree Pruning, 5<sup>th</sup> bullet – Discussed “feasible” and other possible wording; consensus was to leave it as is.
- Page 15, Table #2 – Need to use a different symbol for “secondary times activity may occur” instead of a different color because not everyone would be looking at a color copy.
- Possibly insert wording about “considerations for other species” under the BMP’s in Section 8. Discussion included an explanation that the complete BMP’s are a separate document.

Schumacher will research where members/citizens can find or read the BMP’s and report back. There was lengthy discussion regarding the Migratory Bird Act, with Schumacher explaining that the information is just beginning to get to the County level and as he gets information he will pass it on to the Committee.

In response to a question, Schumacher explained that these standards and guidelines do not apply during storm duty/cleanup; that in those instances, the responses are site-specific based on each individual incident.

### **VIII. VMAC SURVEY – DISCUSSION & HANDOUTS**

VMAC applicant questionnaire - Schumacher explained that during the recent Board discussion approving new members to VMAC, the subject of maintaining “balance” on the Committee had come up. Schumacher noted this is something that has been considered historically, that it’s not a new subject. The Board had directed staff to develop a survey for current and potential future members that would assist the Board in considering balance. Schumacher distributed copies of the supplemental questionnaire, noting all current members will be asked to complete and return a copy, and that this supplemental questionnaire will also become a permanent part of the future application process. He added that a similar survey had been used by David Dunlap in the early 1990’s to help insure balance on the Committee. Schumacher noted that current Committee members may return their completed questionnaires at the next meeting.

In response to a question, Schumacher explained that “balance” refers to varying philosophical differences regarding the entire IVM program and also a balance of geographical representation throughout Lane County. Two members expressed the opinion that philosophical balance is a moot point under the Last Resort Policy. There was lengthy discussion regarding the content of the questions on the survey.

Sunsetting Survey – Schumacher explained another idea that was discussed at the Board meeting had been whether or not to sunset the VMAC and possibly have vegetation issues covered under the Roads Advisory Committee. He noted the sunseting idea also dates to the early 1990’s. In response to questions, Schumacher asked members to disregard the 2006 date mentioned in question #1 and just answer the question. He asked members to return their completed survey questions at the next meeting.

### **IX. ROAD MAINTENANCE UPDATE - MANEWAL**

Manewal reported that: chip seal and blade patch operations have been completed; there is some fog sealing left to do; still working on culvert replacements; will be doing some hydroseeding following culvert replacements; the Zones are working on improving drainage before winter weather hits; bridge repairs are on-going; visibility improvement project at 30<sup>th</sup> and Gonyea is almost complete, then it will be hydroseeded; full-width and heavy brush mowing are continuing; Vegetation is doing some top trimming tree work; the new-style door hangers have proven to be very successful.

**X. WAIPUNA VIDEO - SCHUMACHER**

Schumacher explained that he decided to put together a PowerPoint presentation on the actual use of the Waipuna by PW employees rather than show the Waipuna video. Schumacher's presentation included:

- Franklin Road, meadow knapweed infestation – He said PW previously tried hand removal using the Sheriff's Inmate Crew and mowing, both were ineffective, and the population continued to grow, so they tried the Waipuna.
- Bring Recycling ponds area, knotweed and blackberry infestation – Two different applications were tested on the knotweed, probe injection into the roots and foliar.

Due to equipment problems, this presentation will be continued at the next meeting. Schumacher went on to explain: the hot foam seems to be more effective on thin, grassy species than on woody species; the time-window that was available for PW to use the Waipuna was very short and not the best time of year for full effectiveness; false brome is not a high priority because, although we don't want it, it doesn't create roadside hazards.

In response to questions, Schumacher noted the herbicide truck cannot be used as a backup water truck during fire season due to how the hoses/tanks are connected; there has been direction to follow the Last Resort Policy and start using some herbicides; there will be discussions at VMAC prior to implementing herbicide use.

**XI. REVIEW OF 2006 VMAC WORK PLAN – COMMITTEE/STAFF**

Updated 2006 Work Plan.

**XII. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – WED., OCTOBER 11, 2006:**

- Continue Waipuna PowerPoint presentation
- Report back on two clarification requests regarding voting and terms
- Report back on current involvement with weed partnerships
- Discuss roadside enhancement (adopt-a-road) item on Work Plan
- Discuss IVM Coordinator's salary, pros/cons of Road Fund vs. General Fund
- Supply Road Maintenance Zone Map in next agenda packet
- Include handout from Koivula in next agenda packet

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Caroline Manewal, Recording Secretary