

**MINUTES**  
**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**October 11, 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, Arno Nelson, Bill Manewal, Caroline Manewal

B/CC PRESENT:

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Karen Bodner called the meeting to order.

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Melotti moved to approve the Minutes of September 13, 2006, as written. Koivula seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

**III. GENERAL COMMENT**

Invasive plants – Melotti reported that he had talked with Schumacher about a large patch of invasive trees (black locust) on Johnson Road, adding he felt it could be a good demo site. Discussion. Schumacher noted that species is on the County's invasive weed list and he will review the information and look at the site.

VMAC surveys – Several members expressed opinions that: the surveys were a political litmus test; a question regarding financial ties needed to be included; they wanted time at this meeting to discuss the surveys; need to ask the Board what they mean by "balance"; the questions were redundant; the questionnaire was offensive. One member asked for clarification on one of the questions. Staff noted they had planned on both of the surveys being handed in tonight to be distributed in the next agenda packets for discussion in November, along with the discussion & recommendation to the Board on the applicants for the four vacancies.

Members suggested/noted: Ollie Snowden will be at the November meeting, that he had been present during the Board's discussion and direction to staff, so he could provide more clarification; that everyone listen to the Board's discussion (available through the Internet) before the next meeting; that each member provide their input tonight so all can think about it, and Ollie can hear it, before the November discussion.

MOTION: Sundquist moved that the Committee take 10 minutes to discuss the surveys at this meeting. Moser seconded. Vote 7-1, Penhallegon dissenting.

Bodner asked members go around the table and individually provide their input on the surveys.

- Koivula – stated he feels it is very important for people to discuss their financial ties and he would like to see that included on any questionnaires.

- Melotti – stated he had watched the discussion of the Board of Commissioners and it seemed to him that several commissioners were working on incorrect or missing information about VMAC itself, e.g. where they are at and what they are working on. Melotti noted VMAC is not focused on the herbicide issue, but is moving forward with the Last Resort Ordinance and helping with that transition. He also doesn't understand the financial concerns that were expressed.
- Moser – stated the questions were poorly written, an embarrassment to the County, and he would not be completing the survey as he didn't see any purpose in it and it creates contention. He stated there has not been balance on the Committee for quite a long time; he questioned why it is an issue now since it is finally more balanced than it has been.
- J. Nelson – stated it's just political, adding that if the cost of VMAC is an issue, she would like to see what those actual costs are. She referred to a 1988 Board subcommittee document and said the original ideas for VMAC didn't mention balance, that balance didn't come up until a couple of years later, and it appeared to be set up just to create contention amongst committee members.
- Penhallegon – stated his perspective of the survey was that these questions were asking VMAC to help staff prioritize the different vegetation management activities; that if Schumacher is told "you only have this much money", then what would VMAC's recommendation to staff be on how to prioritize the different control options.
- Sundquist – stated he understood how someone could feel resentful about the survey questions considering we thought we had covered all this ground and were moving forward, and now we come back to a litmus test about herbicide use.
- Bodner – stated she also had several questions about the survey but preferred to wait until the discussion when Snowden can be present.
- Graham – stated he had not answered a couple of questions because, as a new member, he didn't feel qualified to answer them.

*[Next 2 paragraphs are out of actual order to facilitate the understanding of the written minutes. Statements occurred at different times during the above input.]* Schumacher clarified that his intention with the survey questions was to cover all the aspects of IVM, that his intent was much broader than how it appears some have interpreted it, and he apologized if someone had been offended.

Schumacher explained his concept of an advisory committee – that to him, an advisory committee would have experts in many areas to provide him with expertise in the gaps in his knowledge base to help him do his job correctly. He added, if it turns into an advocacy committee, that's not helpful to staff, that's not advising, that's advocating an opinion one way or the other; that staff needs a broad spectrum of knowledge, as broad as it can be.

#### **IV. WAIPUNA POWERPOINT PRESENTATION – postponed to November.**

#### **V. INFORMATION ON WEED PARTNERSHIPS - SCHUMACHER**

NWWMP – Schumacher reported that Lane County Public Works had joined the Northwest Invasive Weed Management Partnership (NWWMP) in March 2006. NWWMP is a Title II funded program with a central director/coordinator over separate Cooperative Weed Management Areas

(CWMA's); Lane County falls into the Upper Willamette Valley CWMA; the fundamental point is to facilitate weed management cooperation between all the different agencies, e.g. counties, soil & water conservation districts, ODA, non-profits, etc. He noted this partnership allows for agencies like Public Works that are restricted to roadside rights-of-way, to cooperate with other agencies that can work outside the rights-of-way in order to control invasive weeds on both sides of the fence.

Siuslaw Watershed Council – Schumacher noted Public Works is planning a cooperative knotweed control project with the Siuslaw Watershed Council for Fall 2007. He noted fall is a good time to use the hand injection method since the plants will be translocating nutrients into their roots for winter.

Sheriff's work crew – In response to a question about who interfaces with the work crew and what level of education [on vegetation mgt.] do the workers have, Schumacher gave an example. He explained: PW had used the Sheriff's work crew to test how successful hand pulling of meadow knapweed might be; there were 15 workers who received about 15 minutes of instruction; he had to stay right there to keep the focus and keep them pulling the correct plants. He added he and the vegetation supervisor will be meeting with the Deputy to work out coordinating a more effective schedule, especially getting their efforts to coordinate with our specific vegetation needs.

Control Prescriptions and Action Thresholds – In response to a question, Schumacher explained this document is not one that goes to the Commissioners for approval, that it is an internal working document. He explained it had been attached to the materials that went before the Board on the Permitted Products List; however, what the Board approved at that time was only the Permitted Products List. [T1S2]

## **VI. REPORT BACK – QUESTION ON QUORUM WITH VACANCIES**

Schumacher read the response he had received from Legal Counsel: "You need a majority of your committee to act. Just like the Board needs 3 affirmative votes, even if only 3 are present." Additional clarification, according to the wording in the VMAC Bylaws:

- A vacancy is not looked at any differently than an absence.
- VMAC needs 5 members present to constitute a quorum.
- VMAC needs a minimum of 5 affirmative votes amongst the members present in order to take an action.

MOTION: Sundquist moved to revise the wording in the VMAC Bylaws as follows: Article VI, Section 4, 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~~ quorum. [Delete "Committee" and replace it with "quorum"] J. Nelson seconded. Vote: 6-2, Bodner and Penhallogen dissenting.

## **VII. REPORT BACK – QUESTION ON PARTIAL & FULL TERMS**

Schumacher read the response he had received from Legal Counsel: "LM3.506(2)(g) contains the following – "such service (of an unexpired portion of a term) shall not be deemed a full term for the purposes of the two-term limit of LM 3.506 (2)(f)."

**VIII. REPORT BACK – WHERE TO FIND/READ BMP'S**

The Web address was listed on the Agenda: <http://www.lanecounty.org/RoadMaint/RRM.htm>

**IX. VMAC VACANCY POSTING UPDATE**

Schumacher reported staff had received 8 applications by the closing date. The applications and supplemental questionnaires will be included in next month's agenda packets.

**X. DISCUSSION ON ROAD ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS, WORK PLAN ITEM 2, C**

Bodner explained this Work Plan Item had been added the first year she joined. She explained the concept had been to develop a program where private citizens could adopt-a-road for vegetation management, to help deal with difficult areas and reduce the use of herbicides. Bodner stated she would like to look at this item seriously before she leaves, and either decide to take it off the Work Plan or develop a test pilot project. She asked for input.

A. Nelson noted there was some history with this item that had included liability concerns from Legal Counsel and labor issues with the unions. Melotti explained that the State's program is actually a contractual agreement. He suggested staff bring the existing litter pick up adopt-a-road program material to VMAC to see if it can be revised or used to deal with vegetation management. The Committee discussed how to find out how much community interest there might be, how to find groups, if some type of award/recognition could be offered, etc.

A. Nelson will talk with Ollie Snowden and send information back for the next meeting; he will also provide Schumacher with a copy of the litter pick up adopt-a-road program material to include in next month's agenda packets.

**XI. DISCUSSION – IVM COORDINATOR SALARY – postponed to November.**

**XII. ROAD MAINTENANCE UPDATE**

A. Nelson reported road maintenance has wrapped up a busy summer season which included about 65 miles of chip seal, 15 overlay miles, 3 new fish culverts, and moving about 50,000 yards of material at Short Mtn. in a cooperative project with WMD. They're starting a large project on West Boundary Road reconstructing about 4 miles; there's also replacement projects planned for Sharps Creek and Row River bridges.

Manewal reported that vegetation just completed a hydroseeding project at Sharps Creek using 3 native species; also seeded on Row River Road; completed seeding the Gonyea/30<sup>th</sup> Avenue cloverleaf with an erosion control mix. Schumacher noted, if members want to watch progress on an all-native-seeded new construction project, they can watch Airport Road. In response to a question, A. Nelson explained the pros/cons for Lane County regarding the swale-type roadside design profile. Manewal continued that vegetation is a little behind schedule with full-width mowing due to problems with equipment, they have about 6 weeks left; heavy brush mowing and top trimming are continuing; finished a top trimming/site safety project on Yolanda that had been a very successful cooperative project between Public Works and the private landowners; had some cleanup activity due to downed trees from a windstorm up the McKenzie, and working with EWEB on more tree removals there; continuing to use the Waipuna as much as possible at different sites and on different species, and will know more about results by this time next year.

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

Updated 2006 Work Plan.

**XIV. NEW BUSINESS**

Lane County Diversity Committee Survey

Staff distributed copies of a survey/questionnaire from the Lane County Diversity Committee, noting that all County advisory committees were being asked to discuss this survey at a regular meeting and to forward the minutes from that meeting back to the Diversity Committee.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – WED., NOVEMBER 8, 2006

- Discussion (con't.) – VMAC surveys (applicants/members & sun-set surveys) - Snowden
- Report back – Board decision on VMAC Bylaw revision - Schumacher
- Review VMAC applications/recommendation for Board – Committee/Staff
- Waipuna PowerPoint presentation (con't.) - Schumacher
- Discussion – IVM Coordinator salary, Road Fund vs. General Fund - Snowden
- Discussion – Diversity surveys (distributed at 10/11/06 VMAC meeting) - Schumacher
- Adopt-a-Road for vegetation management/enhancement - Schumacher

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Caroline Manewal, Recording Secretary