

**MINUTES**  
**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**May 9, 2007**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Graham, Mike Koivula, Jim Larue, Chris Melotti, Jan Nelson, John Sundquist, Kai Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ross Penhallegon

STAFF PRESENT: Orin Schumacher, Arno Nelson, Debby Woodruff, Brian Mladenich, Adam Vellutini

B/CC PRESENT:

GUESTS PRESENT:

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Jan Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Melotti moved to approve the Minutes of April 11, 2007, as revised/corrected/written. Williams seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

**III. GENERAL COMMENT**

Koivula presented a newspaper article titled "Taking a breather from spraying", and an article from "Green Builder" magazine titled, "Jobsite Poisons Can Disrupt Body Chemistry". Woodruff will make copies to distribute to the committee at the next meeting.

Nelson J. asked for an update on the spray truck. Schumacher stated that they are not going to the commissioners until the budget situation gets resolved and that may not be until later in June.

Sundquist read a letter from Lynn Bowers. It addressed her issues with spraying and the sensitivities to the sprays, and the "renegade" spraying on Lane County rows. We need a plan to educate and regulate do-it-yourselfers.

Sundquist asked for an update on the inmate crews. Nelson A. stated that it looks like it is going to go away. They are still currently being used.

Sundquist stated that Senate Bill 20 did not make it.

Sundquist stated that Clear Lake Rd has an exceedingly large amount of spraying done according to Jan Wroncy. Lynn Bowers is working with someone from the Oregon State Dept of Agriculture to figure out which areas are getting illegally sprayed and try to contact those landowners.

Schumacher reminded members that copies for handouts need to be made by members if they want them handed out and to include enough copies for commissioners and staff.

Schumacher handed out copies of an article from the ODA regarding Noxious Weed Control and Scotch & French Broom and the seed beetle. VMAC can discuss getting involved in doing collections of these bugs. For those interested, they can give names to Schumacher and he will

coordinate.

Schumacher-False Broom working group: They put out their draft memo of efficacy of False Broom Control Methods. Schumacher handed out 4 copies to members to pass around. There are pages of all the different methods to control False Broom and what works or does not. Schumacher had a card from staff to mail to Douglass Moser's spouse.

#### **IV. GIS PRESENTATION**

Mladenich and Vellutini gave a GIS presentation. They demonstrated how to locate the NSA sites on maps and other specific features and capabilities of GIS.

#### **V. SUBCOMMITTEES-COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

LaRue asked what subcommittees the Board would like us to have. Schumacher stated that this was a VMAC idea and should be up to them to decide on. Nelson J. stated that the Adopt-a-Road is the one they had originally talked about and she is interested in that. LaRue would like VMAC to be able to put a sign up for those who participate to acknowledge their hard work. Nelson J. stated that the problem with that is it is illegal for people to mow in the row. Schumacher explained that the issue is that if the County promotes mowing and vegetation maintenance by the public and someone gets hurt, the County will be possibly liable. This is not permitted and cannot be promoted. Melotti suggested it might be permitted if the people applied for an Adopt-a-Road site. Schumacher stated that that is not accurate. The union issue comes in then if the County promotes landowners to do the work and then it takes away work from the County staff. LaRue stated that he doesn't think VMAC is qualified to talk to the unions. Nelson J. stated that VMAC would talk to the commissioners about the issues. Nelson A. stated that this is a bad time for this issue to happen with all the job cuts. Nelson A. stated that the cuts begin September 30. Nelson J. stated that she notices who does their own roadside maintenance in her area. Nelson J. would be interested in inventory of those who maintain their own roadsides in the area where she lives and keep an eye on who is doing what. She stated that a lot more people are doing their own roadside maintenance. Sundquist stated that he likes LaRue's idea of acknowledgment of individual's roadside work. Schumacher stated that If parameters are set within the Adopt-a-Road program, then acknowledgment can be given. Schumacher stated that the parameters have to be outlined as to what kind of maintenance can be done. Nelson J. asked who would like to be on the Adopt-a-Road committee. Graham, Sundquist, Melotti, & Nelson J. signed up. The Outreach committee is Williams and Nelson J. LaRue stated that the budget is an issue that is going to be on-going. Sundquist stated that it may be over their heads to take it on. Shoulder reclamation is another subcommittee consisting of Sundquist, & Koivula. Illegal sprays in row subcommittee consist of Melotti, Sundquist, Koivula, & Nelson J. Nelson J. stated that this may involve distributing flyers door to door. LaRue stated that maybe they could do some sort of information and education on how to maintain your lawns, etc. It was suggested that this might be done through Public Service announcements rather than mailings. Bio-swales subcommittee consists of Koivula, LaRue, Sundquist. Sundquist stated that he is ready to give up on Unions. He has an idea of doing a weed garden at a traffic sight somewhere to educate the public. Members are reminded that they need to be self-starters and should email each other with their ideas. Schumacher will open up space on the agenda for subcommittee reports. If members contact Schumacher and inform him that they have a report to present to the committee, he will designate time for them, otherwise there will be an allotted slot on the agenda open to whoever wants to report.

#### **VI. ADOPT-A-ROAD**

Item postponed until next meeting

#### **VII. BCC QUESTIONS/SURVEY, WORK PLAN**

Melotti stated that Fleenor is excited and has a lot of ideas to present to the committee. Melotti stated that the committee needs to get something down on the work plan. Nelson J. stated that she liked the idea of contacting the Board. Nelson J. wrote a note that she thinks should be reported to the Board. She read her note regarding this being the first year of full implementation of the last resort ordinance and that the committee is brainstorming and exploring various vegetative management methods considering budget limitations. Schumacher explained that if one person goes before the board to represent VMAC, the committee needs to vote. The committee needs to agree on what is being said and presented to the Board. Sundquist stated that Nelson J. needs to include the subcommittee information in that note. Graham asked if Nelson J. could write something up and present at the next meeting. Sundquist suggested that Nelson J. write up her notes and present herself, not from the committee.

WORK PLAN: Sundquist stated that the subcommittee issue was taken care of. Sundquist made a motion to adopt the large, bold headings on the work plan. Koivula seconded. Motion passed. This includes 6 items. Melotti asked if they could add to it later. Nelson J. said yes.

#### **VIII. ROAD MAINTENANCE UPDATE - ARNO**

Nelson A. stated that the GIS presentation can be very useful and cost effective to the Vegetation Program. Nelson A. would like to see it as a tool. Melotti stated that it is exciting to see this all in application and the cost saving potential alone is great. Koivula made a motion that Schumacher and Nelson A. report to the Commissioners that VMAC approves the GIS use in Vegetation Management activities. Sundquist would like to put the NSA on the next meeting agenda. Schumacher discussed that now is the time to consider whether to start removing the no spray signs as the crews are out mowing and doing vegetation maintenance. Schumacher explained that the GIS units used to locate where the NSA areas are would be located on a computer on the truck. This would allow for the discontinuation of using signs. Nelson A. stated that the cost of installing these units on the trucks is \$12,000. Nelson A. explained that removing the signs also makes it easier for crews so that they don't have to constantly stop and go when removing signs. Nelson A. explained that he doesn't think it will actually be as much as \$12,000 when it comes down to it. Schumacher stated that there needs to be some PR (public relations) work done. Some people are used to the signs and feel it is their security belt. Melotti stated that public outreach be done. Nelson A. stated that it could be included in the NSA applications renewals. Schumacher stated that they would probably send a letter to all the applicants to give them an update. Nelson J. thinks leaving the signs up would be a second way of checking themselves. Nelson A. stated that this system is better than that. Schumacher stated that he only wants to see one system in place. Nelson J. thinks the signs should be left up for the first year of this process. Schumacher stated that he differs on that issue, because the signs are often in the wrong places right now. Melotti explained that maybe for now they shouldn't remove any signs, and not place new ones, then when the renewals come up inform the public. Graham stated that the motion should state: VMAC supports the use of the geographic information system in vegetation management activities. Melotti seconded. Motion passed. Nelson J. stated that when the crews are using the GIS to locate NSA areas, the crews could remove the signs at that time.

#### **IX. NEW ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – WED., JUNE 13, 2007:**

- NSA
- Subcommittee reports

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Debby Woodruff, Recording Secretary

**APPROVED: FINAL**