

MINUTES
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 10, 2007

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ross Penhallegon

STAFF PRESENT: Arno Nelson, Orin Schumacher, Debby Woodruff

B/CC PRESENT: none

GUESTS PRESENT: Bob Wilson, Chad Hoffman

PUBLIC PRESENT: none

Jan Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Staff and guest introductions.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Koivula moved to approve the Minutes of July 11, 2007, as revised/corrected/written. Melotti seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed. Sundquist asked for clarification on J. Nelson's question regarding Ollie Snowden. No discussion. Sundquist also asked for clarification on "OCD" in J. Nelson's quote in minutes. J. Nelson explained "OCD" stands for "Obsessive compulsive disorder".

III. GENERAL COMMENT

Sundquist stated he would like VMAC to support ODOT's pilot project where ODOT goes to a "last resort policy".

IV. BIO-SWALES PRESENTATION-BOB WILSON AND CHAD HOFFMAN

Bob Wilson introduced Chad Hoffman & himself and explained what kind of work they do in the Environmental Group.

Wilson explained some of the changes in storm water issues. He explained that they just started doing bio-swales in 2005. He explained that there are several treatments that they will be talking about: bio-filter storm water treatment options. He stated that he will not be discussing the maintenance cost or the mechanical methods of storm water treatments.

Wilson began slide presentation. He went over the agencies that Lane County works with. "PAHs" are an indicator of air quality that are water soluble hydro-carbons that are generated by incomplete burning of organic pollutants. Heavy metals are also an issue in water runoff. He showed slides of areas of concern for water pollutants in storm water. Wilson stated that ODOT is requiring treatment of storm water according to FHWA guidelines. Wilson showed a list of pollutants of concern and the different types of treatments used. The main treatment options are: bio-swales, vegetative filter strips, constructed wetlands and bio retention systems. Wilson

showed examples of these treatment options.

Wilson explained that topography plays a role in determining what kind of treatment can be used. Wilson showed slides of Bob Straub Parkway and what treatment is being used there.

Hoffman took over the presentation. He explained treatment options. Hoffman explained how filter strips work. Slopes and ground water levels are factors to consider with filter strips.

Hoffman explained that the definition of bio-swales is: a wide shallow man made ditch constructed to slow the speed of run-off of sewer water until it can be filtered by vegetation and soil. They also provide flood control. Hoffman showed slides of bio-swales designs. He explained the removal of built up sediments and weeds are very important in maintenance of bio-swales. Some considerations for bio-swales are the species selection in relation to the pollutants. Hoffman went over some species of vegetation that can be used and are successful. He explained how different vegetation can be effective.

Wilson explained that bio-swales can conflict with roadway safety and maintenance.

Hoffman went over the specific design specifications for bio-swales. He explained some of the problems with construction of bio-swales, such as cost cutting in selection of vegetation, construction crews are unfamiliar with the concept and timing of construction. Bio-swale maintenance includes annual inspections, pruning, trash and debris removal, replacement of dead plants and avoiding the use of herbicides and fertilizers. Hoffman explained the use of a "Fore bay" (sediment pond) to track sediments. Hoffman showed slides of some of the bio-swales in Lane County.

Wilson explained that the County didn't do bio-swales in projects until 2005 which was the Cedar Flats Project. He explained the hydro-seeding portion of the project and the tree planting. He showed pictures before, during and after the bio-swale installation. Wilson showed slides of the Sharps Creek Rd. bio-swale project and the Bob Straub Parkway project. Wilson explained the steps the County had to go through to get approval from the DEQ to proceed with the Bob Straub Project due to water quality of the McKenzie River. He went over step by step the process of creating the entire bio-swale from beginning to end. Wilson stated that the contractor bid for the entire bio-swale project excluding plants, was \$90,000.

Wilson wrapped up the presentation. LaRue asked how they clean out the project without damaging it. Wilson explained that the fore bay is designed to be cleaned out by the road crews and there may be replanting done in the future. This project should last for 20 years without having to be redone. Hoffman explained that they would be working to keep the native vegetation growing. A. Nelson explained that an issue with maintenance is the lack of road crew due to the budget problems. Wilson explained that it is a labor intensive project. Koivula asked how they test for the PAH. A. Nelson stated that the County uses a Vactor plant that they use to test all the materials at Glenwood. They do sample testing. J. Nelson asked if Schumacher's crew works on the development of these projects. Schumacher stated that they deal with the maintenance part of the vegetation. LaRue asked if they have to water these sites. Schumacher stated that they do have to water in the beginning to help establish the plants. A. Nelson asked what the cost is per square yard or acre for bio swales in new construction. Wilson explained that it is difficult to estimate but for example with the Bob Straub project, the range from bidders was \$40,000-\$90,000. J. Nelson asked if the County can negotiate for the Sheriff's inmate crew to do this kind of work. It was explained that because of the Union contract, the County cannot hire the inmate crews. LaRue stated that it would be very expensive to retro fit for a bio-swale. Wilson explained that retro fitting cost would be extraordinary just to buy real estate right-of-way. Sundquist asked if all new projects need to have the bio-swales. Wilson stated that if there is an increase in impervious surface, then they need bio-swales. Bob Straub project was paid for out of the County road fund. Sundquist asked where the metals come from that get in the water. Hoffman stated it is mostly from brakes of vehicles. Sundquist asked if the water is tested after the project is all done. Wilson stated that the plans have to be approved before going to bid and the assumption is that it will be ok as long as they do the process correctly. A. Nelson stated

that the County is not required at this time to monitor the water. Melotti talked about tackifier. He stated that Rexius sells this. It is a polymer that you mix with wood chips or other carbon based product and you spray on soil and it sticks it all together. It needs time to be effective. Melotti stated there is not enough research done yet. Schumacher explained that if materials are not packed together, the rain will wash it away. There are several types of applications used to prevent erosion.

V. NSA DISCUSSION (REVISIT)

Schumacher stated this was covered at the September meeting. He talked about switching from the signs placed at sites to the computer. He wants to put this in the annual report and needs VMAC support. LaRue made motion to approve Schumacher presenting this to the BCC. Williams seconded. Koivula stated that he would like to see a letter sent to NSA people. Schumacher stated he will draft a letter for VMAC approval and then BCC approval. This will not require a change to the NSA policy. All in favor, motion passed.

VI. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT FINANCES (REVISIT)

Schumacher explained that he gave a financial presentation at the September meeting.

VII. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

LaRue commented that he wants members to be sure that when they go to outside meetings, they are not representing VMAC. J. Nelson stated that she just explains what VMAC is doing and not giving VMAC opinions. J. Nelson explained that she explains the last resort policy. Koivula stated that he attended the Health Advisory meeting on August 14th. They discussed illegal spraying and he presented the idea that property owners were spraying the ROW. The advisory committee stated that this was not a good thing and they would like to have this issue pursued further at the Commissioner level. He stated that they recommended that someone make a public comment and finalize a letter to the Board discussing the problem and offering suggestions to rectify it. Melotti asked if this committee offered to take it on. Koivula explained that the committee did not object & HAC supported this issue.

VIII. YELLOW STAR THISTLE REPORT (REVISIT)

Schumacher explained that Yellow Star Thistle was found for the first time in County ROW on N. Coburg Rd. Ross Penhallegon put out a bulleting and got the news involved to increase public awareness of this. He had received plants that citizens turned in and so far there have been no more plants found. Melotti would like to show thanks to Bill Manewal for finding the plant and bringing it to County's attention. It was agreed to put a brief comment in the Whole Works Newsletter so everyone can see it. Melotti will be writing a short paragraph to submit.

IX. ROAD MAINTENANCE UPDATE - ARNO

A. Nelson stated that all paving and preservation programs were completed the end of September. The leaf pick-up program will start shortly. He explained that they are working on the area of the Bohemia Mines before the snow hits. The roads are unpaved and not in good shape. Sweet Creek Road is another project that had a slide and they are working on it. A. Nelson stated that on Big Creek Rd. there is a huge amount of knotweed. Koivula asked if A. Nelson had any regrets of roads not treated with herbicides. A. Nelson stated that the crack seal program is very labor intensive and they cannot get all the vegetation out of the cracks. Centennial Loop area is a good example where they used flame torch, air blowers and scrapers to get out the vegetation of the cracks and it was labor intensive. Melotti talked about the use of vinegar as a herbicide and an ad that he saw stating that the EPA had approved the use of it and

maybe the County could use it as a test application on crack seal projects. A. Nelson stated that thanks to Orin, they have a tree crew that can go out and top trim trees.

X. TREE VOUCHER PROGRAM - ORIN

Schumacher explained the development of the voucher. Eugene has a program that lets property owners adopt a tree and the owner then takes care of it. Schumacher explained that the County will be able to provide vouchers to owners to use to go to nurseries to get a tree that they will plant and provide early maintenance to. The County would later maintain those trees. He explained the Sweet Gum tree has been a problem tree planted in the planter strips in the past. The voucher would be good for \$50 toward a tree. This program is still in development. This will replace trees that the County has removed. If the homeowners take some ownership in this, it will save \$ for the County. Schumacher will provide a list of the trees to VMAC in the future.

Sundquist made a motion that the committee support ODOTs pilot project for study of herbicide reductions to include District 5 or Hwy 36. Melotti seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Sundquist stated that the Health Advisory Committee supports Senate Bill 20 work group on children's health and pesticides. He made a motion to support these investigations. J. Nelson seconded. Melotti asked Sundquist to email the committee with more info. All in favor. Motion passed.

New Business:

1. Date and agenda items for next meeting: Wed., Nov 14, 2007
 - Minutes
 - Tree list for Tree Voucher Program

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Debby Woodruff, Recording Secretary