

**MINUTES**  
**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**November 14, 2007**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Arno Nelson, Orin Schumacher, Debby Woodruff

B/CC PRESENT:

GUESTS PRESENT:

PUBLIC PRESENT:

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

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** Williams moved to approve the Minutes of Oct 10, 2007, as revised/corrected/written.

**Seconded:** Graham

**Vote:** All in favor

**III. GENERAL COMMENT**

J. Nelson passed out a magazine called "In Good Tilth". J. Nelson pointed out an article on an EPA approved organic herbicide as well as an article on a vinegar product. Penhallegon stated that 4J school district has extensive experience using these products and it worked well as long as the weeds were less than ¼" tall. Schumacher had some literature on these products. Pelargonic acid is one of the products. Schumacher stated that the EPA has approved its use.

Sundquist stated he followed up on Senate Bill 20 school buffer zones. There is a senate work group on children's health and pesticides in schools.

**IV. COUNTY STREET TREE LIST - SCHUMACHER**

Members asked about various trees not listed on the tree list and possible issues with certain trees. Schumacher explained reasons why some trees are on the list or not on the list. Schumacher will add Black Oak and White Oak to list. This tree list is used for the tree voucher program. Schumacher showed examples of things found on the web site where people can look up information on trees.

**V. HERBICIDE INFORMATION LINE - SCHUMACHER**

Active phone # 1-877-775-9797. The web site is up and running. The phone line recording will

have updated information on herbicide applications. Information on the reasons for applications and types of herbicides being used will be available on the web site. J. Nelson suggested the phone # of the person who issues no spray permits be listed on the # as well. Schumacher asked the members to look at the site and give feedback. Schumacher showed where people could find VMAC agendas and minutes.

## **VI. ANNUAL REPORT - SCHUMACHER**

Penhallegon suggested an addition to the Successful Non-Herbicide Control Methods section. He stated that after the yellow star thistle was found, the Lane County Extension Service received 62 calls about it and 23 of these plants have been destroyed and removed. Penhallegon stated that the thistle have been temporarily eliminated from the County. Schumacher stated that he would add that to the Outreach/Education Projects section under Table 4.

Melotti asked about the Knotweed situation in relation to the Last Resort Ordinance. Schumacher stated that he wants to run this program for 1 year and see how it works first. He stated that injections have been a method that has been working well.

Schumacher explained that all the County herbicides are under lock and key.

Sundquist asked how the sites and weeds are going to be targeted. Schumacher stated that this info. will be on the web site. Sundquist asked how citizens will notify staff of weed infestations.

Nelson stated that the County has a video van that is used to film the County roads. Discussion: using the video van to film the vegetation sites versus still photos.

Schumacher stated that hydro-seeding can be used in some cases where herbicides have been used but not all sites. It will be done in appropriate areas.

Sundquist asked if VMAC will be informed of what the future plans are. Schumacher stated that this information will be provided on the web site and discussed at monthly VMAC meetings.

Sundquist asked how much herbicide spraying will be done. A. Nelson explained that he would like to go in easy at first and take baby steps. He stated that the County wants to start slowly.

Sundquist asked if VMAC had any say in the Annual Report and Schumacher explained that he is required to present the report to VMAC for discussion and a vote.

Koivula asked about the Total Roadside Miles on page 9, Table 6. Schumacher stated that the roadside miles have gone down and some of that is due to annexation of roads.

Sundquist asked if the committee will be voting on the Annual Report tonight and would there be any discussion on the baseline. Schumacher stated that he wants to go into this very slowly. J. Nelson stated that VMAC wants a list of the planned sites for herbicide use. Schumacher explained that he can't give a list of the specific sites at this point. He stated that there are sites that come up from time to time and he can't list those ahead of time. He did name some of the sites that he does want to work on but it is not a complete inventory of all the sites. Penhallegon explained that things change and Schumacher needs to have flexibility. Koivula stated that a general list of guardrails to be sprayed would be good. Sundquist asked if there would be replanting in all the areas sprayed. Schumacher stated that replanting will be done where appropriate. Schumacher stated he can prepare a list of sites. Sundquist stated that there

needs to be a limit on the spray sites. Schumacher explained that this issue is already settled in the Last Resort Policy. The limit is already approved and provided in the policy. Melotti stated that the County has already gone through the processes prior to reaching the point of herbicide spraying. He stated that the limit is already set by the ordinance and approved by the BCC. J. Nelson stated that Sundquist could address the spray limit issue with the Board as a private citizen if he wanted to. Schumacher stated the correct number of miles acceptable listed in the Last Resort Policy is 284 miles.

J. Nelson requested that products be added to the permitted products list. Schumacher stated that that would have to be approved by the BCC and would have to be done on the next reporting period and there is not enough time to get that on the report this year. The report has to be turned in by Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and there is no way it can be done on this reporting period. Schumacher stated that compost tea doesn't have to be approved by the Board.

**MOTION:** J. Nelson made a motion that Acetic acid (Weed Pharm), Lineolic acid, (Green Match O Burndown), Pelarganic acid (Scythe), & compost tea be evaluated for County use for the 2008 annual report's list of permitted products for submission to the Board of Health for approval.

**Seconded:** Sundquist

**Vote:** All in favor

Koivula asked if there had been a significant change to the roadside miles on the report on page 9 and if that could be updated. Schumacher said that could be updated.

Sundquist asked that the partnerships that the County deals with use the County's Last Resort Policy. Schumacher stated that the other agencies have their own policies for the most part. Schumacher stated that he cannot provide recommendations to these other agencies. He can report on what the County is doing. He also stated that the other partnership agencies are well aware of the County's Last Resort Policy.

Sundquist stated that he thinks VMAC should be talking with the Unions since the County can no longer use the inmate crews for the guardrail vegetation management. He asked about using a weed barrier at the guardrail sites. Koivula stated that he had recommended a number of things to be tried at the guardrail sites back when the ordinance was established and he hasn't seen where that is documented in the Annual Report.

**MOTION:** Melotti made a motion to support the Annual Report as Schumacher has submitted.

**Seconded:** Williams

**Vote: 4 votes to approve:** Melotti, Williams, LaRue, Penhallegon, **3 votes opposed:** Koivula, Sundquist, J. Nelson. **Abstain:** Graham

**MOTION:** Sundquist made a motion to open discussion.

**Seconded:** Williams

**Vote:** All in favor

**Discussion:** Graham explained that he wanted to fully understand what people's fears are. He asked for clarification on the guardrail spraying around waterways. Schumacher stated that they cannot spray near waterways. Koivula stated that he opposes the report because he thinks there should be notice in the guardrail maintenance, that if funds were found again, i.e.: the inmate crew or some other forces could be used for mechanical maintenance. He also thinks partnerships should be working with the County, not just the County working with the partnerships. Koivula stated that there were not specific limitations for herbicide use in new road construction and road repair projects listed in the report. Schumacher stated that if the County got the Sheriff's Inmate Crew back, he would have no reason to spray the guardrails and he

would walk away from the herbicide use there. Schumacher stated that the partnerships have to know and understand the County's Last Resort Policy. He stated that the Annual Report is not set in stone but he does have a deadline to meet. J. Nelson stated that she does not want to see toxins put into the environment. Sundquist stated that he thinks there should be some upper limits tied to GIS and wants to know what areas are on the list to be sprayed. He would like to see the list before he can approve the report.

**Discussion:** Members discussed whether a member can abstain from voting?

**MOTION:** Koivula made motion to direct staff to determine whether members can abstain.

**Seconded:** Sundquist.

**Vote:** All in favor

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

A. Nelson stated that crews have done a large project in the Bohemia Mine Area on Champion Creek and Sharps Creek. They finished up a FEMA project from 2 years ago on Sweet Creek. Leaf pick-up has begun. AC Overlay roads have been identified.

#### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

none

#### **IX. NEW ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – WED., DEC 12, 2007:**

- Minutes

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Debby Woodruff, Recording Secretary