

MINUTES
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
April 9, 2008

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Sundquist, Mike Koivula

STAFF PRESENT: Arno Nelson, Orin Schumacher, Debby Woodruff

B/CC PRESENT:

GUESTS PRESENT:

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jan Wroncy

Co-Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Jan Wroncy stated that Attorney Daniel Force had submitted his legal opinion on the invasive species and noxious weed control laws from the State of Oregon. He stated that he did not believe it mandated the use of herbicides. She didn't see the comments listed on the website. She also stated that Dr. Tom Kerns, the author of "Environmentally Induced Illnesses, Ethics, Risk Assessments and Human Rights", submitted an attachment to Lisa Arkin's comments from Oregon Toxic Alliance. She stated that that did not get on the Website either.

Schumacher explained that those comments are on the website.

Wroncy stated that J. Nelson's petition was submitted in time, but it was not on the website. She also stated that the hotline has not been updated.

Schumacher stated that it would be updated.

Wroncy commented on a media release in California that a judge there supported a halt to herbicide spraying on the Purple Loosestrife infestation. They intended to use "Imazapyr, which is a product also called "Habitat" that the County has on its approved product list. She stated that this product favors the invasive species rather than the native species. She stated that the Purple Loosestrife is resistant to Imazapyr. She stated that "Oust" is a product that the County is planning to use and this would be a problem. She encourages VMAC to review the permitted products list.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Melotti moved to approve the minutes of March 12, 2008 as amended. Graham seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

III. GENERAL COMMENT

J. Nelson commented on the mission statement from "The Collaborative on Health and the Environment" handout. She stated that this was an attempt by medical professionals and scientists to work on issues including pollution. She recommended a tab in the member manuals for the Annual Report. She stated that she sent an email suggesting that the money allocated in the 2008 Annual Report be used to for a "Mower" purchase dedicated to keeping down the

invasive weeds instead of a spray program. She referred to an email between members and Greg Prull. She would like Greg to come talk to VMAC.

Schumacher suggested that VMAC could invite Greg if they are interested. He explained that Greg invented the "Sunburst" equipment. He explained that it is a burner unit. The City of Eugene currently uses this equipment. The equipment Greg used for a demo didn't fit the County equipment. Based on other testing done elsewhere, the results were not effective on seed kill. It works on grasses. He explained that the County tractors cannot gear down low enough to use this equipment. It was concluded that it was not a valuable tool to use.

J. Nelson suggested VMAC invite Greg to a meeting. J. Nelson offered to contact Greg.

Schumacher suggested that members give him copies of the documents, literature, articles, etc. that they refer to regarding herbicides. This information could be kept for reference in a bibliography format on the minutes and Schumacher could keep a library of documents.

IV. N. GAME FARM VEGETATION PROJECT – MELOTTI

Melotti asked to have this topic carried over to the next meeting.

V. REVIEW OF BYLAWS – J. NELSON

J. Nelson stated that there was an issue with the duties of the chairperson. It was voted that the chairperson did not have the responsibility of setting the agenda. She referred to a document from Teresa Wilson (legal). She quoted some of the bylaws from VMAC and the Public Health Advisory Committee. She stated she doesn't understand why people want to give up their rights. She thinks that staff should contact the chair to add items to the agenda and the chair should have the authority to set the agenda. She stated the committee is not following the bylaws.

Williams explained that this does not keep staff from discussing information and suggesting items for discussion.

Schumacher explained that he was involved in discussion with Teresa Wilson and it was explained that committees can take their own approach and VMAC voted on this issue.

Melotti asked if staff had an update on the vacancy situation on VMAC.

Schumacher explained that the Board directed staff to keep the vacancy open and with new elections in December, the committee will be reduced by one, bringing the total down to 7 members. The plan is to have 5 members appointed by commissioners and 2 voted in by VMAC.

Wroncy reminded staff that there had been discussion previously regarding letting public have another comment time at the end of meetings if they request it.

Staff discussed and decided that 5 minutes be added to the end of the meeting for public comment.

VI. DEFINITION OF LAST RESORT – J. NELSON

J. Nelson referred to item 15.510. She stated she would like to hear more about prevention, such as matting, mulching, etc. in regards to sites where herbicides will be used. The Last Resort policy refers to a 5% reduction in herbicide use.

Schumacher stated that this is based on the last 3 years of application.

J. Nelson stated that that was not the intention. She stated that the document was not written by VMAC, but by the Health Advisory Committee.

Schumacher explained that it was actually written by Aimee Code. Dwyer rewrote some parts of the document.

J. Nelson stated that the Health Advisory Committee brought the issue up when Commissioner Linegar was elected. A subcommittee was formed and Aimee Code and J. Nelson put together most of the document. She stated that the document is confusing, such as 5% vs. Last Resort. Her point is that the Last Resort Policy is the superior overall intent of the ordinance and the 5% should come after the Last Resort plants are chosen.

Melotti stated that the County should be congratulated on making sense of a convoluted

document and Schumacher should receive an award for moving forward. The County is only asking to spray a small amount of targeted species. He totally supports this.

J. Nelson stated that she doesn't feel it all has been explained and shown to VMAC. She would like more information on what has been done.

Melotti explained that there are certain plants that can only be controlled with herbicide.

J. Nelson stated that she doesn't agree and that matting works.

VII. UPDATE OF PUBLIC COMMENTS - ORIN

Schumacher explained that the 60 day public comment period was originally suppose to close on March 3, but with a week extension, closed on March 10. He explained that it was difficult to know where to place some of the comments based on how they were worded. There was a lot of feedback and he put them on the website as quickly as he could.

J. Nelson submitted a petition to Schumacher that she had forgot to turn in.

Schumacher explained that the Commissioners do receive all the hard copies and also have access to the website. Comments received late may not be posted on the website. He was hesitant to put the petitions on the site because personal information is listed and also some of the petitions are not legible once scanned. He explained that they are not anticipating any spraying this year because of the delay. If approval comes, there are a lot of things still to be done before spraying can happen. He explained that they still do grading on the roads. He is hoping for early June or late May for the decision from the Board.

VIII. UPDATE WORK PLAN

Schumacher explained that the committee should put sub-categories on the work plan. The Committee added sub-categories to the work plan. New copies will be handed out at the next meeting.

IX. ROAD MAINTENANCE UPDATE - ARNO

A. Nelson handed out the AC Overlay 2008 proposed list. This work is contracted out but the County does all the prep work. He also handed out the 2008 Chip Seal Draft. This shows where the crews are working. Fog Seal is where they put a light fog of oil on the road. He is looking at some new products this year.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Wroncy suggested Schumacher put the language of the petition on the website.

Schumacher explained that he is still hesitant to put the petitions on the website. The petitions did not have dates on them, so he does not know when they came in and they did not have responses to the questions. The commissioners will see the petitions regardless.

Wroncy stated that Aquamaster's (on the permitted products list), label says its 46.2% of other ingredients instead of saying water. She wants to know what surfactant will be used. She states that the public wants to know of anything product added.

XI. NEW ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – WED.,

1. Update on N. Game Farm Rd-Melotti
2. Update on NWWMP-Orin
3. Update on False Brome and Knotweed working group-Orin

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Debby Woodruff, Recording Secretary