

MINUTES
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
June 11, 2008

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ross Penhallegon

STAFF PRESENT: Orin Schumacher, Debby Woodruff, Gary Luke, Marsha Miller

B/CC PRESENT:

GUESTS PRESENT:

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jan Wroncy

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

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jan Wroncy stated that she was pleasantly surprised by the mowing crew & they did a great job. She took some pictures of the crews working & passed around. She also handed out an article on Formaldehyde. She strongly encourages VMAC, Health Advisory Committee & the Board of Health to consider whether they need to review the products on the permitted list. She stated that there are more people illegally spraying in the ROW in her area. There is no posting of what is being sprayed. She would like Schumacher to drive these roads to see what is happening.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Williams moved to approve the minutes of May 14, 2008 as amended. Sundquist seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

III. GENERAL COMMENT

Sundquist asked if the Budget is going to be presented to VMAC.

Schumacher stated that Ollie Snowden explained that it wouldn't happen until there was more clarity on the SRS (Secure Rural Schools) funding.

Graham stated that on Marcola Rd there is a lot of spraying from MP 9 to MP 10 & also on Hill Rd, there are some root balls that pose a problem.

Schumacher explained that it can be difficult in dealing with the property owners & logging companies to work with the County concerning the ROW. He explained that the County has no authority over the private property or timber property.

Sundquist stated that the ODF has authority over the properties & people have to get a permit for the work.

Schumacher introduced Marsha Miller the new Public Works Director. She gave a brief background, & staff introduced themselves to Marsha.

J. Nelson suggested the illegal spray subcommittee be reinstated & members could forward addresses or mile markers to the subcommittee.

Melotti explained that the County does not regulate herbicide use. The Dept of Agriculture regulates it for the State & homeowners who spray in the ROW are in violation of the law.

Sundquist stated he believes it is the County's job to make sure the public is aware of the ROW herbicide use situation & he thinks letters should be generated by the County & sent to the property owners in violation of herbicide use. He stated that the IVM document is not on the website & the document needs updating.

Koivula commented about a posting in the middle of Alton Baker Park for spraying. It did not mention the product or where it was going to be sprayed.

IV. GUARDRAIL MANAGEMENT PLAN PRESENTATION - LUKE

Schumacher introduced Gary Luke, from the GIS department. He explained how helpful the GIS department has been to him.

Luke gave a brief background. He gave a presentation showing maps & how the Guardrail system in Lane County is all mapped. He explained the process of video taping the guardrails with the County video van & then inventory these into the system. This process is done each year by staff driving the entire County road system taking video images of both sides of the road. This information is then put into the GIS map system. Schumacher can go on a virtual tour of the guardrails in the County & determine the vegetation status of the guardrail. He then knows which sites need vegetation work done without having to get in a car & drive the roads looking for all the guardrails. This helps with prioritizing roads to be worked on. Luke showed examples of how GIS can be used for vegetation purposes.

Schumacher explained how beneficial this is for the vegetation crew. On days when the other road crews can't work on projects due to the weather, etc., he can look at these guardrail sites & determine where he can send those crews to do guardrail work while they are available.

Luke explained that the system is almost complete. It is pretty accurate now but they would like to improve it. The video van will go out each summer & video the roads, then the information will be put into the system & updated. This whole system will eliminate staff having to go out and drive these roads, & will save on gas and time.

Sundquist suggested to Marsha Miller that during the Admin-Pro union negotiations in 2009, the clause in the contract that says the Sheriffs Inmate Crew cannot be utilized for road vegetation work if union employees are laid off, be changed so those inmate crews can be used again. He stated that the State can field an inmate crew for \$300/day, so maybe the County can do a trade with the State & use these crews for vegetation work, & the County can do some striping for the State.

V. UPDATE ON N. GAME FARM RD PROJECT - MELOTTI

Melotti explained that one side of the street is urban/residential & the other is rural. There is a French Broome infestation in the ROW. The intention was to do some volunteer manual maintenance in that area. He met with Mark Harpin at the Eugene Christian Fellowship to use their property as a staging area. Mark agreed to this. He is hoping to get this going this Fall. Melotti stated that he has not talked with the home owners association there. They had approached VMAC originally about this. He explained that Commissioner Stewart had spoke to VMAC about taking on this project.

Schumacher showed some pictures of N. Game Farm and the infestation problem. He shared pictures of the French Broom infestation. He explained the difficulty using the County equipment that is designed for rural work, to take care of the urban areas.

Sundquist stated that he thinks it would be easy to use a tractor & roto tiller to go in and clean it up easily. He stated that John Alshuter from the Homeowners Association said that they want the County to clean it up & didn't know if any other property owners would be willing to put up any money.

LaRue explained that you can't go in & roto till it the way it is without spending several days. The ground is so rough right now to work on.

Schumacher showed pictures with the crews using the "uni-mog". It is limited to where it can

reach & is a top heavy piece of equipment.

Sundquist stated that Chateau Lorane is having good results controlling Broom by mowing.

J. Nelson stated that her sheep have been doing a good job of keeping down the Scotch Broom.

Schumacher explained that they do use a water truck during fire season but within limits due to State regulations. They can use it at the end of the day but not from site to site. The unimog can get to sites easily without having to be hauled to the site. It can travel at 55mph on the roads. Schumacher explained that he has been un-able to find soil that is determined to be weed free for road projects.

Koivula stated that the City of Eugene is able to get weed free soil.

VI. SUNBURST – GREG PRULL, NO SHOW

VII. BOARD OF HEALTH UPDATE - SCHUMACHER

Schumacher stated that the proposal to the Board has not changed. He explained that he is presenting alternatives:

1. Go forward with the original proposal the committee voted on.
2. Impose a 3 yr moratorium from the Board of Health with no chemical use; provide 2 full time employees to offset the increased work, & purchases of small equipment.
3. 3 yr moratorium from the Board of Health with no chemical use, & no additional staffing.
4. Take no action & continue the way things are.

This information will be in the Board Agenda packet for June 18.

J. Nelson asked for this information to be emailed.

Schumacher explained that it is not an official document yet. He suggested that she contact County Counsel.

Woodruff explained that Christina Spear has replaced Sasha Cosio in County Administration.

VIII. UPDATE WORK PLAN

Discussion/Action topics added and work plan will be updated and distributed at next meeting.

IX. ROAD MAINTENANCE UPDATE - SCHUMACHER

The crews will wrap up the dust oil program this week if it stays dry, approximately 21 miles of gravel road will be dust oil. They don't use oil. It is actually a product called lignin sulfonate. Crews have been prepping Deerhorn Rd, Christensen Rd, & Washburn Lane for chip seal. Washburn & Christensen are completed & Deerhorn will be by next Monday. Approximately 4 miles of gravel rd will be hard surfaced this year. The blade patch crew (zone 2 & 3) started paving this week. They are currently at the coast & will be there until the end of the month. The chip seal crew will start chip sealing next Tuesday & will start on gravel roads that were prepped & mentioned above. The program is approximately 125 miles this year. The bridge crew is prepping & painting the Deadwood covered bridge & should be completed by the end of the month. Special projects crew will start replacing culverts with fish passage culverts on July 1st. LaRue asked about fish culverts. It was explained that they are trying to get away from galvanized culverts & are using the squash culverts & they are trying to use more fish friendly culverts.

X. VEGETATION UPDATE – SCHUMACHER

Schumacher explained that crews have been working on prepping the roads prior to the road crews doing their work. They have finished the River Road blocks. The door hanger process has been completed for the tree work. If Schumacher doesn't here back from those property owners by the deadline given, he can still do the tree work. He gets positive and negative responses

from owners.

Koivula asked if there was thought given to putting out public releases prior to work being done for visual clear zones.

Schumacher explained that the County used to do this. Some of the issues revolve around private property where trees affect the ROW. Owners are given tree vouchers for new trees if their tree is removed.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Wroncy stated that the Dept of Forestry & timber companies should provide a larger buffer & feather the edge, & refrain from using herbicides. She would like the alternatives list be available to the public & VMAC. She thinks it would be if the crews could use the articulated arm to mow behind the guardrails before sending crews out. She stated the dust control Lignate is a pulp mill waste & contains 3 parts per billion dioxin. It is harmful to people who have problems with sulfur. The next Siuslaw Watershed Council meeting is June 28th & will be having a Knapweed demonstration at the Triangle Lake Grange. Knapweed is real easy to pull out after rain. Wool **mulch** is something she will be researching & reporting back on .

XI. NEW ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – WED.,JUNE 11, 2008

1. Report on Illegal spray subcommittee – J. Nelson
2. Board of Health update – Schumacher
3. Update on N. Game Farm Rd – Schumacher
4. Update on ODOT decision on Pilot Project - Sundquist
5. Fish culvert work (photos) – Schumacher
6. VMAC vote on vacation month – committee

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Debby Woodruff, Recording Secretary