

**MINUTES**  
**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**January 21, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT: James LaRue, Ross Penhallegon, John Sundquist, Kai Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Orin Schumacher, Marsha Miller, Stephonee Freeman, Steve Smith

B/CC PRESENT:

GUESTS PRESENT:

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jan Nelson

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

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment moved to end of meeting by members, as Jan Nelson is expected to arrive sometime during tonight's meeting. No public in attendance at start of meeting.

Jan Nelson commented on snow removal. She was reluctant to call to request that the County sand their road in the Coast Range, that they were snowed in for three days, and that when they did attempt to leave they could only get approx. 200 feet down the road as they were stopped by snow mounds. Ms. Nelson also asked if the County was doing trenching work along Crow Road between Erickson and Spencer Creek Roads? Mr. Schumacher responded in the negative. Ms. Nelson also mentioned a pull-the-ivy project done in the early 1990's in Alton-Baker Park as a public educational outreach.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion: Penhallegon moved to approve the Minutes of (November 12, 2008 ), with one (1) correction to change James LaRue's unexcused absence at the last meeting from "unexcused" to "excused." John Sundquist seconded. **VOTE:** 4 in favor. Motion passed.

**III. GENERAL COMMENT**

Williams asked 1) Should elections for new members be done first at this meeting and 2) Or should elections wait until extra members are present. Members informally discussed issue and decided it would be best to wait for new members. Members also determined that Williams should act as temporary chair until next election.

Sundquist suggested that an invasive subcommittee be formed that would coordinate with VMAC as this will be an increasing problem for Lane County.

Williams suggested adding this topic to the next meeting; that is, to determine which subcommittees should be added, deleted and/or retained.

Sundquist agreed with the suggestion and stressed the importance of this issue. He also asked if the work plan update today will include any signoff on a summary of what was done last year and then be sent to the BCC.

Schumacher answered in the affirmative.

Sundquist stated the need for an itemized VMAC expense report for the previous fiscal or calendar year.

Penhallegon stated that itemized budget is not usually provided and/or needed by the committee.

Sundquist stressed the need for an important itemized budget as a necessary budget; such as, inventory of equipment and funds expected for setting priorities.

Schumacher and Miller informed group that activity-based budget reports can be provided to committee with any needed information if the members determined such were necessary.

#### **IV. REVIEW & RECOMMEND NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Schumacher passed out four (4) VMAC membership applications received and discussed the procedure used for receiving and processing the applications to bring to the VMAC.

Williams asked to confirm if the committee would review the applications and then make recommendations to BCC.

Schumacher answered in the affirmative and listed the applicants: Jan Nelson, Jan Wroncy, Marilyn Lowe, and Lynn Bowers. He asked if committee will take verbal or written vote.

Penhallegon discussed BCC expectations and how it was done in the past.

Williams suggested taking top three candidates forward.

Miller suggested using whiteboard to capture member's ratings of all four applicants. Roundtable and informal discussion held as members reviewed applications.

Williams rated Lowe as number one and Wroncy as number two (did not rate others).

Sundquist rated Wroncy as number one, Nelson as number two and Bowers as number three.

Penhallegon rated Lowe as number one, Nelson as number two and Wroncy as number three.

LaRue abstained from voting with explanation that not enough time for review. Some discussion by members as to proper procedure.

**Motion:** Williams moved to forward top three candidates, M. Lowe, J. Nelson, and J. Wroncy to the BOCC for their consideration. Seconded by Sundquist. **VOTE:** Four in favor. Motion passed.

#### **V. ILLEGAL ROAD SIDE SPRAY – SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – SUNDQUIST**

Sundquist asked if the County has authority over roads created by easement from the farmers if they have contractual arrangements with the County to manage roadsides as they determine. Frank Simas at Lane County told him that the County owns land outright, John Petsch issues the required permits, and that none have been issued. Any spraying on County property without permit would be illegal. With that in mind the Spray subcommittee can come up with a plan of action to present to both the VMAC and then to the BCC. And that the Spray subcommittee should meet every month to be more efficient.

Penhallegon asked if this was priority objective of VMAC.

Sundquist responded that he was providing a report on the subcommittee. Subcommittee actions could include preparation of a letter of notification to the landowners and include an admonishment and alternatives to illegal spraying.

Williams asked if a hotline exists.

Schumacher answered that there is no hotline, but that the public will be called if the County initiated a spraying program in the future.

Williams asked what actions are being taken for illegal spraying.

Schumacher answered that the County does not take any actions at this time.

Sundquist and Penhallegon discussed the issue and as to the purpose of this discussion as the County takes no action on this issue.

Sundquist said that County has chosen a non-action policy, but with the growing liability of the problem it is an important issue and shouldn't be ignored by the subcommittee or VMAC.

Williams stated that VMAC could make recommendations on this issue that action should be taken and suggested looking into any educational actions that VMAC could take regarding illegal roadside spraying.

Sundquist stated that the subcommittee should be the body to prepare such an action list that could then be taken to VMAC, and doesn't think that a motion is needed at this time.

Penhallegon asked if such an action would open a "can of worms" for the County.

LaRue, Sundquist, and Williams discussed how to address the issue and the scope of the issue.

Schumacher stated how Marion County handles this issue and subcommittee staffing levels, policies, and practices.

Sundquist mentioned "Salmon Safe" video used by Yamhill County concerning how to handle grassy swales/mow strips/ bio swales, roadside runoff, and that seed certification could be adopted as a tool. And as herbicides are no longer a central topic for subcommittee that the VMAC could discuss the issue now or when new members are present.

Williams: Due to time constraints suggested closing discussion at this time and to discuss at the next meeting with a brainstorming session on other agencies actions. Miller suggested that the minutes from the Health Advisory Committee may be useful for such a discussion.

#### **VI. IVM COORDINATOR UPDATE – SCHUMACHER**

Schumacher reported on guardrail installs (example Game Farm Road) and continued discussion from last meeting. Fabric can possibly be installed for this problem. Tried other methods including gravel, and sandbags which works better. Held up for approximately one year to a year and a half. Discussed first round of brush mowers and then seasonal crews work that has been done in half of the county. To make it fiscally feasible, need to do every third year. Reported other problem roads and other areas of interest; such as, McKenzie Hwy. Then informed committee of Tree Program status, new crew members, and success of program. Mentioned that large amount of time spent on River Road. Spoke to removal and root problems of trees in urban areas. And mentioned that he is both Vegetation Coordinator and Supervisor due to retirement of Bill Manewal

Sundquist asked about the five (5) new hires for guardrail program.

Schumacher answered that there were seven (7) new hires: five (5) in here and two (2) at coast and that they are doing a good job. Receiving many compliments for both program and workers. He informed committee that budget un-healthy but future uncertain with hopes for federal monies.

Miller discussed Road Fund shortfall each year. Plan maintenance budget with searches for additional funding from various sources as available. Holding any cuts, but not filling positions automatically and will reassess in the coming years. Moving towards status quo with prudent reserves as possible. Discussed how reserve funds are handled, current and past levels, and projecting 20 million dollar shortfall.

Schumacher stated that he could arrange a tour of the shop and equipment for committee.

#### **VII. ROAD MAINTENACE UPDATE – ARNO**

Williams asked if there was any information on this subject, as Mr. Nelson was not present.

Schumacher offered that at this time of the year, crews are doing ditching work in preparation for next year. Crews are working in the Marcola area.

Miller mentioned that the crews were working twenty-four hours shifts of late due to the recent snow and ice.

Schumacher said that the crews have been busy with winter operations and sanding/sweeping.

Williams mentioned Iowa received a garlic salt donation that was used on the roads.

Schumacher said that the crews have been working in Hills Creek area on a road that keeps dropping out and the needed culvert work and work being done in Jasper area.

Sundquist asked about best management practices for ditching work and if completing the work in Summer would be best due to sediment load.

Schumacher responded that ditching work must be done first with planning to be ahead of the game, with water barriers, sand bags, and fabric installs needed for sediment control. Also discussed how other states work versus the process and needs to complete Oregon projects.

## **VIII. WORK PLAN UPDATE**

Williams asked if need to approve 2008 Work Plan before starting 2009 year Work Plan.

Schumacher said approval for last year's Work Plan is not needed.

**Motion: Sundquist** moved to approve the 2008 draft work plan and have Schumacher take to the BCC. Seconded by Williams. **VOTE:** 4 in favor. Motion passed.

Williams then opened up discussion for the new 2009 Work Plan.

Williams leave bold points and format unless we want to adopt a new format.

Schumacher responded that was not necessary and probably not allowed.

Williams then again suggested that the all should be deleted except for the bold points. And that the committee should determine at end of each meeting what information should be filled in and where on the Work Plan and then updated prior to the next meeting. She said that Item #2 on the work plan needs new subtitle – perhaps Invasive or Illegal Roadside Spraying and also to add to request and review the Health Committee minutes.

Sundquist suggested add Invasive Subcommittee under item #1.

Williams stated that the Invasive Subcommittee discussion was already added to the next meeting agenda. Additionally, she said that under item #4 should include a mention of Schumacher's positive changes to the IVM Tree Program.

Schumacher responded that her suggestion was not in the scope of item #4, as that deals with recommendations to the BCC.

Williams then suggested that the report on the positive changes/Tree Program could be listed under item #1 as letter A as needed roadside tree maintenance.

Sundquist asked if need to integrate inmate crew?

Schumacher responded that Sheriff's crew did a lot besides roadside vegetation as they also picked up a lot of trash. Current group can handle trash pickup, vegetation removal, Christmas tree pickup more efficiently due to due to equipment used. Mentioned that the 1.2 million dollar budget for inmate crew is gone and that caused a work plan model change. Reiterated that if crews can maintain level of service if priorities don't change.

Williams suggested adding under item #2 b "Fabric for guardrail alternative methods and in right-hand column list as "using fabric for new and replacement guardrails."

LaRue asked about the evaluation process and purchase of new fabric and the replacement of the fabric for the existing guardrail installations.

Schumacher responded that purchases made are based upon product specs, other agencies experience, durability, and cost. Also discussed the high temperatures under the fabric that will kill unwanted seeds.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS - ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – MARCH 11, 2009**

1. Review subcommittees to determine which should be retained/deleted – Committee
2. Review the suggestion for the formation of an Invasive Subcommittee - Committee
3. Discuss invasive plants educational opportunities for the public and the funding for such educational outreach – Committee
4. Discuss 2008 fiscal year report on expenses - Schumacher
5. Continue discussion of illegal roadside spraying - Sundquist
6. Annual report summary - Schumacher
7. Discuss BCC recommendation for VMAC to meet on a monthly schedule – Sundquist
8. Road Maintenance Report – Nelson
9. IVM Coordinator Update - Schumacher
10. Election of VMAC officers

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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Steve Smith  
Substitute Recording Secretary