

MINUTES
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 11, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Bingham, Karen Bodner, Paul Clements, Molly Hoffer, Mike Koivula, Chris Melotti, Douglass Moser

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Balthrop, Ross Penhallegon

STAFF PRESENT: Sonny Chickering, Stephonee Freeman, Bill Manewal, Orin Schumacher

B/CC PRESENT:

GUESTS PRESENT:

PUBLIC PRESENT: John Sundquist

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

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Sundquist: Explained that he recently received his No Spray Area (NSA) renewal notice in the mail, and then contacted Schumacher to let him know that the spray truck is not needed in vegetation management, and in the event that it could be used, it would be for spot use and not used for any other purpose. Sundquist said Schumacher responded that the spray truck could be used to meter chemical dosage and be retrofitted with guns for spot application. Sundquist said that there seems to be an effort to return to volume placement on the roadside and that is part of the problem that caused abuses and lawsuits in the past, and added that the spray truck has an awful history.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Hoffer moved to approve the Minutes of December 14, 2005, as written. Moser seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

III. GENERAL COMMENT

Schumacher suggested that as each agenda item is discussed, the Committee focus on that issue and be aware of sidetracking. He also suggested that at each meeting the work plan be reviewed and accomplishments added, in order to prevent spending extra time at the end of the year updating it. Committee responded positively and the work plan will be added as a monthly agenda item.

IV. NOMINATION & SELECTION OF 2006 CHAIRPERSON AND CO-CHAIR

Melotti said he was ready to step back from chairperson and Bodner said that since this was her 8th and final year as a Committee member, she was interested in taking on the responsibility. Koivula said he would like to continue as co-chair. Melotti motioned to elect Bodner as chair and Koivula as co-chair for 2006. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

V. DISCUSS ARTICLE BREAKING NEW GROUND: SOIL COMMUNITIES AND EXOTIC PLANT INVASION, JUNE 2005/VOL. 55 NO. 6, BIOSCIENCE (INCLUDED IN DEC 2005 PACKET)

Melotti said the article firmed up some items that Moser had mentioned last year regarding soil and farming. Bodner said she got a lot of information out of the article and suggested that the Committee try to get supplemental organizations involved (departments from University of Oregon and OSU). Melotti said it was worth making contact.

VI. LANE COUNTY INTEGRATED ROADSIDE VM PROGRAM, 2005 ANNUAL REPORT – SCHUMACHER

The Annual Report is complete, and has been presented to the Board of Health (BOH). The Control Prescriptions and Permitted Products List are both still being processed.

VII. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF 2005 VMAC ANNUAL REPORT (WORK PLAN) – COMMITTEE

Melotti motioned to approve the 2005 VMAC Annual Report as corrected. Bingham seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed. Report will be submitted to County Administration the week of January 23 (deadline is February 1st).

VIII. 2006 VMAC WORK PLAN DRAFT – COMMITTEE & STAFF

Schumacher said he made modifications to the work plan and asked the Committee to review, edit, and/or approve the changes. Some revisions were made and the work plan was approved for the year.

IX. POTENTIAL SPEAKER/PRESENTATION LIST – SCHUMACHER

Based on the list prepared by Schumacher, and comments from the Committee, the following schedule was drafted:

- Vern Holm, Director of NW Weed Mgt. Partnership – February 8 (confirmed speaker)
- Tom Shamberger & Tanya Beard, Marion County Vegetation Coordinator and Botanist – March 8, tentative. Schumacher will confirm by next meeting.
- Dale Darris, Native Grass Seed Specialist, USDA, NRCS – tie in with CIP project test site ideas. April 12, tentative. Schumacher will confirm by next meeting.

X. CONTROL PRESCRIPTIONS – DISCUSSION

Control Prescriptions in draft form is still in progress, and will be provided to the Committee for the next meeting in February. The final draft will go to the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) in March.

XI. PERMITTED PRODUCTS LIST – DISCUSSION

Schumacher handed out the proposed Permitted Products List to the Committee, and asked that they review, comment, and suggest revisions. Schumacher said he was making the list available on the County website as of 1/12/06. The document will be presented at the next PHAC meeting February 7, and go before the Board of Health in April. The proposed Permitted Products List will be reviewed at the February 8th VMAC meeting.

XII. CIP PROJECTS & TEST PLOT SITES – CHICKERING/SCHUMACHER

Schumacher presented maps for review showing the top three CIP projects planned for 2006/2007 that would be ideal for test plot sites. Chickering gave a brief overview of each

project:

- Jasper Road Extension (JRE): Project may start in 2006, pending approval of permits. As the largest project of the three, JRE includes wetlands, meadow habitat, young forested sites, and the finished road will be nearer the Willamette River.
- Marcola Road: Project will start in 2007, and will include realignment between the Cash Creek Bridge and Shotgun Creek. The realignment will replace sharp curves with longer ones, replace the Cash Creek Bridge (built of concrete in early 1960's), and leave a portion of the old road abandoned. The test site would be considered for native restoration and grass seed planting.
- Row River Road: Project will start in 2006, and will involve a slight shift in alignment while a new bridge is constructed. The old bridge and alignment will be abandoned (bridge has shear-cracking). The test site would be ideal for vegetation management and monitoring.

XIII. IVM STATUS UPDATE – SCHUMACHER

Schumacher reported that he is working on an educational flyer to mail to rural areas that include information such as "10 most wanted weeds", and will be printed on a water resistant material. Schumacher said he will continue to work with Manewal to develop other public education programs.

XIV. ROAD MAINTENANCE UPDATE – MANEWAL

Manewal reported that Vegetation crews continue to work on storm clean-up involving cleaning out culverts, removing fallen trees and brush, as well as landslide debris from roads. Manewal said that Zone 5 (Florence/Mapleton) currently is being kept most busy with this type of work.

Manewal said that crew members will attend training with Schumacher in Salem to obtain herbicide licenses and right of way certifications.

XV. NEW ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – WED., FEBRUARY 8, 2006:

- Control Prescriptions (Draft) – Will be presented at meeting
- Permitted Products List (Draft) - Review
- Work Plan (Review & Update) – Committee
- Mycelium Running, Paul Stamets – Discussion
- Speaker List 2006 (Update) – Schumacher

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Stephonee Freeman, Recording Secretary