

MINUTES
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 10, 2006

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Clements

STAFF PRESENT: Stephonee Freeman, Arno Nelson, Bill Manewal, Orin Schumacher

B/CC PRESENT:

GUESTS PRESENT:

PUBLIC PRESENT:

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

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Melotti moved to approve the Minutes of April 12, 2006, as corrected. Moser seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

III. GENERAL COMMENT

Schumacher reported that David Balthrop called and resigned from the Committee. Bingham said that he will be resigning after the June 14 meeting. A Vacancy Notice will be posted for three positions (dates of posting and deadline for application submission to be determined).

Schumacher reported that 250+ County personnel attended a celebration of life for Sean McQuillan, Vegetation Crew member, who died on duty, and that he was a valued employee and will be greatly missed.

Moser asked Schumacher how much information does the County need to receive in order to change one of the chemicals that was approved by the BCC (Board of County Commissioners) on the Permitted Products List. Schumacher said there will be an annual review and that would be the time and place to make any changes.

IV. PERMITTED PRODUCTS LIST APPROVAL (BOARD OF HEALTH) – SCHUMACHER

The Board of Commissioners voted in favor 3 to 2, to approve the five herbicides listed in the Permitted Products List. Schumacher said that now the focus for the County is to focus on how to implement the Last Resort Policy by establishing goals, protocol, storage policies, etc.

V. LANE COUNTY VEGETATION MGT STANDARDS & GUIDELINES, SERIES 1: RIGHT OF WAY BRUSHING STANDARDS – SCHUMACHER

Schumacher reported that he is writing standards and guidelines that focus on equipment used

and how to use it, as well as setting uniformity for plant height and width. Upon completion of the standards and guidelines, Vegetation Crews will be trained. Standards and guidelines for grass mowing and top trimming are also in progress.

VI. ALTERNATIVE CONTROL METHODS AND TOOLS DISCUSSION – COMMITTEE

Melotti said that ODOT was using a berm shaper and retriever and at the time Committee and Staff was considering asking for a demonstration. Nelson said they will look into it more, but by and large, the majority of the County road system is too narrow and steep to use this equipment. Melotti asked Schumacher to contact ODOT and document their comments for recording in the Work Plan.

Melotti said Tom Shamberger of Marion County mentioned using a four speed loader to clear roadway shoulders, and Manewal said that the County rented one for a month about 10 years ago and it worked well. Nelson said that it would be difficult at this time to rent this equipment due to Staff work load, but may be a possibility in the future.

Melotti suggested that the ditching should be added to the Annual Report (Work Plan) as an alternative method and tool used by the County.

Bodner asked if any of the grasses that were presented by Dale Darris (April 2006 Grass Seed Presentation) would be considered, and Schumacher said some of the California and Columbia brome grasses may be possibilities. He added that native annual grasses don't do well on roadsides because Crews mow them before the grass goes to seed and then again later in the season.

Melotti asked about working with Friends of Buford Park and Schumacher said they're raising grass specifically for their restoration, but not for distribution.

Schumacher said he'll look into legumes for use as an alternative.

VII. IVM UPDATE – SCHUMACHER

In regards to the BCC award meeting for the Permitted Products List, Schumacher reported that 12 citizens spoke against the list and zero spoke in favor during public comment. He added that information was made available for four months prior to the award date and that he sent out information to about 90 different organizations/individuals mailings were made to solicit comment, but none was received. HAC also was invited to comment, but no promotion of changes was made.

VIII. ROAD MAINTENANCE UPDATE – MANEWAL

Manewal reported that safety grass mowing started this past week and will continue through the end of July. Full width mowing will resume at that time; Amount of brush mowing has been limited, depending on crew availability; Vegetation Crews added two 6-month employees to help with summer work; tree pruning is completed as reported and needed by zones and citizens. He added that he has been working on the standards and guidelines document and will be planning the training program.

Nelson reported that overlays are in progress and that in mid-June, dust oiling will start (dust oiling product cost is up 35%, and cost for oiling product for chip sealing is anticipated to increase the same). Asphaltic mix is anticipated to go up 35% as well, and the bidding process was postponed until late summer.

Seasonal help that includes up to 32 summer help employees will be brought on board by next month.

IX. REVIEW OF 2006 VMAC WORK PLAN – COMMITTEE & STAFF

Updated work plan.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

Schumacher is working on a vegetation website with the assistance of other employees.

GPS – At next meeting, Schumacher will bring an example of the work that has been done thus far. Will plan to present a demonstration of the RMIS program in September.

X. NEW ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – WED., JUNE 14, 2006:

- VMAC Vacancies (3 positions available) – Staff & Committee
- GPS Information – Schumacher
- Weed Data Form & Flyers – Schumacher
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Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Stephonee Freeman, Recording Secretary