**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE**

**LANE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS**

**March 17, 2015 Minutes**

Members: Lisa Arkin, George Grier, Julie Knurowski, William Lackey, Glenn Miller, Joel Miller, Ellen Mooney, James Mough, Bitty Roy

Absent: Lisa Arkin, George Grier, Julie Knurowski, William Lackey

Guest: James Lakehomer

Staff: Orin Schumacher, Steve Smith

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6:00 p.m. – Chairperson Mooney called the meeting to order

1. **OPENING REMARKS**
   1. Chair Mooney expressed appreciation to Bitty Roy for providing two scientific papers on plant seed dispersal.
   2. Schumacher said that the University of Oregon has expressed an interest in assisting with a weed inventory.
   3. Schumacher distributed a U.S. Department of Transportation booklet, “Vegetation Control for Safety, A Guide for Local Highway and Street Maintenance Personnel, Revised August 2008.”
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
   1. No members of the public were in attendance.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
   1. Postponed to the next meeting. Minutes from both February 17 and March 17, 2015 will be addressed at the April 21, 2015 meeting.
4. **ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**
   1. Chair Mooney stated that the following items should be discussed when all members were present. The items will be added to the April 21 meeting agenda.
      1. Task Force’s BCC Recommendation Process
      2. Top Ten Issues
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS / PRESENTATIONS**
   1. Schumacher presented the county’s web-based GIS & Mapping application
      1. Various layers displayed
         1. Noxious weed infestations
            1. Surveys were conducted in previous years (2009 - 2013)
            2. New surveys need to done to update infestations
         2. County, city and local access roads
            1. Local Access Roads

Privately maintained, as not county or city facilities

* + - * 1. Urban roads located in Eugene Metro area (approx. 400 miles)
  1. “Rights-of-Way Management Prescription Plan & Action Thresholds 2006”
     1. Table 1 (page 3) “Prescription Plan Diagram: Overview of Procedures”
        1. Plan provided step by step process to ascertain the best control method(s) to use in any given situation(s)
        2. Never fully implemented due to herbicides ban
        3. Determined table remains a useful tool, but needs to be updated
     2. Discussed noxious weed infestations and removal
        1. Impacts
           1. County facilities
           2. Crops & organic crop certifications
        2. Chemical eradication methods
           1. Public perceptions and acceptance

Health and safety concerns

Educational outreach program needed

Landowner involvement

* 1. Vegetation Rating System - Guardrails
     1. Many guardrail locations have vegetation growth problems
        1. Discussed utilizing county’s GIS & Mapping application for data mining
           1. Historical information helpful, but updated information needed
           2. Maintenance methods to remove blackberries discussed

County limited to strictly manual methods due to herbicides ban

Seasonal crew hired each year

Schumacher noted that the pending budget cuts will eliminate the seasonal guardrail crew

Other jurisdiction’s methods discussed

Spraying

Rolling plant down & cutting to limit overgrowth

* 1. Conclusions & Actions
     1. The Task Force work plan priorities as determined by Chair Mooney
        1. 1st assignment -- Update the “Roadside Vegetation Management and Last Resort Herbicide Use Policy” (Lane Code 15.500 – 15.530).
           1. Schumacher to send policy to members via email
        2. 2nd Assignment – Update the “Rights-of-Way Management Prescription Plan & Action Thresholds 2006”
     2. To help members prepare for the next meeting, Schumacher will email
        1. “Roadside Vegetation Management and Last Resort Herbicide Use Policy (Lane Code 15.500 – 15.530).”
        2. “Rights-of-Way Management Prescription Plan & Action Thresholds 2006”

1. **NEXT MEETING AGENDA**
   1. Determine Task Force’s BCC Recommendation Process
   2. Top Ten Issues
   3. Review and update the “Roadside Vegetation Management and Last Resort Herbicide Use Policy (Lane Code 15.500 – 15.530).”
2. **ADJOURNMENT**
   1. Chair Mooney adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Steve Smith, Minutes Recorder