

MINUTES
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 12, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Graham, Mike Koivula (chair), Jim LaRue, Chris Melotti, Ross Penhallegon, John Sundquist, Kai Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jan Nelson

STAFF PRESENT: Arno Nelson, Orin Schumacher, Debby Woodruff

B/CC PRESENT: Faye Stewart

GUESTS PRESENT:

PUBLIC PRESENT: Jan Wroncy

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

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Jan Wroncy handed out a document from her attorney regarding herbicide use. She stated that the County is clearly not mandated to use herbicides. She has been elected as an environmental representative on the Siuslaw Watershed Council. She will be attending the monthly meetings on this council. At their last meeting, a fish biologist was there and stated that they are considering cutting off salmon fishing in California and Oregon because the runs are in such poor shape.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Melotti moved to approve the Minutes of February 13, 2008 as amended. Penhallegon seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed

III. GENERAL COMMENT

.Melotti passed out a handout "The Silent Invasion" listing the locations to watch a screening regarding invasive species. He also handed a document from the Oregon Dept of Agriculture on the 2007 Annual Report;"60 years of biocontrol in Oregon".

Stewart spoke about a strip of ground on Game Farm Road where it is impossible for crews to manage with mechanical means. He had talked to a homeowner who suggested the County prepare the site and the owners would plant it and maintain it. The County code does not allow plantings in the ROW, so that is something that would have to be worked out. There are issues about watering also. He would like to see VMAC put these issues on the work plan to look at possible answers to planting, and easement issues, so an agreement can be done with this homeowner group, possibly in 2009. He stated that with the restraints on the road maintenance crews, anytime we can get other people to help maintain it is a benefit to the County.

Sundquist asked if that area is expected to be annexed.

A. Nelson stated that it is possible.

Stewart stated the BCC is looking at taking a more active role in the development in the Urban Growth Area. They have been hearing a lot of complaints from citizens.

Koivula asked if covenants have been addressed.

Stewart stated that they have nothing in place right now and that is something they could look at.

Schumacher showed some pictures of the sidewalk area on Game Farm Road. He stated that their mowers cannot mow these areas because the ground is so uneven.

Stewart stated that owners asked if the County could prepare the ground with new soil and provide an approved planting list, the owners would do the planting and maintain it. They also asked if the County could provide watering. It has to be put in a condition first before it could be maintained. He is hoping VMAC will be able to help come up with solutions to these problems.

Sundquist stated that he would like the BCC to appoint Jan Wroncy to the committee.

Koivula stated that the committee has an even number of members right now which could be a problem and they may want to either go up or down a member to avoid having a split vote.

Schumacher stated that the when Moser left the committee, his direction from the Board was to await further direction from the Board to set the standardized number for committees. Anyone who has a vacant position is to keep that position vacant per the Board direction.

Motion: Sundquist moved to ask the Board what the status is for VMAC vacancy and do they intend to fill it before the end of 2008 when other vacancies open up.

Melotti seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed

Schumacher will send an email to the Board for the answer.

IV. REVIEW OF BYLAWS

Motion: Melotti moved to defer the "Review of Bylaws" to the next month's meeting as well as the "Definition of Last Resort" agenda item.

Graham seconded the motion. All present voted in favor. Motion passed

V. DEFINITION OF LAST RESORT

Referred to next meeting

Discussion: Melotti referred to a copy of the May 14, 2003 "Last Resort Model" presented to the Board by VMAC. A definition of last resort was provided in this document. Background information leading to this document can be found in the VMAC minutes prior to and including May, 2003.

VI. VMAC WORK PLAN

Motion: Williams moved to update the Work Plan at every VMAC meeting.

Koivula seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed

VII. VEGTATION MANAGEMENT REPORT- SCHUMACHER

Tape did not record the remainder of the meeting from this point on.

Schumacher reported on the River Road work being done, and described the door hanger process that went into effect.

VIII. ROAD MAINTENANCE UPDATE - ARNO

Nelson gave a brief update on road work projects.

Discussion: Committee members discussed the idea of doing a vegetation clean-up at the N. Game Farm Rd site Stewart referred to. Discussion on whether to involve the public and other agencies/organizations to help with the clean-up. A good idea for PR to the public. Schumacher will check into the legal aspects of the members/public doing this work in the County ROW without proper training and certifications or County staff to supervise. Schumacher offered to volunteer his time to help and other County staff may offer to help with the project. Discussion

on volunteers meeting at the church on Game Farm to organize the clean-up. Suggestion made to involve the media as well. Further discussion to take place at the next meeting.

IX. NEW ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – WED. APRIL 9, 2008,

1. N. Game Farm vegetation clean-up
2. Review of Bylaws
3. Definition of Last Resort
4. Update Work Plan
5. Update on public comments received.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Debby Woodruff, Recording Secretary