

MINUTES
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 14, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim LaRue, Chris Melotti, Ross Penhallegon, Kai Williams, Mike Koivula

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Sundquist, Jan Nelson, Peter Graham

STAFF PRESENT: John Petsch, Orin Schumacher, Debby Woodruff

B/CC PRESENT:

GUESTS PRESENT:

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Koivula called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Melotti moved to approve the minutes of March 12, 2008 as amended. Penhallegon seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

III. GENERAL COMMENT

Melotti asked about the budget.

Schumacher explained that the Road Fund surplus money will be used for the next year to carry Public Works through. Unless there is money coming from elsewhere after next year, PW will be in the same situation as the General Fund departments.

Discussion about the City of Eugene wanting to give the County money to help with services being cut or eliminated in turn for the County to give the City Road money to fix the City's potholes. General discussion on the budget cuts and the Bob Straub project.

Schumacher announced that Ollie Snowden is retiring the end of June and Marsha Miller from the City of Eugene will be the new Director of Public Works.

LaRue commented that Clear Lake Rd is breaking up from Hwy 99 to Alvadore. Major cracks appearing. John Petsch will talk with Arno Nelson about this.

Melotti commented on the Meadow Knapweed problem below Fall Creek Dam.

Schumacher stated he is aware of that site.

Melotti stated that the Forest Service is doing a False Brome project in the Fall Creek area and the signs they used are too small and are placed at ground level with False Brome growing over it. He thinks the County is doing a better job with their signage.

Koivula stated that the City of Eugene's False Brome spraying is back at Alton Baker Park.

Melotti stated that Willamalane is contracting with Glen Miller to treat the False Brome at Dorris Ranch.

IV. UPDATE ON ANNUAL REPORT - ORIN

Schumacher stated that he will be taking the Annual Report back to the Board around the 2nd week of June. The Board has already approved the Annual Report with the exception of the proposed herbicide use. He will be asking for direction from the Board now that they have reviewed all the public comments. No chemical applications proposed or purchase of spray equipment planned for this summer

Schumacher will be hiring a person for summer employment for weed identification. It will be posted on the website.

Larue mentioned that there is a high school student in Tillamook that has invented a way to make bio-diesel out of Scotch Broome.

V. UPDATE ON GAME FARM RD PROJECT - MELOTTI

Melotti explained that Commissioner Stewart has asked VMAC to deal with the N. Game Farm Rd area in regards to the abutting property owners and the row issues. The Homeowners Association would like the County to prep that site for long term maintenance and then they would take over the maintenance. He has pictures of the area and will bring them on a disk to the next meeting to share. He believes the fill dirt used is what brought in the French Broome infestation. He and John Sundquist originally thought it could be handled by pulling it all out by hand, but decided it is too much to do. He has contacted the nearby church and has not heard back yet. He suggested maybe a watershed council would be willing to help with the project. He explained that the slopes are in great shape.

Schumacher The homeowner's side of the road is the problem area for trying to get mowers in there to take care of it. It is primarily grass and blackberries and the big mowers can't get in there. Plus there are fences to deal with. The homeowners want landscaping done and that could be a benefit. They may just want a grass lawn, but either way, there needs to be prep work done.

LaRue suggested putting down some type of tarp down over the weeds and leave it down for some time and then everything would be killed including seeds.

Schumacher explained that the bio mass would have to be hauled out of there and this area is actually a large area to be done.

Melotti suggested possibly putting down a heavy layer of mulch to see what happens and it would also be a good educational site.

Penhallegon suggested getting boy scouts to volunteer to adopt a portion of road.

Schumacher explained that they are using the wood straw now in place of straw. He thinks doing several different types of treatments at the site would be worth trying. He spoke about a volunteer group called "S.O.L.V." (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism). They use a van and provide their own bags, equipment, etc. They work on large projects and are free. They are grant funded. It is a non-profit group. They started the beach pick-up program. Orin will set up the brush fund to do this. He also suggested a guardrail site would be a good place to do volunteer pickup.

VI. UPDATE NWWMP - ORIN

Schumacher explained that the Institute of Applied Ecology (IAE) wants to pick some of our sites to experiment on with mowing and seed suppression. He has the GIS layers to send to them so they can go out and look at the sites. They want to work with the County and it is a win win situation. These will be larger test sites to do multiple treatments in the Fall Creek area at zero cost to the County except for the cost of signs.

VII. KNOTWEED WORKING GROUP UPDATE - ORIN

Schumacher stated that it is a high priority right now.

Melotti suggested that anyone who has not seen an infestation of Knotweed should check it out over at the coast around Mapleton for example. He explained that if the weeds are sprayed but the whole population is not reached, it becomes resistant and not effective.

Schumacher has flyers from **TNC** stating how the weed has to be dealt with including crucial timing. He will bring the flyer to the next meeting.

Melotti would like this information included in a board packet that goes with the proposal to spray Knotweed. The County is not in the research business and should not have to reinvent the wheel. It would be good information to include in the proposal. The Nature Conservancy has done the research already and determined the controlled methods based on science

VIII. UPDATE WORK PLAN

Discussion/Action topics added and work plan will be updated and distributed at next meeting.

IX. ROAD MAINTENANCE UPDATE - PETSCH

They are getting roads prepared for overlays and chip seals, overlays starting in a couple of weeks and chip seals starting end of June or first of July all depending on weather. They will be doing fish culvert work as well.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XI. NEW ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – WED., JUNE 11, 2008

1. Knotweed Report – Melotti (discussion on getting media involved, boy scouts, etc.)
2. Sunburst Discussion – Greg Prole
3. Board of Health Update – Schumacher
4. No herbicide guardrail management plan – Schumacher (video van)

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Debby Woodruff, Recording Secretary