

APPROVED: _____

**MINUTES
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 13, 2011**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jan Wroncy, Jan Nelson, Ross Penhallegon, David Rosenblatt

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Orin Schumacher, Steve Smith

B/CC PRESENT:

GUESTS PRESENT: Dwight Coon, Tania Siemens

PUBLIC PRESENT: John Sundquist

Jan Wroncy called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Schumacher and committee members welcomed Mr. Dwight Coon to the meeting. Mr. Coon said that he had been appointed by Commissioner Jay Bozievich to represent West Lane County; however, the appointment was not yet “official.”

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Sundquist asked if the illegal roadside spraying public service announcement (PSA) had been released as last year it was released in April; that the public should have access to the 2010 year list of VMAC Work Plan accomplishments and County policies; that he was looking forward to tonight’s presentation on invasive weeds; that the Adopt-A-Roadway program should include specific restoration expectations; and that he would like to receive all future committee minutes and agenda mailings.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Penhallegon moved to approve the Minutes of January 11, 2011, as written.
J. Nelson seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

Motion: J. Nelson moved to approve the Minutes of March 9, 2011, as written.
Wroncy seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Rosenblatt said he had attended the last scheduled meeting (April 12); however, he did not see any of the other subcommittee members. J. Nelson said that she was there but did not see him.

Motion: J. Nelson moved to suspend the VMAC subcommittee until further notice, and to remove it from the County public meeting calendar.

Rosenblatt seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

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Schumacher requested minutes or narratives for the past two subcommittee meetings, and he will send them to County Administration as is required.

V. ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

Wroncy said that tonight's meeting schedule would be adjusted to accommodate Tania Siemens, whenever she arrived to give her presentation.

J. Nelson said "Old Business" should be added for discussions on previous topics.

VI. VMAC POSITIONS

Wroncy said that appointing new members for the vacant positions are probably on hold, due to the review of all standing committees by the Policy & Procedures Committee.

J. Nelson asked if staff had an update on the review by the Policy & Procedures Committee.

Schumacher said that Marsha Miller, who could not attend tonight's meeting, would be the person to answer that question. Additionally, he inquired if the members had provided the feedback requested by the Policy & Procedures Committee by the April 1 deadline.

Wroncy said that the responses had been sent to Marsha Miller.

J. Nelson suggested attending the Policy & Procedures Committee public meeting at 1:30 p.m. on April 15 in the BCC Conference Room, Public Service Building to learn the current status of their review.

VII. GENERAL COMMENT

J. Nelson inquired if the PSA on illegal roadside activities would be released this year.

Schumacher replied that he would speak to the Road Maintenance Division Manager, Arno Nelson, to see if he plans on releasing the PSA this year; however, it was not originally planned for yearly release. He added that cost could be a factor in that decision.

Motion: J. Nelson moved that the committee recommend that Lane County release the Illegal Roadside Spray Activities PSA for the Spring 2011 season.

Rosenblatt seconded. All present voted in favor. Motion passed.

Wroncy displayed a weed wrench useful for removing Scotch Broom and suggested it as a tool for the Adopt-A-Roadway program. She added that it was available in various sizes, but that the medium size was useful and easier to handle than the larger, heavier version.

J. Nelson asked staff if County crews used brush cutters in the field.

Schumacher said that County crews use brush cutters, and that the tool on display would be a good for the Adopt-A-Roadway program participants.

Rosenblatt inquired if it worked on blackberries.

Wroncy said that tool tends to break blackberries.

VIII. TEMPERATURE OF THE COMMUNITY

IX. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ADVISORY

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X. VEGETATION COORDINATOR & STAFF UPDATES

Schumacher said that he was currently busy hiring temporary summer help, which consist of up to thirty-two (32) three-month positions, five (5) six-month positions, and seven (7) six-month positions for his Vegetation crew dedicated to weed work and other maintenance projects.

XI. ADOPT-A-ROADWAY PROGRAM UPDATE

J. Nelson inquired if legal counsel had reviewed the Adopt-A-Roadway program.

Schumacher said that he had the Adopt-A-Roadway packet ready for BCC review on May 4; however, it was determined by Marsha Miller that BCC review was not required since this was a program change and not a policy change; however, he will probably present the program to the BCC. Additionally, legal counsel informed him that the BCC might want to issue a resolution to formally adopt the new program.

Wroncy requested staff to notify members if the program will be presented to the BCC.

XII. SPEAKER: TANIA SIEMENS ON INVASIVE SPECIES

Tania Siemens, the Invasive Species Early Detection & Rapid Response Coordinator with Nature Conservancy, attended the meeting to show an Invasive Weed presentation.

Wroncy introduced the members, guests, public members, and staff present.

Tania Siemens inquired about the Adopt-A-Roadway program.

J. Nelson said that Lane County handles the roadsides by mowing and brush cutting, since the County does not used herbicides. She added that the committee is working on the Adopt-A-Roadway program to address the invasive weed problem.

Rosenblatt said that educational materials for the volunteers would be helpful

Wroncy said that there were groups interested in the new program when it is made official.

Tania Siemens offered to assist with the Adopt-A-Roadway program by training volunteers, providing educational materials, and by providing support and links for Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) invasive weed online reporting via the Western Invasives Network with subsequent reporting to Lane County.

Note: Ms. Siemens presented her slide show on invasive weeds (40 minutes).

Tania Siemens said that HB3358 is a pending bill that establishes the mechanism for the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to provide invasive species program funding to the counties.

J. Nelson said that there will be training on Invasive Species from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on April 30 at the Veneta Community Center that was hosted by the Long Tom Watershed Council.

XIII. WORK PLAN UPDATE

Wroncy suggested postponing the work plan update to the next meeting agenda.

J. Nelson asked which work plan and accomplishments were sent to County Administration.

Schumacher said it was the 2010 Work Plan Accomplishments were sent.

J. Nelson suggested clarifying the document title or adding other notations to better identify the document.

Schumacher said the committee previously dropped the work plan subcategories, and planned to discuss rebuilding them.

J. Nelson said that the Administrative Rules state that they can submit the plan for next year, too.

Schumacher said that it had never been requested. He only files the year-end report.

Wroncy said that she would add this item to the next meeting agenda, and she requested that staff send members the final, submitted 2010 Work Plan Accomplishments for their review.

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XIV. FINAL COMMENTS

Schumacher said that the ODA Weed Control District funding mentioned by Tania Siemens was only for designated Weed Control Districts; however, Lane County was not so designated. Wroncy asked John Sundquist if he had any final comments. He said that he would like to hear about the Vegetation Coordinator Annual Report to the BCC, the restoration standards and guidelines for the Adopt-A-Roadway program, the status of the itemized expense summaries for Vegetation Management, and that he would like to see a draft of the explanatory BCC document. He also asked if the submitted 2010 VMAC Work Plan Accomplishments had been approved.

XV. SUGGESTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. 2011 Work Plan
2. A 15 minute presentation on invasive species (Wroncy)
3. Citizen's Guide to ROW Vegetation brochure text update.
4. Text change to Herbicide Free language on the website.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Steve Smith
Recording Secretary