

Conflict over herbicide spraying resolved

By CATHERINE SIEGNER
Of the Emerald

Thanks to Lane County Commissioner Otto t'Hooft, the dispute between Mohawk Community Council and Weyerhaeuser Co. over herbicide spraying in the Upper Mohawk Valley has been resolved.

Two council members met earlier this week in Springfield with representatives from Weyerhaeuser, the State Department of Forestry and the State Dept. of Agriculture, and agreed to let the Agriculture Dept. monitor spraying. T'Hooft arranged and chaired the meeting.

"We all came away pretty friendly and happy," said Lois Paschelke, vice chair of the council. "Weyerhaeuser was real jumpy."

The conflict began in December, when a small notice appeared in the Springfield News announcing Weyerhaeuser's plan to spray three sections of its property on Drury Creek and Mohawk River between Dec. 27 and March 25. State Department of Forestry regulations require that such notice be given at least 15 days prior to actual spraying.

The council became concerned that the herbicides, 2, 4, 5-T and Silvex, would contaminate the community's water supply, and asked the University to monitor the spraying. On Jan. 13, the council sent a letter to Weyerhaeuser asking that its plans be stopped. The company declined.

"We have not started spraying in the Mohawk area," said Weyerhaeuser's Jim Bradbury. "We have sprayed parts of our tree farm, but not very much because of the weather."

It is unclear when Weyerhaeuser plans to spray in the Mohawk area. Before spraying

begins, it must notify contiguous land-owners and residents and downstream water users within one-half mile of the spray area.

"With the agriculture department monitoring spraying, Weyerhaeuser doesn't have to make it (plans to spray) public," Paschelke said.

The Department of Agriculture has already taken a pre-spray sample of water from the Mohawk River and Drury Creek, according to Pesticide Supervisor Tom Harrison.

"There was no 2, 4, 5-T or Silvex residue in the samples," Harrison said. State personnel will take all samples and will use a gas chromatographer, he said, capable of measuring .01 parts per million.

The agriculture department is not testing for the presence of dioxin, a poisonous substance in both 2, 4, 5-T and Silvex. Harrison said dioxin is present in both herbicides at one-tenth of one part per million.

"Weyerhaeuser will notify the state before spraying in the Mohawk area," he added. "They will use helicopters fixed with three to four nozzles. They will spot-spray clumps of vine maples with a special application of a mayonnaise-like consistency."

Oil is mixed in with the herbicides to thicken the mixture and prevent it from drifting into waterways.

Samples will be taken 30 minutes after spraying begins and every three hours during spraying, Harrison explained. After the spraying ceases, samples will be taken again, and once more after the first rain, he said.

"People kept protesting and then got the county involved," Paschelke said. "We didn't want any spraying, but people are happy about the department of agriculture doing the monitoring. Spraying is controversial in the whole valley."



Graphic by Tom Ettel

Senate votes to keep ROTC, improve hiring policies

By GLENN BOETTCHER
Of the Emerald

Four affirmative action proposals, two substantially amended,

made their way through the University Senate Wednesday, but Biology Prof. Bayard McConnaughey's proposal to terminate ROTC's presence on

campus didn't fare as well.

"Making the recommendations were ever more difficult than pulling the information together," said Schmuck. "Our greatest fear

as a committee was that the report would sit on a shelf somewhere and draw dust."

The report did anything but that as 37 Senate members failed to cast a single opposing vote in passing the four recommendations on for University Assembly scrutiny next week.

Schmuck prefaced the committee's recommendations by saying she hoped they would direct leadership responsibility to the faculty even though the recommendations are directed towards the administration.

"It is the faculty that does the hiring. The committee doesn't want the faculty to be relieved of its responsibilities," she said.

The first recommendation, in amended form, provides additional funding for conducting more efficient searches to fill positions.

The three other approved recommendations, would send the committee's report to the State Board of Higher Education, form a committee to work in conjunction with the provost's office, and enlist the help of dean and others in eliminating departmental race and sex disparities.

McConnaughey's motion urging termination of the University's ROTC contract at the earliest date legally possible has come before the Senate more than once.

Despite the 19-11 Senate defeat of the motion he was not discouraged.

"The final vote doesn't concern me as much as getting people to think," McConnaughey said, adding he viewed the outcome encouraging in that respect.

McConnaughey told the group eliminating the ROTC is a good way for faculty to ease the constant military build-up in this country.

A letter from William Loy, chair of the ROTC committee and one of the program's faculty members, was read in defense. In the letter, Loy said students should not be denied the educational opportunities offered by the ROTC.

Before the vote, Senator Richard Littman reminded the group that the ROTC program does not come under Senate jurisdiction and for that reason he was in favor of McConnaughey's motion.

McConnaughey said military build-up such as that represented by the ROTC program has many detrimental effects on both world and national welfare, including the vast siphoning off of non-renewable natural resources. He added that military service draws on the most productive members of our economy — young persons.

In other action, the Senate approved a motion to appoint three University representatives to the Inter-institutional Faculty Senate, with each person serving overlapping three-year terms.

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