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**The Corporation of the County of Northumberland  
Vegetation Management Advisory Committee  
Agenda**

Thursday May 26, 2022, 1:00pm  
Virtual Meeting – Zoom Conference

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82928642779?pwd=SIE4VENkNE1wSHhBYTZ6Z05sRW92Zz09>

**Meeting ID:** 829 2864 2779

**Passcode:** 090603

**Phone:** 855 703 8985 Canada Toll-free

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1. Call to Order
  - a. Territorial Land Acknowledgement
2. Approval of the Agenda

Recommended Motion:  
"That the agenda for the May 26, 2022 Vegetation Management Advisory Committee be approved."
3. Disclosures of Interest
4. Delegations
5. Adoption of Minutes
6. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - a. Presentation – Prepared by County Staff to summarize the following:
    - i. Operational & maintenance costs realized during the trial of the Raiber equipment in 2021

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- ii. Looking ahead to the trial of the Herder in 2022 and County vegetation management this summer
- iii. Summary of the completed inspections of all guiderail inventory locations within the County
- iv. Discuss proposed recommendations to move forward with a Countywide Vegetation Management Plan and the future of the committee.

- 7. Communications
- 8. Staff Reports with Recommendations
- 9. Staff Reports for Information
- 10. Other Matters Considered by Committee
- 11. Question from the Public
- 12. Motion to Move into Closed Session
- 13. Rise and Report from Closed Session
- 14. Next Meeting – TBD
- 15. Adjournment



# Vegetation Management Advisory Committee

Meeting #4 - May 26, 2022

# This presentation will cover:

- ▶ Results and cost summary of 2021 Raiber Trial
- ▶ 2022 Herder Trial Update
- ▶ Results and summary of the 2021 County guiderail inventory survey
- ▶ Proposed recommendations/future of the committee

# Raiber - 2021 Trial Cost Summary (Rental)

## Service Delivery - Investment Breakdown Cost to Rent Summary (Actual Costs 2021):

- ▶ Total Operational Hours: 291 (7-9 Summer Working Weeks)
- ▶ Seasonal Raiber Rental Cost: \$22,000.00
- ▶ County Equipment Cost: \$22,600.00
- ▶ Operator: \$12,000.00
- ▶ Fuel: \$2,300.00
- ▶ Existing Equipment Replacement Reserve: \$14,900.00
- ▶ **Total Annual Service Investment: \$73,800.00**

\*Note that future costs may vary with supply issues & fuel costs rising\*

\*Replacement based on 3% inflation annually throughout service life\*



# Raiber - Cost Summary (Own)

## Service Delivery - Investment Breakdown Cost to Own Summary:

- ▶ Total Operational Hours: 291 (7-9 Summer Working Weeks)
- ▶ Raiber Capital Cost: \$7,700.00
- ▶ Raiber Maintenance/Operational Costs: \$2,300.00
- ▶ Other County Equipment Cost: \$22,600.00
- ▶ Operator: \$12,000.00
- ▶ Fuel: \$2,300.00
- ▶ Raiber Replacement Reserve: \$10,200.00
- ▶ Existing Equipment Replacement Reserve: \$14,900.00
- ▶ **Total Annual Service Investment: \$72,000.00**

\*Note that future costs may vary with supply issues & fuel costs rising\*

\*Replacement based on 3% inflation annually throughout service life\*

\*Would require Council approval through the annual budget process to purchase the Raiber at a cost of approximately \$70,000.00





## Raiber Results

- ▶ Overall successful trial with positive feedback on equipment functionality, ease of use & effectiveness
- ▶ Some areas took multiple passes from the equipment as vegetation was so overgrown
- ▶ Does not cause damage to the guideposts during cutting

## 2022 Equipment Trial Update (Herder)

- ▶ Utilizing Herder for 2022 Vegetation Management around guiderails
- ▶ Anticipate delivery of equipment in summer 2022 with mowing to commence ASAP
- ▶ Expected to be similar costing to Raiber rental trial in 2021
- ▶ The option to own the Herder is anticipated to be similar to the Raiber





# 2021 Guiderrail Inventory Overview



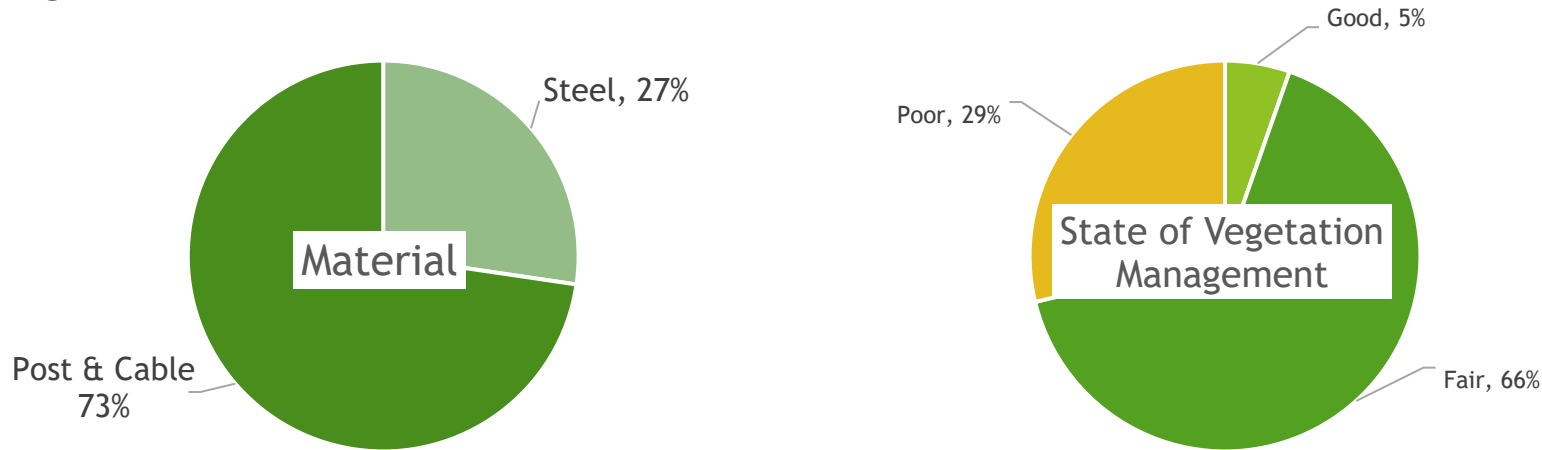
# 2021 Guiderail Inventory Investigation & Summary



- ▶ Students completed site inspections of over 595 individual guiderail locations in 2021
- ▶ GPS logged over 82km of guiderail (not including 2021 Capital Works locations)
- ▶ Utilizing a web application created by the Northumberland County GIS Team, students logged information relating to guiderail material type, length, height and general condition for asset management
- ▶ Students also identified Environmental conditions at each location such as:
  - ▶ Type of roadside hazard (embankments, waterbodies, etc.)
  - ▶ Types and amount of vegetation present (Noxious weeds, trees, brush, etc.)
  - ▶ Condition of vegetation (Needs attention, well maintained or overgrown)
- ▶ All information tracked in a GIS database and presented in an online web map

# Guiderail Inventory - Quick Facts

- ▶ Guiderail inventory is 27% steel and 73% post & cable
- ▶ At time of survey only 5% of locations had vegetation a “Good” state of maintenance with 29% being “Poor”



- ▶ Vegetation within clear zone of guiderail at 64% of inventory locations (weeds, trees, brush, etc.)
- ▶ 26% of inventory adjacent to or crossing wetlands, watercourses & waterbodies
- ▶ 63% of locations are paved or granular sealed up to face of guiderail to prevent vegetation growth
- ▶ Noxious weeds noted at several locations throughout County

# Vegetation Management Proposed Recommendations



1. Once trials are complete, County Staff would recommend that an Issue Paper be brought forward to be considered as part of the 2023 budget deliberations, for the purchase of a piece of mechanical equipment such as the Raiber or Herder to act as the main method of vegetation management around guiderails in Northumberland County. As this would be a significant budget increase above the current allotment, it would need to be approved by County Council prior to purchasing
2. County Staff would also recommend other means such as weed eating or chemical application (Finalson, Clearview, etc.) continue to be used as required for roadside vegetation management in areas that large mechanical equipment cannot be used, or noxious weeds are an issue

# Vegetation Management Proposed Recommendations



3. Based on the recommendations adopted, County staff would develop a County-wide Vegetation Management Plan and the plan will be a living document that can be reviewed and updated as new options and/or information becomes available.
4. County Staff would recommend the Vegetation Management Advisory Committee be disbanded after this meeting, as it has fulfilled its purpose of finding vegetation management solutions which are reliable, cost effective, safe for the public and environment, and not detrimental to County infrastructure.

END

Questions, Comments & Discussion