

 **Metro** | *Agenda*

Meeting: Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee
Date: Tuesday, April 24th, 2012
Time: 5:30 p.m. –7:00 p.m.
Place: Metro Regional Center- Room 270
600 NE Grand Ave, Portland Oregon 97232

- Welcome and Introductions 5:30 – 5:35 p.m. Dave Helzer
- Approve October 2011 Meeting Summary 5:35 – 5:40 p.m. Dave Helzer
- Restoration Plan for 2012 5:40 to 6:10 p.m. Elaine Stewart
- Education Plan for 2012 6:10 to 6:30 p.m. James Davis
- Advisory Committee Chair/Vice Chair 6:30 to 6:45 p.m. All
- Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items 6:45 to 6:55 p.m. All
 - Herbicides Discussion
- General Updates and Adjourn 6:55 to 7:00 p.m.



Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee

April 24, 2012

Committee members in attendance:

Dale Svart*Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Lynn Barlow*City of Portland, Parks and Recreation
Pam Arden*40 Mile Loop Trust
Patt Opdyke *North Portland Neighbors
Sara Henderson*St. Johns Neighborhood Association

Metro:

Dan Moeller*Metro Sustainability Center
Elaine StewartMetro Sustainability Center
James Davis.....Metro Sustainability Center
Carrie BeldingMetro Sustainability Center
Phyllis ColeMetro Parks & Environmental Services

*Denotes voting Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee member.

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. and introductions were made.

Approve January Minutes

We were not able to approve January 2012 minutes because we didn't have a quorum. We will approve January minutes at the next meeting.

Budget

Dan shared the budget with the committee. (*See Attachment 1*)

Smith and Bybee General Work Plan

Elaine Stewart reviewed the 2011-12 general work plan she presented last year. (*See first page of Attachment 2*)

A few things to mention:

- Elaine will check with Rick Scrivens to confirm that he has caged around the ash trees – there is still time to accomplish that if it hasn't been done yet this fiscal year.
- In the peninsula between Bybee and Smith lakes, caging was done to small ash trees and also to every five or 10 cottonwoods in young plantings and a number of large cottonwoods near the water. Cost was about \$10,000 in three days; materials and time are relatively expensive for protecting the large trees.
- Knapweed control is very important and Metro staff are monitoring the presence of this weed.
- Yellow flag iris control is important, and Metro plans to dedicate staff and contract crews to controlling this invasive plant.
- Elaine's second grad student at Portland State University completed her thesis on water management of reed canarygrass populations. She will schedule a presentation for the Advisory Committee.
- Dan mentioned that we will contact Ducks Unlimited to design escape routes for wildlife that are occasionally trapped in the water control structure.

- Bonnie Shoffner is getting out quarterly with a corporate volunteer group that has adopted Smith and Bybee as a work site.
- Elaine submitted a grant to OWEB two weeks ago to plant out about 80 acres. The total project cost is around \$400,000. We should be able to match from the Smith and Bybee fund.

Erin Riggs collected about 200 plant species near Smith and Bybee, and mounted them for permanent storage in the PSU herbarium.

Patt Opdyke mentioned that when the group was developing the CNRP we were talking about having a forward eye and anticipating seeing new invasive at the wetlands.

Elaine said that Erin found many of the exotic plants along Marine Drive. Erin is a “systematic botanist” – she’s excellent at plant identification and taxonomy. She even found grass from Africa! Marine Drive, the canoe launch and the trail is the first line of defense – where invasive plants are coming in on boots, cars, canoes, etc.

The work that Elaine has done around *Ludwegia* is not quite done yet. She would like to write it up and submit it for publication, with her colleague at PSU (Vanessa Morgan at Center for Lakes and Reservoirs). There are very few published studies for what is and what is not working, related to controlling this invasive plan. Elaine will be doing informal monitoring this year to determine the effectiveness of her treatments.

Staff will be working on bird surveys in the “St. Johns Prairie” (formerly called the St. Johns Landfill), and will also meet with Solid Waste staff regarding planning at the St. John’s Prairie.

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Education Update

James Davis talked with the Advisory Committee about the educational programs he delivers at Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. (*See Attachment 3*)

A few things James mentioned:

- The main themes typically discussed at Smith and Bybee haven’t changed much over time.
- The schools that take field trips Smith and Bybee the most are those that are closest to Smith and Bybee and those from the Centennial School District.
- James and Patt talked about the cost of school field trips and the fee waiver that schools apply for and typically receive, making most of the school field trips free.
- There is a high demand for school field trips at Smith and Bybee, but Scout groups, youth groups and bible camps are becoming rarer.
- The demand for fall programs is getting lower – not sure why.
- There is programming most days each week during the spring at Smith and Bybee, between Metro, Audubon, etc. Lots of kids are getting out there!
- James provides the entire curriculum vs. the schools providing curriculum.
- In addition to school field trips, James also does programs that are open to the public – bird watching walks, turtle watching, kayak tours, etc. James has a volunteer who can take his place if needed.
- In the summer James conducts his twilight Tuesday tours. Tour groups see deer, coyote, otter, deer and nutria,

There was a short discussion about the high demand for education programs at Smith and Bybee and the limited staff time we have to provide that programming. Pam wondered what it would cost to add another staff person to help with programming at Smith and Bybee. James talked about the value of volunteers who are able to help. They enable him to do the types of programs he wants vs. adding programming. Patt talked about the costs of adding an extra staff person and that there’s a tradeoff in that we don’t want to love an

area too much. James noted that we're not making any money on the programs to be able pay someone else to work on the programs.

Next Meeting

Dan suggested that we keep on our meeting schedule and meet at the scheduled time in September. Patt suggested that we could visit some of the areas that are being restored at a meeting in July/August. At our next meeting should talk about herbicides. We talked about making use of the summer months to gather information on effects of herbicides so we can have more of an informed discussion when we regroup. The information will be collected by the Committee Chair and Dan and a packet of the information will be sent out to committee members. The herbicide discussion will be on the agenda of the September meeting.

Patt suggested that it would also be good to discuss vector control in the future. It's not quite the same as the herbicide discussion, but close. Patt would like some information on the impacts on the biota that are part of the food cycle in the wetlands. She also asked if there was something we would be able to do in our restoration work (planting aquatic plants, for instance) that would take up excess pesticides. Dale referred Patt to the Multnomah County Vector Control website (<http://web.multco.us/health/pest-prevention-and-control>). Dan suggested bringing someone in from Vector Control to talk about some of their approaches to treating pests.

Dale told the group that ORRCO, TRIGGCO and Recology have been talking with the Fiends of Smith and Bybee Lakes, and he will keep the committee as informed as he can on their discussions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Carrie Belding.

Metro			
Smith and Bybee Fund			
Budget FY 2012-2013			
	<u>FY 2010-2011</u>	<u>FY 2011-2012</u>	<u>FY 2012-2013</u>
Fund Balance (as of September 2011)	\$ 4,024,076.65	\$ 3,817,257.00	\$ 3,743,012.00
Investment Return %	0.79%	0.50%	0.50%
Investment Earnings	\$ 31,852.44	\$ 19,086.00	\$ 18,715.00
	<u>FY 2010-2011 (Actual)</u>	<u>FY 2011-2012</u>	<u>FY 2012-2013</u>
	\$ 158,113.93	\$ 170,500.00	\$ 169,841.00
Staffing (25% - James Davis, Rick Scrivens, Elaine Stewart)		\$ 112,500.00	\$ 104,841.00
Contracted Services (Restoration)		\$ 50,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
Contracted Services (Facility Maintenance)		\$ 15,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
CNRP Application		\$ 13,000.00	\$ -
CNRP Application Development		\$ (20,000.00)	\$ -

Paid for out of
General Fund

2011-12 General Work Plan
Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

	Month	Task	Budget	Staff days	Acres	Staff lead	Complete
Habitat restoration							
	Nov	Seeding native plants	\$ 500	1.0	12.0	Elaine	X
	Nov-Dec	Cage ash trees	\$ 10,000	0.5	10.0	Rick	
	Nov-Dec	Site prep ash unit E of landfill	\$ 6,000	0.5	24.0	Elaine	N/A
	February	Interplant ash unit pending Port \$\$\$	\$ 17,000		10.0	Elaine	N/A
	April	Leadbetter sedge meadow	\$ 4,000	1.0	6.5	Rick	x
	May-Jun	Knapweed control	\$ 1,500	0.5	3.0	Rick	x
	May-Jun	Yellow flag iris control	\$ 2,000	1.0	TBD	Rick	
Monitoring							
	Ongoing	Horned lark predator surveys		8.0		Elaine	X
	Aug	Columbia sedge test plots		3.0		Elaine	X
	Aug	Restoration site photo points		1.0		Elaine	X
	Aug-Nov	Ash forest survey		5.0	27.5	Elaine	X
	Oct	Ludwigia peploides plot samples		2.0		Elaine	X
	May	Painted turtle surveys		4.0		Elaine	
Water control structure							
	Nov-Dec	Address leaks	\$ 15,000			Dan	X
	Nov-May	Weekly check of fishway & gage		3.0		Rick	X
	May-July	Drawdown (weekly board removal)		2.0		Rick	
	July-Mar	Data analysis & writing	\$ 3,500	10.0		Elaine	
Volunteer projects							
	Nov	Invasive plant removal (TBD)		1.0		Bonnie	X
	Feb	Plant social trail at canoe launch		1.5		Bonnie	X
	May	Pull non-native orchids in forest		1.0		Bonnie	
Other							
	Ongoing	Scope priority areas, plan projects		5.0		Elaine	4/12 OWEB
	Jul-Dec	Complete S&B plant collection	\$ 5,000			Elaine	X
	Nov-Dec	Write up and submit Ludwigia data		1.0		Elaine	
	Jan	Herbarium contribution	\$ 2,500			Elaine	
	Nov, Mar	Present water level mgt papers		4.0		Elaine	X
			<u>\$ 67,000</u>	<u>56.0</u>			

2012-13 General Work Plan
Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

	Month	Task	Budget	Staff days	Acres	Staff lead
Habitat restoration						
	Nov-Dec	Cage ash trees	\$ 10,000	0.5	10.0	Rick
	April	Leadbetter sedge meadow	\$ 4,000	1.0	6.5	Rick
	May-Jun	Knapweed control	\$ 1,500	0.5	3.0	Rick
	May-Jun	Yellow flag iris control	\$ 2,000	1.0	TBD	Rick
	Mar-Apr	Ash contract, pending OWEB funds	\$ 7,500	2.0		Elaine
Monitoring						
	Ongoing	Horned lark predator surveys		8.0		Elaine
	Aug-Nov	Complete ash forest survey		2.0	27.5	Elaine
	Aug	Shrub wetland informal monitoring		2.0		Elaine
	Oct	Ludwigia peploides treatments	\$ 5,000	2.0		Elaine
	May-Jun	Bird surveys in upland prairie		2.0		Elaine
Water control structure						
	Jul-Sep	Wildlife ramps/retro-fits	\$ 15,000			Dan
	July-Sep	Data analysis & writing		6.0		Elaine
	Sep-Dec	Plan for next round of monitoring		4.0		Elaine
	Nov-May	Weekly check of fishway & gage		3.0		Rick
	May-July	Drawdown (weekly board removal)		2.0		Rick
Volunteer projects						
	Nov	Invasive plant removal (TBD)		1.0		Bonnie
	Feb	Planting project (TBD)		1.5		Bonnie
	May	Pull non-native orchids in forest		1.0		Bonnie
Other						
	Sep-Dec	Plan prairie work, identify grant		3.0		Elaine
	Nov-Dec	Write up and submit Ludwigia data		1.0		Elaine
	Jan	Herbarium contribution?	\$ 2,500			Elaine
	Nov, Mar	Present water level mgt papers		4.0		Elaine
			<u>\$ 47,500</u>	<u>47.5</u>		

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area

Education Programs 2000-2012

School Field Trips

- School classes coming to Smith & Bybee for a field trip
- Students, teachers, and parent helpers
- September, October, April, May, June
- Charge of \$50 per class
- Staffed by James and volunteer naturalists
- About 30 programs per school year
- Topics are wildlife watching, tracking and wetland ecology

Youth Group Field Trips

- Scouts, Campfire, day care, day camp, etc.
- Kids and their adult leaders
- Fall, Spring, Summer
- Staffed by James with occasional help from volunteer naturalists

Other Group Field Trips

- Wide range of groups:
Audubon day camps, church groups, treatment programs, college classes, The Nature Conservancy, etc.
- Mainly adults and older teens with leaders and/or staff
- Available year-round; requests are pretty random
- Charge of \$25 for a group of 20 or less, \$50 for 21-40
- Staffed by James with occasional help from volunteer naturalists

Bird Watching Walks

- One Saturday morning a month, almost all months
- 2.5 hour long bird watching walks for the general public
- Adults and a few older kids
- Free
- Staffed by James or sometimes by one of our star volunteer naturalists

Turtle Walks

- Saturday afternoons; April, May, and June
- 1.5 hour walks for the general public focused on the western painted turtle
- Families, lots of kids 4 to 10 years old
- Free
- Staffed by James

Twilight Tuesdays

- Tuesday evenings starting at 7:00 p.m.
- Very quiet, sneaky walks for the general public
- Adults and older children
- Once a month; June, July, September
- \$11 per person or family
- Staffed by James

Beginning Mushroom Walk and Class

- Saturday afternoons in October and early November
- \$11 (per person or family)

Canoe and Kayak Paddle Trips

- Started in 2008, for people who do not have access to a boat
- One Saturday each in May and June
- \$25 fee per adult; some reduced fees for kids with adults in canoes when available

**Education Program Attendance at
Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area**

Calendar Years 2002 thru 2011

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
# of School Field Trips	24	33	23	25	31	33	22	22	23	26
# of Public Programs	32	29	25	26	30	33	27	23	24	17
# of Group Programs	14	10	18	17	21	11	13	9	12	10
Total	70	72	66	68	82	77	62	54	59	53

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Attendance at School Field Trips	932	1236	890	979	975	1122	837	732	771	1067
Attendance at Public Programs	380	391	348	429	589	396	379	302	337	289
Attendance at Group Programs	188	212	425	248	344	195	261	167	240	185
Total	1554	1839	1663	1656	1908	1713	1477	1201	1348	1541

Interpretive Themes for Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area

Some of the main themes, concepts or ideas that, in varying degrees, are woven throughout the education programs at Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area. We are still trying to incorporate these into one or two sentences that state the “grand theme.”

- Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area is one of the few remnants left of the many wetlands that used to line the Willamette and Columbia Rivers in the Portland area.
- Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area is unique in being one of the largest freshwater wetlands within a city in North America.
- Even though it is surrounded by the City, many plants and animals have adapted and still live in Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area, demonstrating the resiliency of life.
- Wetlands are constantly changing environments. As the amount of water in the SBLWA changes dramatically during the year, the different habitats change seasonally.
- The seasonal changes at the wildlife area create a diversity of habitats that support many different kinds of wildlife.
- Most people are surprised by the diversity of wild animals living in the SBLWA because animals are hard to observe and most people do not know the basic skills needed to see wildlife.
- SBLWA is part of the greater Willamette and Columbia rivers ecosystem and is even globally important as a wintering ground and stopover point for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl.
- SBLWA has been greatly affected by human activities and Metro is working hard to restore the wetlands to a healthy, natural system.