

Metro | Agenda

Meeting: Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee
Date: Tuesday, September 25, 2012
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Place: Metro Regional Center - Room 270
600 NE Grand Ave, Portland Oregon 97232

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| • Welcome and introductions | 5:30 – 5:35 p.m. | Troy Clark |
| • Approve meeting minutes | 5:35 – 5:40 p.m. | Troy Clark |
| • Recology update | 5:40 to 5:55 p.m. | Troy Clark |
| • Herbicide discussion | 5:55 to 6:55 p.m. | All |
| • Restoration/field season update | 6:55 to 7:10 p.m. | Elaine Stewart |
| • Water bird disease update | 7:10 to 7:20 p.m. | Elaine Stewart |
| • Shorebird access | 7:20 to 7:30 p.m. | Elaine Stewart |



Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee

September 25, 2012

Committee members in attendance

Pam Arden*40 Mile Loop Trust
Lynn Barlow*City of Portland, Parks and Recreation
Patt Opdyke *North Portland Neighbors
Dale Svart*Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Troy Clark*Audubon Society of Portland (Chair)
Carrie Butler*Port of Portland (Vice Chair)
Dan Moeller*Metro, Sustainability Center

Others in attendance

Susan BarthelCity of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Sciences
Elaine StewartMetro, Sustainability Center
Jonathan SollMetro, Sustainability Center
Carrie BeldingMetro, Sustainability Center

Committee members not in attendance

Bill Briggs*ORRCO
Dave Helzer*City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services
Eric Tonsager *Oregon Bass and Panfish Club
Sara Henderson*St. Johns Neighborhood Association
Susan Barnes*Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

*Denotes voting Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee member.

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approve April and May Summary Notes

The Smith and Bybee Advisory Committee unanimously approved both the April 2012 and May 2012 meeting notes.

Avian Botulism

Elaine discussed the current waterfowl disease outbreak at Smith and Bybee. Waterfowl are still dying and Metro is beginning some hazing techniques to keep healthy waterfowl off of the lakes. Elaine spoke about getting some sort of expertise to discuss coexisting with the beaver whose dam-building activities held shallow water in Smith Lake, contributing to the outbreak. Carrie Butler suggested getting a beaver working group together because she is struggling with the same problem at Vanport.

Susan Barthel wondered how long we're going to be hazing. Dan Moeller said that we plan to train Metro staff to operate the hazing equipment that other agencies are loaning to us. Dan also mentioned the letter we sent to neighbors about the hazing activity. Troy wondered if we are targeting a specific species with our hazing, and whether it would disturb fish-eating birds. Elaine noted that pelicans, herons and egrets may be disturbed but it was unavoidable. Elaine thought that all the waterfowl are in danger, but that it's primarily the dabbling ducks and shorebirds that are most likely to ingest maggots that are infected with botulism.

Elaine talked about three options that were discussed amongst staff. We can walk away (which isn't like us), radically ramp up efforts to tackle the botulism (but we don't have the resources), or "keep on keeping on" the best way we can.

A few people had suggestions that they thought might help in Metro's efforts to stop the spread of botulism. Pam Arden mentioned a casino in California that has audio of a loud "caw!" and it keeps the birds away from the entrance to the casino. Another suggestion was to use a water cannon. Lynn Barlow wondered if the lake could be breached to the slough. A trench would have to be dug and it may not be a feasible option. There was also mention of the loud audio device that is used on *Whale Wars* that keeps "enemies" away.

Shorebirds

Elaine spoke to the group about shorebirds. The northwest arm of Bybee attracts a lot of different species of shorebirds. She mentioned that Katy Weil is going to have some volunteers document what types they see. Carrie Butler and Elaine have been discussing routes to the shorebird flats taken by birders and the risks to nesting turtles there. Carrie and Elaine do not favor having a trail go that area. Elaine said that the area she is talking about specifically should be less accessible to people than other parts of Smith and Bybee. The question came up about how many people informally access the area where the shorebirds are/the area that we don't want people and Elaine thought that about 50 to 100 different individuals come back multiple times. People want to be on the peninsula where the sedge meadow is and walk around the dry part of Bybee. Elaine said that Smith Lake also provides shorebird habitat when it is drawn down and mentioned that Smith Lake is more accessible.

Dale asked what the off-trail policy is for Smith and Bybee Lakes; we haven't discussed it in the past. Dan mentioned the Metro Code that lists regulations we have. You cannot do certain kinds of disturbance to the landscape. We use the regulations primarily to cite people - we don't have strong signage or split rail fencing.

Patt wondered if we can make Smith Lake more attractive for shorebirds. This led into another brief conversation about beavers and their interference with drawdown of Smith Lake. We talked about coming back to the subject of shorebirds, beavers and botulism in the future after the trail (project that Jane Hart is working on) gets built.

Pesticides

Troy facilitated a discussion about pesticides. He wanted the discussion to be productive and wanted to be able to discuss and pose a question that we could then vote on. He had a hard time coming up with *the* question. He posed a few questions but still couldn't get to a point where he felt the group would have something to vote on. Troy asked if there was a process in how we want to frame the pesticide discussion that leads us to a point where we want to make a policy discussion. What is the current extent of use, under what circumstances, what is excluded (topic of discussion), and what are the impacts of those that are used that are considered that are the "greater of the lesser evil"...and what are the benefits? Where do we have room to play with the application of various pesticides? What are the edges around where we might start to have some impact?

We discussed having a sub-committee; Patt and Carrie Butler will review the Comprehensive Natural Resource Plan. A suggestion to review Portland Parks' Integrated Pest Management Plan also was made. The CNRP can be found here: http://library.oregonmetro.gov/files/8-17-11_sbcnnp.pdf

Jonathan mentioned that our general viewpoint is to use the tool that has the least harmful impacts and delivers the most ecological benefit. When we use a chemical, we use the least toxic chemical we can find. Jonathan said he and Dale spoke year ago or so. Jonathan asked if it is going to come down to a fundamental question that herbicides, regardless of their potential benefit, should be used or not. This might turn into a philosophical conversation. If so, the philosophical one ends at “we agree to disagree,” but regardless, it’s good to get ideas out on the table.

Jonathan suggested that Metro come to the next committee meeting with a proposal on how we intend to proceed; “Here is what we propose to use in the next couple years and the species we intend to use it on.”

Another suggested idea would be to have Dale make a presentation and proposal and we review and discuss that.

Pam spoke about the current usage of materials and said she assumed that it was much higher in the past than it is now. She mentioned Arbor Lodge, a pesticide free park in Portland. Lynn Barlow also spoke about Arbor Lodge and mentioned a report that was done about the pesticide free parks and the resulting carbon footprint associated with them which was higher than many had anticipated. Lynn mentioned that perhaps John Reed can share the data with the committee at a future meeting.

Pam spoke about her extreme sensitivity to chemicals and expressed that there are other people that have sensitivities as well.

The group would like to know more about Metro’s Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) that is currently being revised. Troy said he is willing to be patient if Metro wants to finish updating the IPM policy then bring it to the advisory committee for review/discussion/dialogue/vote/etc.

Jonathan mentioned that he is interested in hearing ideas about Metro’s approach to a property – can’t make promises that our approaches will change, but he is open to ideas.

The group decided that Metro will notify the committee electronically of what we think is a reasonable timeline to make a presentation to the committee. In the meantime though, if folks are still thinking about the pesticide issue and there are more questions, please send them along and we will do our best to address them.

Troy confirmed with Dale that it is ok to postpone the herbicide/pesticide discussion, as this is something Dale has wanted to discuss for some time. Dale agreed, but one argument that he wanted to make is that plants are becoming resistant to glyphosate, and some of his concern stems from that.

It was mentioned that there is a chapter in the CNRP that outlines the framework on something that is a problem and how can we address it.

A suggestion was made to take the opportunity to look at City of Portland’s IPM and Clean Water Services IPM, then pose questions for Metro once those have been reviewed.

Smith and Bybee General Work Plan

Elaine went over the general work plan she shared with the group in April and noted what she has been able to accomplish and what she has yet to accomplish. See attachment for additional details.

Elaine also announced that she got a \$25,000 grant to improve native plant establishment on the St. Johns Prairie. Elaine has already met with our Parks and Environmental Services staff about first steps at the St. Johns Prairie.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in January. We will ask Jane Hart to join this meeting and give us a status update on the trail project and grant application she discussed with us in May. If timing works out, we will also discuss the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) project. There was also a suggestion to present our options for a future botulism outbreak (whether it's in a year or decade...).

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Carrie Belding.

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

no contractor cost!
done by staff!

	Month	Task	Budget	Staff days	Acres	Staff lead
Habitat restoration						
	Nov-Dec	Cage ash trees - <i>upcoming</i>	\$ 10,000	0.5	10.0	Rick
	April	Leadbetter sedge meadow - <i>done</i>	\$ 4,000	1.0	6.5	Rick
	May-Jun	Knapweed control - <i>done</i>	\$ 1,500	0.5	3.0	Rick
	May-Jun	Yellow flag iris control - <i>ongoing</i>	\$ 2,000	1.0	TBD	Rick
	Mar-Apr	Ash contract, pending OWEB funds - <i>resubmit</i>	\$ 7,500	2.0		Elaine
Monitoring						
	Ongoing	Horned lark predator surveys - <i>done</i>		8.0		Elaine
	Aug-Nov	Complete ash forest survey - <i>upcoming</i>		2.0	27.5	Elaine
	Aug-Oct	Shrub wetland informal monitoring - <i>upcoming</i>		2.0		Elaine
	Oct	Ludwigia peploides treatments - <i>ongoing</i>	\$ 5,000	2.0		Elaine
	May-Jun	Bird surveys in upland prairie - <i>done</i>		2.0		Elaine
Water control structure						
	Oct-Jul-Sep	Wildlife ramps/retro-fits <i>upcoming</i>	\$ 15,000			Dan
	July-Sep	Data analysis & writing - <i>under way</i>		6.0		Elaine
	Sep-Dec	Plan for next round of monitoring - <i>upcoming</i>		4.0		Elaine
	Nov-May	Weekly check of fishway & gage <i>done</i>		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 <i>done</i>		1.0		Bonnie
Other						
	Sep-Dec	Plan prairie work, identify grant - <i>\$25k SWG</i>		3.0		Elaine
	Nov-Dec	Write up and submit Ludwigia data - <i>back burner</i>		1.0		Elaine
	Jan	Herbarium contribution? - <i>waiting</i>	2,500			Elaine
	Nov, Mar	Present water level mgt papers - <i>done</i>		4.0		Elaine
			<u>\$ 47,500</u>	<u>47.5</u>		

Tina EMS

Tina = Tina Farrelly - PSU grad student
SWG = State Wildlife Grant