

# Metro | *Agenda*

Meeting: Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee  
Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2011  
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:0 p.m.  
Place: Metro Regional Center- Room 270  
600 NE Grand Ave, Portland Oregon 97232

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- Welcome and Introductions (5:30 p.m. – 5:35 p.m.) Dave Helzer
- Approve September Summary (5:35 p.m. – 5:40 p.m.) Dave Helzer
- Smith Bybee Fund Budget, 2011-2012 (5:40 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.) Dan Moeller, Elaine Stewart
- Next 12 Months Work Plan (6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.) Dan Moeller, Elaine Stewart
- 5-Year Implementation Plan (6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) Dan Moeller, Elaine Stewart
- General Updates (6:50 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) All

# Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee

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*October 25, 2011*

**In Attendance:**

Dave Helzer \* .....City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services, Chair  
Troy Clark \* .....Audubon, Vice Chair  
Larry Devroy \* .....Port of Portland  
Pam Arden\* .....40 Mile Loop Trust  
Dan Moeller\* .....Metro Sustainability Center  
Phyllis Cole.....Metro Parks & Environmental Services  
Janet Bebb.....Metro Sustainability Center  
Bill Briggs.....Merit Oil Refinery  
Patt Opdyke \* .....North Portland Neighbors  
Eric Tonsager\* .....Oregon Bass & Panfish Club  
Brian Kennedy .....Metro Finance Regulatory Services  
Elaine Stewart.....Metro Sustainability Center  
Jonathan Soll.....Metro Sustainability Center

\*Denotes voting SBWMC member. A quorum is 6 voting members. This will be discussed and/or confirmed as we develop bylaws for the Committee.

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. and introductions were made.

***Approve September Summary Notes***

There was a question as to the number of voting members needed for a quorum. In the absence of bylaws adopted by the Committee, we will use six as a quorum.

There was a motion by Pam Arden to accept the September 27, 2011 meeting summary notes, and the motion was seconded by Patt Opdyke. The motion passed without amendment.

***Smith Bybee Fund Budget, 2011-2012***

***Dan Moeller, Elaine Stewart***

It was clarified that FY11-12 funding will be discussed at this meeting.

(The budget process for FY12-13 is just now beginning, and will be discussed in the Smith Bybee Advisory Committee Meeting in March 2012, and the presentation of this budget will be made in September 2012.)

Dan gave an overview of the fund expenditures for FY11-12 (attached).

The actual amount spent in FY10-11 was \$158,113.93.

The Smith Bybee Fund currently pays 25% of staff salary for three staff that help support the Smith Bybee Wetlands and its programs: James Davis, Rick Scrivens and Elaine Stewart. This comes to \$88,000.

Contracted services for habitat restoration came to \$50,000 for this fiscal year.

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Contracted services for facility maintenance costs come to \$15,000. This money pays for water bills, parking lot repair, graffiti removal, etc.

Unique to this year's budget is the CNRP application fee of \$13,000, and CNRP application development fees of an estimated \$15,000.

Janet explained that the 15 K is an estimate, and we will have a better understanding of the costs of developing the application after we begin the process. A land use specialist will be hired to write general sections (Dave Helzer and Paul Vandenberg will write technical project sections).

Patt clarified that the work by David Evans and Associates is complete, and has been paid.

The CNRP application process will come up in 10 years; next time more complex projects will be easier to complete with a first decade of experience.

### *Work Plan for next 12 months*

*Dan Moeller, Elaine Stewart*

Elaine passed out a sheet showing the tasks in the current work plan at Smith Bybee (attached). She indicated the items she was discussing on a large map, which provided excellent perspective.

### Habitat Restoration

Elaine spoke to restoration issues, and pointed out that at the bottom of the budget it says \$67,000 instead of the \$50,000 that Dan alluded to; this includes a place holder of \$17,000 for monies that may be provided by the Port of Portland in association with the Airport Futures project. She said this would not be mitigation money; it is enhancement funding and would be used to plant more ash trees that would fill in mortality gaps in the current ash forest.

Planned projects include:

- Native seed to provide food and nesting material for the Streaked Horned Lark area on the landfill. Also, there is a bare patch of land by the main parking lot that if seeded with native wildflower seeds would provide both beauty and pollinator habitat.
- There are many nice mature trees in the ash forest, and a certain number of them will be caged to deter beavers from opening up the entire area to meadowland.
- Additional planting processes are being moved forward by preparation of the land for native plantings east of the landfill area.
- The Leadbetter Peninsula contains the largest sedge patch in Smith Bybee, and this needs to be protected and encouraged, so Canarygrass control will occur here.
- Meadow Knapweed and Diffuse Knapweed will also be attacked where they are found growing.

Patt asked whether there were signs asking canoeists to clean their vessels and shoes to slow the spread of invasive plants and marine life. Elaine replied that Metro focused attention on controlling Parrot Feather and Purple Loosestrife near the launch to help prevent its spread via boots and boats. There are signs up at some Metro properties, and getting signs posted at Smith Bybee is a great idea which can definitely be accomplished.

### Monitoring

On the landfill, predator surveys are ongoing; it does not make sense to bring in the Streaked Horned Lark in if the population is destined to be decimated by hawks.

Columbia Sedge test plots were monitored in August.

KEA - transects in ash forest are currently being monitored as planned.

Water primrose results are encouraging; good control is being achieved.

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In May of 2012 there will be a painted turtle survey.

### Water control structure

There is an ongoing issue with leaks in one of the bays of the water control structure, and this will be addressed.

A PSU data analysis on monitoring around the wetlands borders and water management is nearing completion.

### Volunteer projects

Invasive plant removal will be scheduled in November.

Next February there will be planting over a “social trail” at canoe launch to deter people from cutting through. Plants have not yet been chosen, but could include Oregon Grape or Hawthorn. In May an invasive, non-native orchid will be pulled from the forest.

### Other

A grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is being considered.

Invasive water primrose eradication efforts will take place.

A placeholder for contributions to PSU’s Herbarium has been added to the budget.

Tina Farrelly, a student from PSU, is nearing completion of her thesis on effectiveness of water level management and will present her work at a conference in November.

Elaine submitted an abstract on water level management for a climate change conference in Seattle in Spring 2012.

Patt felt that grant writing and research should be taking place currently. Jonathan said that in the process of discussing the new schedule and work plan, the Committee had talked about meeting once per year, without Metro staff present, to talk about priorities. As a group or as representatives of individual organizations, this would provide time to discover personal motivation to engage as the process goes forward. It could result in the building of collaboration that leverages the best of everyone’s efforts. The matching grant concept was discussed, and how this can lead to multi-layered projects.

Patt asked whether it would be possible to partner with the Children’s Arboretum, which is in the watershed; by offering them living specimens. It would be an educational opportunity to provide native plants, and teachers would certainly value this natural resource as well. The site is managed by Portland Parks, so Lynn Barlow would have more information on this resource, which nearly folded several years ago. There was discussion at this point about the differences between an arboretum and a herbarium; an arboretum showcases live specimens, and a herbarium is a museum of dried plant specimens which shows when and where they were collected. We are lucky to have an herbarium at PSU, and we have the opportunity to donate specimens to it.

### ***5-Year Implementation Plan***

***Dan Moeller, Elaine Stewart***

#### Prioritized actions:

- South Shore Bybee Lake: Bottomland forest
- Leadbetter Peninsula: Columbia Sedge meadow
- St. Johns landfill: Streaked Horned Lark habitat

A lot of this work is already started, and an OWEB grant could help keep it on track.

Dave mentioned St. Johns, and how the Streaked Horned Lark habitat has grown from five to 10 acres. He asked if Elaine is planning to develop Western Meadowlark habitat. She answered that she

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already is; the targeted mowing program is creating different levels of grasses, which the Western Meadowlark enjoys very much.

Landfill staff has filled in a sinking area with soil and planted it with shrubs, small trees, and experimental plots; Elaine thinks some shrubs could be added elsewhere on the landfill to accommodate Western Meadowlarks. What can be accomplished is all a matter of working within the constraints of landfill management.

The St. Johns Landfill provides 240 acres of grassland within the Smith Bybee Natural Area, and this needs to be treasured and protected.

### *General Updates*

Troy was at Smith Bybee Sunday, October 22, 2011 on the Court Trail, when two kids rode up on scooters. Troy told them that motorized vehicles were not allowed, and assured them there was a sign that they'd missed. But when he went back, there was no sign posted. A significant irony in the situation is that one of the kids recognized Troy from when Mr. Clark read to his 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class.

This led Troy to revisit the sign issue at Smith Bybee, and he urged Metro to put up "No Dogs" signage as soon as possible, since the Committee has already agreed to this. He also saw four dogs off leash the same day. Dan will talk to Rick Scrivens about ensuring that proper "no dogs" and "no motorized vehicles" signs are posted.

Dave Helzer brought up that he has been Chair of the Committee for a total of four years, and he and his supervisor have agreed that he needs to transition out of this role, so January 24, 2012 will be Dave's last meeting as chair. He suggested that Carrie Butler from the Port of Portland might be interested. He maintained that the Chair position is not a lot of work, and since the CNRP is wrapping up this would be a good time to transition to a new chair. Dave will share this information with other members. He will continue to serve on the Committee.

Dan brought up the coming meeting schedule. The Communication Plan that the Committee adopted is essentially a meeting schedule. Dan shared that he is very thankful for people's time and commitment. He suggested that the meeting in January celebrate what's been done, as well as discuss some future projects and opportunities for the Committee.

Also, the attorneys have asked Dan whether the Smith Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee has bylaws. The Council and Metro legal department would like the Committee to come in line with other Metro advisory committees and Metro Committee Standards, even though the Smith Bybee Advisory Committee does not directly advise Metro Council. One of these standards is that officers operate under term limits. A two-year term is standard for Metro committees, and an officer may serve only two consecutive terms, for a total of four years. After an officer takes one term off s/he may run for an office again. Is this realistic for the Committee? Each group may have considerations that need to be heard.

The Metro Code has listings that would be relevant to discuss. The Committee should agree on what a quorum is, etc, and reach a shared understanding. Does it make sense to have executive committees that can make decisions if there is a time crunch, and whose decision can be ratified or rescinded at the next full meeting?

Dan got the sense from the Metro lawyers and Council that they want us think about it and work something up; it doesn't necessarily have to exactly mirror Metro's other citizen groups.

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Troy had concerns that the CNRP is being re-written and polished; what is the time frame to weigh in before it goes to the City of Portland? Dave said development of the application will take a couple of months. There are review windows, and a decision can be expected around June 2012. It was his sense that there aren't a lot of decisions that need to be made, that it is more packaging the CNRP to meet City Code. Elaine said it is the application process that will be worked with; not the text of the CNRP itself.

Pam asked if we could see the whole thing before it is submitted; Dave responded that the current version is online. It may be viewed at:

<http://www.oregonmetro.gov/index.cfm/go/by.web/id=33853>

Dave said that the goal in this last part of the process is that it will go to BES in such a way that it meets City Code.

Troy was at the pre-app, and said there were several areas of ambiguity, and he would like to see the finished product.

Dave asked if the Committee wished to ask Janet to provide complete paper copies. Jonathan assured the Committee that substantive changes wouldn't be made without the Committee knowing. Dan will check with Janet on whether it would be practical to discuss the final version at the March 2012 meeting.

Dan showed where the August version of the CNRP and complete appendices are located on the website, and he will send the link out to the Committee (see above). Pam would like a clean copy printed out to see which suggestions made by the Committee have been incorporated into the document. Elaine suggested that executive summaries might also be helpful.

Patt asked Troy about the pre-app and the summary. Were the issues he brought up now included in the summary? Dave said the questions were a mix of BES process fit and content.

Janet and Patt will work on additional language for outfalls.

Eric inquired as to why there was no date on the appendices. It is commonly provided so that people know the publish date of the most recent iteration. Dan will look into this.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53.

**Next meeting:  
January 24, 2012  
Metro Regional Center, Room 270  
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**