
Coordinated by:

**Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area
Management Committee**
Patt Opdyke, Chair

Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 797-1515

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Management Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 26, 2005
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Metro Regional Center, 600 NE Grand Ave.
Room 270
Portland, Oregon 97232

AGENDA

Welcome, introductions and review of previous meeting notes	(Opdyke)	5:30 - 5:35 pm
Selection of new chair for committee	(Opdyke)	5:35 - 5:45 pm
Water quality review	(Hendrickson)	5:45 - 6:15 pm
Updates	(All)	6:15 - 6:25 pm
Next meeting's agenda, adjourn	(All)	6:25 -6:30 pm

**Summary Meeting Notes
Smith and Bybee Wetlands Management Committee
July 26, 2005**

In attendance:

Patt Opdyke, Chair *	North Portland Neighborhoods
Larry Devroy *	Port of Portland
Brenda Hanke *	St. Johns Neighborhood Assn.
Nancy Hendrickson *	Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
Jim Morgan *	Metro
Jim Sjulín *	Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation
Dale Svart *	Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Bill Egan	Oregon Bass & Panfish Club
Dan Kromer	Metro Parks – Willamette District Manager
Patricia Sullivan	Metro Parks – Committee Recorder
Elaine Stewart	Metro Parks – Natural Resource Scientist
Paul Vandenberg	Metro Solid Waste & Recycling

* denotes voting SBWMC member

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Update

Bill Briggs, President of Merit USA, who represents the private landowners within the Management Plan boundary on the Management Committee, sent a letter dated July 11, 2005 to the Committee making two requests. One was for a letter from the Committee relinquishing any and all claims to the wetland north of Old Marine Drive. According to Elaine Stewart neither the Management Committee nor Metro can provide such a letter. The City of Portland enforces the Natural Resources Management Plan, which designates that site as part of the natural area. Any claims related to Measure 37, to which the letter refers, will have to be addressed with the City. Elaine will provide Bill with contact information for appropriate City staff. Briggs' second item was a request for installation of a water level monitoring well or staff gauge at the north end of Smith Lake near the stormwater outfall by the canoe launch path. Elaine stated that the Port of Portland owns the property, and she will refer Bill to Larry Devroy.

Consideration of June 28, 2005 meeting notes

At this point, a quorum of committee members was present and the previous meeting's notes were considered. In the absence of Management Committee recorder, Patricia Sullivan, at the June meeting, Dan Kromer, Metro's Willamette District Manager, graciously took on the task of note taking.

Paul Vandenberg amended the second paragraph of the section titled St. Johns Landfill update: as follows:

Bill Egan inquired as to whether there are currently any leaks at the landfill. Paul responded that the landfill staff does ongoing methane monitoring and that typically methane is not detected at levels that indicate leakage in the membrane. However, they have detected methane at higher levels a couple of times in the past few years, and have excavated these areas and repaired small tears in the membrane. The question was then expanded to include any leakage in the slough. The

response was there has been some leachate seepage in two areas, including a mudflat on the west flank of the landfill and at the terminus of the Blind Slough. These seeps are observed regularly during low water conditions, and they will be one focus of the remedial investigation that is starting this summer.

The meeting notes were then accepted as amended. (The vote was seven in favor and one abstention by Jim Morgan).

Selection of new chair for committee

Patt Opdyke, whose term as chair is expiring, chaired this July meeting and will also chair the August meeting. She will not attend any further meetings, however, until a new chair has been installed. (At this point she was providing an impetus for a committee member to take on this role.) Patt outlined duties of the chair, which she stated are minimal and attested to the fact that not a great deal of time is involved. She and Elaine would generally meet once a month to generate the upcoming agenda – this could easily be done by phone or e-mail, however. Not to be misleading, she acknowledged that during the terms of past chairs (Nancy Hendrickson and Frank Opila, in particular) the committee was involved in more technical and legal issues and more of their time was required. Patt also stressed the importance of sharing the responsibility of this position among the voting members of this committee.

Water quality review

Nancy Hendrickson displayed a map of the Smith and Bybee wetlands area which included small red dots indicating outfalls and yellow polygons portraying areas that drain to those outfalls. Almost all of the polygons were municipal outfalls, owned by the City of Portland. There were a few private outfalls which either have a direct permit with DEQ or they don't require a permit, but they still discharge to the slough and to the lakes. In answer to a question, Nancy responded there is no program of incentives to incorporate private outfalls into the municipal system.

Handouts:

Lombard Gauge – Minimum, average and maximum (levels of water)

At Lombard Bridge, there is a water gauge that the USGS maintains in partnership with the City. A graph was distributed showing monthly minimum, average and maximum water levels based on fifteen years of historical data. The amplitude of the tide is about three feet at any given time. (See attached.)

Stormwater outfall concentrations

A second graph was distributed providing data on stormwater outfall concentrations (the water coming out of each outfall). (See attached.)

Points brought out include: The CSO (combined sewer overflow) pipes in the lower slough have been controlled since 2001. In the Willamette River, that work continues and is to be finished by 2011. The final solution is the "big pipe" that will be installed. Since 1970 even without that, however, the bacteria concentration where it's measured in the Willamette has decreased.

Each of the outfalls at the St. Johns Landfill meets DEQ standards as listed on the Stormwater Outfall Concentrations chart, except in testing for phosphorus, which is sometimes higher than the benchmark set. The Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study will address that.

One section of this chart presented data from a study by the Association of Clean Water Agencies, (ACWA), made up of sewer bureaus in the Willamette Valley. Outfalls at sites based on land use

were measured for mean levels of concentrations of copper, lead, zinc, TSS (total suspended solids), oil & grease, E. coli, phosphorus, BOD (biochemical oxygen demand) and pH. The categories of land use were: transportation, industrial, commercial, residential and open space. Most of the concentrations fall within the COLS (Columbia Slough) permit limit with the exception of phosphorus and E. coli.

Data gathered from many municipalities around the Willamette Valley show that TSS pollution varies by land use, with industrial and transportation land uses being some of the highest contributors. This data does not include agricultural land use, and it is the experience of BES that agricultural land uses are much higher than any urban land use in terms of TSS loading in stormwater runoff.

Surface Water Concentrations

A second graph indicated surface water concentrations in Bybee Lake, Smith Lake, North Slough and by the St. Johns landfill bridge on the lower slough. Concentrations reported were averages of several years of data. (See attached.) Parameters for this graph also included DO (dissolved oxygen), chlorophyll-a and temperature. It was noted that in the lower slough the pH varies between 6.1 – 9.2, reading higher in the summer months. The temperature also ranges widely reading at times as high as 29 degrees Celsius. During late fall, winter and early spring (November – April or May), however, the temperature is cool enough for salmon although not cool enough to spawn there.

Elaine commented that it will be interesting to note the change in water quality since the addition of the water control structure; the data shown were collected prior to the new structure's operation. She also inquired if there any undocumented outfalls going into the wetlands and is there a need to know where they all are? This might be an information gap.

Jim Sjulín asked if these graphs point to anything of concern that needs attention. Nancy commented that the numbers look fairly good although there are incidents of elevated temperatures and pH in the lower slough – chlorophyll in general - which points to excess algae production. But the numbers can point to successes of the Clean Water Act.

Further updates

A tour of possible trail connections to the Smith & Bybee Wetlands will be held on August 11 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tour participants will meet at the new visitor parking area on North Marine Drive. These are the same trail alignments that the Management Committee considered in February and are going to be brought before the Council for its consideration in September. Pre-registration is required by calling Sue at (503) 797-1928.

A Draft of the Trails Feasibility Study will be going out for public comment in the second or third week of August. Elaine considered the draft too large to e-mail to the committee members. But Metro can make it available in a number of ways – paper copy, CD, or members should be able to download it from the Metro website – www.Metro-region.org. Patricia Sullivan will e-mail committee members when the document becomes available.

There was a 5-acre fire on the St. Johns Landfill recently that was caused by an arcing wire under a vehicle. The fire department had it controlled in a couple of hours.

The Columbia Slough Regatta will be held on Sunday, July 31. It was described as “lots of fun” and “attracts more and more people every year.” For more information or to register, call (503) 281-1132 or check out the website at www.ColumbiaSlough.org

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.