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## Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area Management Committee

*Larry Devroy, Chair*



**METRO**

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

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## Smith and Bybee Wetlands Management Committee Meeting

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2006  
Metro Regional Center, 600 N E Grand Ave., Room 270  
Portland, Oregon 97232

### AGENDA

Welcome and introductions	(Devroy)	5:30 pm
Approve previous meeting's notes	(Devroy)	5:30 – 5:35 pm
St. Johns Landfill update		5:35 – 6:20 pm
Site restoration overview and 2005 developments on landfill	(Paul Vandenberg)	
Habitat development, local hydrology and trails project	(Elaine Stewart)	
RI/FS project update	(Paul Burnet, CH2M Hill)	
Updates and next meeting's agenda		6:20 – 6:30 pm
Adjourn		6:30 pm

**Summary Meeting Notes  
Smith and Bybee Wetlands Management Committee  
January 24, 2006**

**In Attendance:**

Larry Devroy (Chair) *	Port of Portland
Troy Clark (Vice Chair)*	Audubon Society of Portland
Pam Arden *	40-Mile Loop Land Trust
Brenda Hanke *	St. John's Neighborhood Assn.
Nancy Hendrickson *	Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
Dan Kromer *	Metro
Patt Opdyke *	North Portland Neighborhoods
Dale Svart *	Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes
Vickie Eldredge	Metro Parks – Committee Recorder
Elaine Stewart	Metro Parks – Natural Resources Scientist
Paul Vandenberg	Metro Solid Waste and Recycling – Solid Waste Planner
Mitch McDougal	Oregon Bass & Pan Fish Club
Paul Burnet	CH2M Hill

\* Denotes voting SBWMC member

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

**Consideration of Dec 6, 2005 meeting notes**

Note amendment (emphasize):

Larry Devroy would like to **emphasize** in the minutes of Dec. 6, 2005, that the discussion regarding removal of South Lake Shore segment (at this time) took the most time at the Metro Council session. Meeting notes were then approved.

**St. John's Landfill update** (Paul Vandenberg)

1. Discussion of the stages of the site restoration
  - After the landfill stopped taking waste in 1991, major steps were taken to stabilize the site. Overall restoration goals include establishing appropriate wildlife habitat and a safe environment for practical public access.
  - Stages of the restoration include: construct cover over waste, implement routine monitoring, collect methane gas, develop vegetation and habitat, conduct remedial investigation, prepare feasibility study, DEQ record of decision, implement remedial actions, and provide practical public access via secured trails. Question: Since the 1991 implementation of routine monitoring have there been new contaminants? Answer: The RI will include evaluation of essentially all existing data, and all detected contaminants. Samples are typically taken and sent to a lab where standard EPA-listed contaminants are analyzed. Certain contaminants will be targeted for more detailed investigation.

- Thus far, the site has been restored from a significantly impacted landfilling environment to open meadow habitat with associated improvements in environmental quality.

There was discussion of the cover being impermeable to water, and whether contamination will remain out of the ground water. The cover system provides a double barrier (plastic cap above a relatively impermeable layer of silty soil), which blocks rainwater from penetrating the waste, thereby stopping any further production of leachate. Existing groundwater contamination will be addressed in the remedial investigation.

Significant events during 2005 were presented. These included changes in the landfill gas collection system, a 5-acre grass fire on the landfill cover, grazing by goats and sheep to control vegetation, and efforts to secure federal funding for a perimeter levee restoration project. Regarding that project, previous federal funding has allowed completion of all planning and design to stabilize an additional 1000 feet of levee along the North Slough, and Metro is working with the Army Corps of Engineers to secure full funding for implementation. Paul requested a letter of support for this project from the committee.

2. Vegetation management, habitat development, and local hydrology. (Elaine Stewart)
  - Landfill staff is experimenting with importing soil and planting vegetation to improve plant diversity and the range of habitats available. Deeper soil is needed where woody plants are installed to insure that the roots will not penetrate the landfill liner.
  - There are depressions that would allow Metro to deposit sand with little to no risk of erosion; this would encourage habitat use by the Streaked Horned Lark. This sub-species is a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. A rare nesting population occurs in Rivergate on land that is slated for development. Metro may be able to support recovery of the horned larks by providing habitat on the landfill.
  - Western Painted Turtles are known to nest in a few areas on the landfill and Northern Harriers forage there.
  - A conceptual diagram of historic and present-day hydrology of the Columbia River, contrasted with current water management at the natural area, shows how the water control structure is used to mimic historic hydrology to the extent possible and support native plants and animals.

Elaine showed photographs of the water control structure at various seasons, including the recent flood event.

3. Trails Project
  - Elaine reviewed the Metro Council's recent decision and next steps in the process.

#### 4. Remedial Investigation (Paul Burnet, CH2M Hill)

- The purpose of a remedial investigation is to assess the risks to human health and to the environment, current and future.
- An overview of the tasks involved in the Work Plan was presented.
- The conceptual site model for potential human exposures shows, how people may be affected by landfill-related contamination, and how any such exposure can be prevented.
- The conceptual site model for potential ecological exposures.
- The schedule for data collection and evaluation to be conducted in the summer of 2006.
- Already completed tasks, including soil sampling and analysis, and an evaluation of the interaction of shallow groundwater/ surface water, during low water conditions.

The use of both historical and current data is being used to determine the risks. The results have been encouraging, several of the levels are already above the risk level other levels show signs of improvement. Maps show areas where samples have been taken. Groundwater samples are currently taken two times per year, in the spring and fall. It was explained how sampling was conducted.

- Tasks underway include evaluations of air data, sediment data, groundwater data, the identification of species and habitat types, and the preliminary screening for ecological risks.
- Upcoming tasks for 2006 are to address the shallow groundwater/ surface water at high water conditions, supplemental sediment sampling, and characterizing the nature and extent of groundwater contamination.

Project updates in the future will include additional data collected in support of risk assessments, conducting human health and ecological risk assessments, and to preparing the range of potential remedial actions in feasibility study. (There is a detailed breakdown of the objectives and tasks available in your copy of the power point presentation.)

#### Updates

- Paul requested a letter of support from the management committee for a pending bank stabilization project. This project would extend 1,000 ft. to the west of the previous project along the north bank of the landfill (along the North Slough). Committee members had a number of questions about the project. A summary of the project will be provided for the next meeting. It was agreed that Elaine and Larry would draft a letter but wait to send it until the committee makes a decision at its next meeting.

Meeting adjourned – 7:05 p.m.