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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. - 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 20, 2009  
Metro Regional Center, 600 N E Grand Ave., Room 270  
Portland, Oregon 97232

**AGENDA**

Welcome and introductions	(Troy Clark)	5:30 pm
Approve April's meeting notes	(Troy Clark)	5:30 – 5:35 pm
Bridge Feasibility Study and trail alignment update	(Jane Hart)	5:35 – 5:50 pm
Natural Resource Management Plan update	(Janet Bebb)	5:50 – 6:50 pm
General updates		6:50 – 7:00 pm
Adjourn		7:00 pm

**MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Smith and Bybee Wetlands Management Committee**  
**October 20, 2009**

**In Attendance:**

Troy Clark (Vice Chair)\* .....Audubon Society of Portland  
Lynn Barlow\* .....Portland Parks & Recreation  
Dave Helzer\* .....Portland Bureau of Environmental Services  
Patt Opdyke\* .....N. Portland Neighborhoods  
Pam Arden\* .....40-Mile Loop Trust  
Barry Manning.....City of Portland  
Chris Scarzello.....City of Portland  
Jeff Locke.....Friends of Smith & Bybee  
Eric Tonsager.....Oregon Bass & Panfish Club  
Bill Egan .....Oregon Bass & Panfish Club  
Jonathan Soll.....Sustainability Center  
Paul Vandenberg.....Metro Parks & Environmental Services  
Janet Bebb .....Metro Sustainability Center  
Jane Hart .....Metro Sustainability Center

\* Denotes voting SBWMC member

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm; attendees introduced themselves. Approval of the minutes was set aside until later in the meeting.

**Bridge Feasibility Study and Trail Alignment Update**

Jane Hart reported on the trail connection between North Portland neighborhoods and Smith & Bybee Wetlands Natural Area. Council recommended an alignment connecting Pier Park to Chimney Park, crossing Columbia Boulevard and connecting to the St. Johns Landfill perimeter roads with a bridge across the N. Slough and an east west segment along the south side of the Columbia Slough (between existing landfill bridge and Columbia Blvd. Wastewater Treatment Plant).

A bridge feasibility report for the N. Slough bridge should be ready by the end of December; consultants have looked at different locations and two different types of bridges. A bridge crossing perpendicular to the slough would necessitate excavation into the landfill cover (to achieve AASHTO turn radius), whereas a skewed alignment would cause no excavation in the landfill. The skewed alignment is preferred for this reason. The preferred location is near the confluence of the N. Slough and Columbia Slough since there is a minimum difference in elevation between the banks. The consultant recommends a steel truss span rather than cable stay type of bridge, which could overwhelm the landscaping.

The consultant and Metro acquisition staff have initiated dialogue with landowners along the slough where the trail would need to cross private and public property. In a few week's time the consultants will identify 'on the ground location' for the trail alignment in this area.

Metro received an ODOT funding award for a bicycle/ped bridge to be located between Pier and Chimney Parks.

Jane will report again at the January meeting, and will share the draft report with Committee members beforehand.

### **Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP) Update**

Janet Bebb introduced Chris Scarzello from the City of Portland, who pointed out that the current NRMP for Smith-Bybee is actually older than Portland's Environmental Zoning Code (E-zone). The area is considered a "special planning area;" only three others exist. NRMPs and any updates have to go through a legislative process that includes working through the Bureau of Planning, then Planning Commission and City Council. The City's budget is tight, especially for environmental projects, and the process very slow. However, there will soon be another option. As part of the Tree Ordinance, Planning hopes to add an addendum that allows NRMPs to be updated through a quasi-judicial process by allowing a "natural resources master plan". This plan type would be similar to a conditional use master plan but will focus on natural resources, rather than development.

The Committee could, she continued, live with the Plan as is and go through Zoning, or go through the process for an Environmental Master Plan. An addendum could be added to the current NRMP stating that any environmental projects can be approved with a more streamlined process, or made exempt all together. In general, NRMPs have proven to be too static.

Environmental Master Plans (EMP) are given approval criteria by the City, which are fairly general, but require some specific responses. An EMP would also define simple versus larger projects, and puts the ball in the Committee's court for making changes (though a ten-year update would still be required). No state approval needed, but proof of compliance with Goal 5 is necessary.

The Planning Bureau hopes to initiate the Environmental Master Plan as an option through an addendum will be put in before it goes to the Zoning Commission in December.

If the Tree Ordinance doesn't go through first and the Committee does an EMP in the meantime, it would just need to go through a Type III process, which would take a few months. Metro does have the resources to create an EMP, Janet Bebb assured the group.

The group agreed to move ahead and create an EMP; Janet will keep Chris in the loop during the process.

### **Agenda Item, Part II**

Janet handed out a memo (attached) regarding the scope of work for selecting a consultant selection for the NRMP update. The handout began with considerations to define the project, and then highlighted three sections of the RFP, which should be ready to advertise in November. A consultant would then be ready to go in January, and will address this group.

What do people feel specifically will make the project outstanding, Janet asked.

Invasive species planning, Troy said, whether plant or animal.

Jonathan asserted it should be driven by specific and manageable environmental objectives and the strategies to achieve them, which would include Troy's invasive species concerns. Dave Helzer added that an over-arching goal would be to sustain and support the natural area, and consider conservation targets such as salmon and avian habitat, as well as turtles.

Built-in flexibility to respond to new conditions, etc. and to have quick turnarounds when necessary would be valuable, Patt Opdyke added. Also, a balance between public access and protecting habitat and natural resource value is crucial, she said. Bill Egan disagreed, saying he'd prefer more emphasis on availability to the public rather than protecting habitat. Access will, of course, need to be discussed, Pam Arden said, and will be ongoing. Janet pointed out the memo section titled, "Appropriate Access by People," which addresses that balance.

Patt pointed out that some very creative ideas could come from public involvement, so she'd like the group to remain very open.

Bill talked about bass fishing and the access issue involved. The North Slough could be declared non-navigable, which could eliminate the need for a 10-foot clearance for the bridge. Janet agreed fishing access should be a consideration.

Janet asked the group to consider things such as who should be present at particular meetings. Oregon Bass and Panfish, Friends of Smith & Bybee, and Friends of 40-Mile Loop were all suggested.

The group was asked to read through the handout and get back to Janet with ideas and comments as soon by November 2 so they can be considered for inclusion in the RFP. The section regarding a Public Engagement Plan is particularly important; any interested parties should be included. Patt said there also needs to be an understanding that there will be deliberation and responsiveness to the public. Regardless of outcome, people need to be heard and their opinions vetted and respected. Dave Helzer mentioned a friend who is interested in participating in discussion of access for birders.

Will the consultants be experts in public process or technical, Dave asked. Janet answered technical, with sophisticated mapping, video, etc. to enhance the communication side. Metro would take the lead in outreach.

### **Consideration of July 28, 2009 meeting notes**

No changes.

**Next meeting:** Will be with consultant.

Adjourned at 7:13 pm

gbc

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