
**Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area
Management Committee**

Dave Helzer, Chair



METRO

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Management Committee Meeting

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 22, 2010
Metro Regional Center, 600 N E Grand Ave., Room 270
Portland, Oregon 97232

AGENDA

Welcome and introductions	(Dave Helzer)	5:30 pm
Approve April's meeting notes	(Dave Helzer)	5:30 – 5:35 pm
Merit Oil clean-up	(Mark Pugh, DEQ)	5:35 – 6:00 pm
Natural Resource Management Plan update (consultant team)	(Janet Bebb)	6:00 – 7:15pm
Committee meeting schedule for NRMP update	(Janet Bebb)	7:15 – 7:20 pm
General updates		7:20 – 7:30 pm
Adjourn		7:30 pm

MEETING SUMMARY
Smith and Bybee Wetlands Management Committee
June 22, 2010

In Attendance:

Larry Devroy *Port of Portland
Troy Clark (Vice Chair)*Audubon Society of Portland
Dave Helzer (Chair)*Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
Patt Opdyke*N. Portland Neighborhoods
Pam Arden*40-Mile Loop Trust
Dale Svart*Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Susan Barnes*Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Dan Kromer*Metro Parks & Environmental Services
Kevin O’HaraDavid Evans & Associates
Kelly RodgersConfluence Planning
Janet BebbMetro Sustainability Center
Paul VandenbergMetro Parks & Environmental Services
Heather CostonMetro Sustainability Center
Mark PughDepartment of Environmental Quality
Bruce GillesDepartment of Environmental Quality
Phyllis ColeMetro Parks & Environmental Services

* Denotes voting SBWMC member

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 PM. Introductions.

Approve May’s Meeting Notes

May’s meeting summary was approved with one clarification requested, on page 4, under the heading **Merit USA/Fuel Processors’ DEQ Clean-up**. The group asked that the pond in question be referred to as an “isolated” rather than “orphan” site to avoid confusion, since an orphan site is commonly used for a particular type of site. (The May 4 meeting notes were annotated accordingly.)

Merit Oil Clean-up

Mark Pugh, DEQ Project Manager of the Summary of Remedial Investigation and Proposed Remedial Action for the Merit Oil/Fuel Processor’s site, attended the meeting at Dan Kromer’s invitation, along with Manager Bruce Gillis. They addressed the committee on the goals and progress of the environmental cleanup of a large pond that drains directly into Smith Lake through a culvert most of the year.

Using a number of maps, photos, drawings and charts, Mr. Pugh gave an overview of the site and its operations, the wetlands themselves, the historical operations and releases, areas of concern, site investigations and findings, as well as proposed remedial action. Mr. Svart commented that water comes through the culvert much of the year. The culvert, he added, was constructed in the 1980s using galvanized metal coated with tar. He asked if DEQ has concerns about leachate (arsenic in particular) from the large composting mound. Mr. Pugh replied that it is his understanding that the water goes into the Suttle Lake pollution system.

Mr. Pugh responded to another member's recollection that the 1996 flood caused a significant spill, saying that both Merit and Evergreen were involved with the spill, and therefore responsibility was not determined.

There was discussion of exposure issues and risk assessment, as well as the effect on area wildlife; According to the federal framework criteria, the level of contaminants don't rise to the surface in urgency, Mr. Pugh said. In the "pan handle" of the site, however, findings have noted an ecological risk in that the soil there has eroded and sloughed into the wetlands. Remedial Action Objectives, will focus on mitigating ecological exposure (to the wildlife), and to prevent further leaching of foundry sand. A consolidation and capping process will be put into place so that rain cannot leach into the material.

There will be a one month comment period December 2010/January 2011. The Committee would like to talk with DEQ before the public comment period; Mr. Pugh will look into this. The group would also appreciate a link to the feasibility study. While the Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes would like the culvert disconnected as part of the remediation, Mr. Pugh said that removing the culvert would have implications to multiple property owners. DEQ cannot impose this action on Merit as part of remediation.

DEQ has a settlement program for habitat improvement in the watershed; funding is being procured. Ms. Opdyke requested a timeline and additional information. Bruce Gillis of DEQ asked that people let him know about projects that may need funding.

The DEQ PowerPoint presentation has been split into 3 parts for ease of viewing. Please copy and paste the address below into your web browser.

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/Webdocs/Forms/Output/FPCController.ashx?SourceIdType=11&SourceId=673&Screen=Load>

Natural Resource Management Plan Update (Consultant Team)

Kevin O'Hara of David Evans & Associates, Inc. updated the Committee on Phase One, which identifies goals, targets and stresses. The Conservation Targets agreed upon over the past month include:

- Upland prairie
- Emergent wetlands
- Shrub/shrub wetlands
- Bottomland forests
- Riparian forests
- Open water
- Western painted turtle
- Streaked horned lark

Kevin presented draft key ecological attributes (KEA) for each conservation target for the groups' discussion. (See attached power point presentation by Kevin O'Hara on KEA.) There was discussion about Streaked horned lark and whether or not it should be a conservation target or nested within the upland prairie target. There was concern that since the birds are not currently present the target may never be realized. Paul Vandenberg generated discussion of how success will be

measured (and what timeline will be used) to judge the value of this fairly unique experimental effort to mitigate the effects of the St. John's Landfill.

The Management Committee agreed it was fine to eliminate SHL. Note, subsequent discussions with Jonathan Soll have encouraged us to keep SHL as a target. (*The group decided after discussion at the July 27 meeting to keep the SHL as a target.*)

We discussed the riparian forest configuration, noting that patch size as a KEA should take into account the edge to interior relationship. There was also discussion on structure for KEAs, including lower, mid and upper stories where appropriate.

Pam Arden asked how enhancing wildlife is enhancing to humans if they can't go into the affected area. Other members responded that the overall goal is one of integration, and not a source of conflict.

Kevin documented changes to the KEAs. The next meeting will focus on stresses and threats to the conservation targets, along with a site analysis of St. John's landfill.

Committee Meeting Schedule for NMRP Update

Janet Bebb confirmed with the group that the 4th Tuesday of the month still works with people's schedules. The next two meeting dates will be:

July 27, 2010

August 24, 2010

Two weeks' notice will be provided should anything change.

Also note the option of a site visit Monday July 12 at 5:30, meeting at the Interlakes trail parking lot. Please RSVP to Heather Coston, at Heather.Coston@oregonmetro.gov, 503 813 7552.

General Updates

There will be a tour of Smith & Bybee Lakes (led by James Davis) and the St. John's Landfill (led by Paul Vandenberg) on Monday, July 12th. Interested individuals should contact Janet Bebb, and meet in the parking lot at 5:30 p.m.

Metro's Heather Coston and Kelly Rodgers of Confluence Planning suggested that more time for public engagement on the Management Plan could be beneficial.

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