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Coordinated by:

**Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area  
Management Committee**

*Frank Opila, Chair*

**Metro**

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

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**Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee Meeting**

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 22, 2004  
Metro Regional Center, 600 N E Grand Ave., Room 270  
Portland, Oregon 97232

**AGENDA**

Welcome, introductions	(Opila)	5:30 - 5:35 pm
Approve March meeting notes*	(Opila)	5:35 - 5:40 pm
Smith & Bybee education program	(Davis)	5:40 - 6:20 pm
Updates	(All)	6:20 - 6:30 pm

As it has been some time since you were sent the March meeting notes, we are attaching a copy again for your reference.

**Summary Meeting Notes  
Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee  
June 22, 2004**

**In attendance:**

Frank Opila *	Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Elaine Stewart	Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area Manager
Troy Clark *	Portland Audubon Society
Nancy Hendrickson *	Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
Ray Piltz *	St. Johns Neighborhood Association
Patt Opdyke *	North Portland Neighborhoods
Pam Arden *	40-Mile Loop Land Trust
Jim Sjulín *	Portland Parks & Recreation
Susan Barnes	Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife
James Davis	Metro Parks & Greenspaces (RP&G) Naturalist
Pat Sullivan	Metro RP&G
Jim Morgan	Metro

\* denotes voting SBLMC member

**Approval of March 23, 2004 meeting notes**

The meeting notes were approved as submitted. (The vote: four in favor, one abstention.)

**Smith & Bybee education program**

James Davis, Metro Naturalist gave the Committee an update on the Metro Regional Parks & Greenspaces Education Program. He referred to the two main sites where environmental education and public interpretation take place: Oxbow Park and Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area. Last spring for the first time and this spring again Smith & Bybee Lakes exceeded Oxbow Park in the number of field trips held. Bit by bit, Davis reported, the “word is getting out” of the existence of the wildlife area. As his time slots are nearly always full now, the only way likely to increase attendance would be for teachers to call earlier in the year to plan the field trips.

Davis discussed a section of the Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces Education Plan that was distributed to the Committee. It outlined:

- 1) Who make up the program audiences?
- 2) What programs are currently offered?
- 3) ,What criteria are currently used to determine which audiences to serve, given limited resources?

Another handout from Davis described the goals of the Education Program and the Educational Philosophy. The overall basis of the philosophy is direct experience with nature. There is nothing that comes close to the impact and quality of learning that occurs with direct experience, according to the naturalist.

There is not a lot of room for expanding the program at the lakes because Davis is booked up months in advance and has little or no time to do more programs. Elaine Stewart added that there is increasing demand for service learning and more prolonged learning

experiences at the wildlife area (particularly at the middle and high school levels). She asked whether volunteer naturalists might be able to provide programs so that environmental education continues to happen but is not necessarily delivered by a regular Metro staffer. There is also a possibility that “roving” docents, who could also be trained as volunteer naturalists, may be incorporated into the program to provide public contact as use of the wildlife area increases.

Next year the grand opening of the new facilities will occur and fill the niche of Smith & Bybee Lakes Day which had previously been held annually. Due to construction schedules it did not take place last year and will not this year.

## **Updates**

The new representative from **Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Susan Barnes**, was introduced to the Committee. She is filling the spot recently vacated by long-time committee member, Holly Michael, who has taken another position within ODF&W.

**Frank Opila** announced he will be vacating the position of **Committee Chair**, having completed more than his one-year commitment. He will continue through the summer, though, allowing the Committee time to find his replacement. The issue will be on an upcoming agenda.

**Elaine Stewart** reported the first **draw-down of the water control structure** took place last week and the process worked smoothly. She will continue slowly to draw-down the wetlands through late summer.

The **trail alignment** work is beginning with the first committee meeting scheduled for July 1. Jane Hart is Metro Project Manager and will be sending out an announcement with further details.

There are **two eaglets** in the bald eagle nest at the Wildlife Area which have been observed by Stewart. They will likely fledge in the next week to ten days.

Multnomah County Vector Control will be applying a **fourth larvacide application of the year** to treat mosquitoes at the lakes.

Metro recently sent to DEQ a draft proposal for the **Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RIFS) at the St. Johns landfill** and is waiting for DEQ's response.

Committee members should have received an invitation to the **groundbreaking for the new facilities at S&B**. The majority of the work is scheduled to be completed by mid to late October.

The possibility of a field trip to the wildlife area this summer was discussed. A **trip to the Ramsey site** is one idea.

Future agenda items may include a further discussion of **future uses of the landfill area**.

Patt Opdyke suggested developing a list of projects that might be included in a **Work Plan for the Management Committee**.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.