

**Summary Meeting Notes
Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee
March 23 2004**

In attendance:

Frank Opila *	Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Elaine Stewart	Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area Manager
Denise Rennis *	Port of Portland
Troy Clark *	Portland Audubon Society
Patt Opdyke *	North Portland Neighborhoods
Jim Sjulín *	Portland Parks & Rec
Jim Morgan *	Metro

* denotes voting SBLMC member

Updates

Since a quorum was not present at 5:30, the meeting began with updates. Elaine Stewart passed around a copy of an article on paddling at the wildlife area that was in the current issue of Sunset magazine. She announced that a feature story would appear in The Oregonian in the next week. Stewart will make a presentation on the new water control structure at the April 7 meeting of the Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes. The RFP for the trail feasibility study is out and proposals are due on March 31st.

Denise Rennis announced that the wildlife undercrossing at Time Oil Road should be completed in the next few weeks. The construction crew encountered a western painted turtle crossing the road; it was unable to get past the silt fence on either side of the road. Crew members placed the animal on the other side of the silt fence. Rennis is working on a grant to fund monitoring of wildlife movement in the undercrossing with motion detector and infrared camera. The committee will tour the undercrossing for its April meeting. Rennis also reported that Vanport Wetlands is responding well to restoration efforts, although she would like to have an additional 12-18 inches of water to flood the area.

Clark and Sjulín reported that the City of Portland has submitted a grant application to Oregon State Parks to fund launch improvements and other work at Kelley Point Park. The application is getting favorable reviews and the city is optimistic.

Letter of support for Port of Portland land use review

Stewart provided background on a Port application to place large woody debris on mitigation sites and other Port properties. She distributed a draft letter of support for the committee's consideration. The committee made an editorial change to the letter and approved it as amended by a 5-0 vote.

Approval of February meeting notes

The meeting notes were approved (3 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions).

Port of Portland plans for Expo parcel

Rennis described the Port's plans for the "Expo parcel", which was exchanged with Metro in the land swap that provided the "triangle piece" for facility improvements at Smith-Bybee. The parcel is approximately 7 acres and is adjacent to Vanport Wetlands. Historically, it was part of the wetland complex along the Columbia River floodplain. It has been converted to

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upland and has about 10 feet of non-native material over the native soil. Invasive species are present, as well as some good stands of dogwood and cottonwood.

The Port's targeted wildlife species are red-legged frog, Pacific giant salamander, willow flycatcher and tri-colored blackbird. Goals include restoring and enhancing wetland and upland areas, providing breeding habitat for amphibians, providing breeding habitat for neotropical migrant songbirds, and providing habitat connectivity with Vanport Wetlands and Force Lake.

Rennis anticipates that this property will serve as a mitigation site for future fill at Portland International Airport. She is contracting some engineering and design work now, in order to have the site ready when the wetland fill occurs at the airport.

Wetland restoration tasks include removing the fill material to expose native soil and planting the area to a scrub-shrub community. A broad swale forms a depression between the site and Vanport Wetlands, and she will be installing slough sedge and water parsley there. A suggestion was made to consider rice cutgrass also. Upland enhancement will occur primarily on the south end of the parcel. The site currently has 1 acre of wetland and 6 acres of upland habitat; it will have 4 wetland acres and 3 upland acres after work is completed.

The site is located in the Peninsula Drainage District No. 1 (Pen 1). Rennis reported that the Port's objectives for the site are consistent with those in the Pen 1 Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP). One possible sticking point may be an objective in the Pen 1 NRMP for surface flow to be directed from the parcel to Force Lake (it would be desirable to retain water on-site in the wetlands).

The vacation of Force Road was briefly discussed. Vacating the road would allow habitat restoration to improve the connectivity between the Vanport site and Force Lake.

Rennis mentioned that she can also provide the committee with a presentation on the Ramsey mitigation site, including turtle habitat improvements as well as the consent decree-mandated work.

In response to a question following up on placing the education program at Smith-Bybee on an agenda, Stewart reported that James Davis will be at the June meeting. Questions that the committee will have for Davis include needs for education funding, what materials are made available, what materials he may need, whether he needs seasonal help. What are the education needs at Smith-Bybee? Stewart mentioned increasing demand for long-term projects and service learning opportunities and the need for class support for these activities.