

**Summary Meeting Notes
Smith and Bybee Lakes Management Committee
July 27, 2004**

In attendance:

Frank Opila *	, Chair	Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes
Troy Clark *	, Vice Chair	Portland Audubon Society
Pam Arden *		40-Mile Loop Land Trust
Nancy Hendrickson *		Portland Bureau of Environmental Services
Jim Morgan *		Metro
Patt Opdyke *		North Portland Neighborhoods
Denise Rennis *		Port of Portland
Jim Sjulín *		Portland Parks and Recreation
Elaine Stewart		Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area Manager

* denotes voting SBLMC member

Approval of June 22, 2004 meeting notes

The notes were approved (five in favor, one abstention) with the following modification: add a "*" following Susan Barnes' and Jim Morgan's names.

Ramsey Ponds Mitigation Area

Denise Rennis reviewed the Port's management of this Port of Portland mitigation site within the wildlife area. There are four management areas at Ramsey: 1) the Rivergate Consent Decree-mandated mitigation work, 2) the buffer area (also required by the RCD), 3) the ponds and islands (the original mitigation work) and 4) the visual buffer and slopes between the mitigation area and adjacent railroad lines.

RCD site: goals are to provide habitat for riparian-associated birds, to provide forage and cover for small mammals, to provide off-channel fish habitat, to improve the connectivity between the forest and slough, and to expand riparian forest and scrub-shrub plant communities. The RCD area has been excavated to 14 feet (NGVD 29 datum) elevation. There are four openings between the excavation and the Columbia Slough. The site has been planted.

Buffer area: goals are to provide native grassland community, nesting habitat for western painted turtles, grassland habitat for horned larks and western meadowlarks, and connectivity between the ponds and the new wetland area.

Ponds and islands: goals include open water and wetland habitat, waterfowl habitat, and turtle habitat. Recent activities include installing woody debris for basking turtles and controlling weedy vegetation on the islands.

Visual buffer and slopes: this area is to be planted to provide a buffer between the Ramsey site and development in the surrounding Rivergate area. There are existing plantings, which will be interplanted.

Ongoing site management work performed by the Port includes vegetation management, monitoring, and reporting to agencies that issued permits. In the long term, the Port may turn the site over to Metro.

On another note, Rennis is leaving the Port at the end of August. Her successor will probably be the Port's replacement on this committee.

Work Plan

Stewart reviewed some potential items that could be on the committee's work plan. All were brought up at the previous meeting; they include St. Johns Landfill future use, NRMP update, and RI/FS study. Committee members' thoughts included:

- A desire to be pro-active on issues of interest to the committee.
- The environmental education program will probably remain at status quo unless Metro chooses to devote additional staff funding for the site.
- The NRMP should be redone every 10 years (per Portland Planning).
- Site plans in the NRMP were affected by the interpretive center that was anticipated for the SE corner of Smith Lake; since the facilities are in a new location, the other site plans should be updated.
- The St. Johns Landfill future use is the most time-sensitive issue on the list.
- Day-to-day management of the area is changing with new facilities – how will maintenance be handled.

There was considerable discussion about these and other items. The group discussed potential elements of the NRMP that could be updated (Stewart passed out a handout with a straw list to generate discussion). The management committee will consider the justification for the update and will invite a person from Portland Planning to discuss the feasibility and process for an update. The committee will prepare its own recommendations prior to initiating or encouraging any NRMP updates.

Next month's agenda will include discussion of the landfill's future use. Committee members will read the NRMP and locate references to the landfill; they will come to the meeting prepared to consider and discuss possible uses listed in the NRMP as well as others. Stewart will bring information from the Portland Planning Bureau on the NRMP update process.

Updates

Denise Rennis announced that the Port has posted the Vanport Wetlands comprehensive management plan on its website.

Elaine Stewart reported that the bald eagle pair successfully **fledged two eaglets**. **White pelicans** have come and gone from Smith Lake several times this summer. Multnomah County Vector Control conducted its **fifth aerial spray to kill mosquito larvae** today.

The **new facilities** are under way, and a request for bids is out for **painted turtle nesting habitat improvements**.

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council held its 10th annual **Regatta** near the landfill last weekend. It drew more than 400 visitors this year.

The meeting was adjourned.