

**Summary Meeting Notes
Smith and Bybee Lakes Management Committee
August 24, 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
Patt Opdyke *		North Portland Neighborhoods
Ray Piltz *		St. Johns Neighborhood Assn.
Jim Sjulín *		Portland Parks and Recreation
Elaine Stewart		Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area Manager
Pat Sullivan		Metro Parks & Greenspaces

* denotes voting SBLMC member

Approval of meeting notes

The notes from the July 27, 2004 meeting were approved as submitted. (The vote: five in favor, none in opposition and no abstentions.)

Change in Committee Chair Position

Having reached the end of his term, Frank Opila reminded the Committee this would be his last meeting in the role of chair. In addition, as of September, representation of the Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes on the Management Committee would be shared by Jeff Kee and Dale Svart.

Patt Opdyke was voted the new chair. (The vote: four in favor, none in opposition and two abstentions.)

NRMP update process

At the last meeting Elaine Stewart was asked to contact the City of Portland Planning Dept. to obtain information on what an update to the Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) would entail. She had a conversation with Chris Scarzello about that procedure. According to the NRMP (pg. 69), any major changes to it require a legislative process. When City planners propose legislative changes, they must convince one of three bodies to initiate the process: The City Council, the Planning Commission or the Planning Director.

Scarzello felt that the NRMP could be classified as an environmental project. Changes to it might fit in with efforts now under way by Portland Planning on E-zone codes. Chris suggested the Committee consider if there are ways to do minor "tweaking" to the NRMP that might fit with the City's e-zone code improvement project.

According to Scarzello, the City is also planning a more comprehensive view of the Columbia Slough corridor (a project that could take many years). A Riparian District Plan is being considered, which might replace all the individual NRMPs in effect along the slough. Possible benefits would include greater consistency than the assortment of NRMPs in place now. The Port of Portland, Multnomah County Drainage District and Columbia Corridor Assn. are all pushing for a Riparian District Plan.

Chris cautioned about going too deeply into the process of amending the Smith & Bybee NRMP as the City may decide in a couple of years, while looking at the Columbia Slough corridor, that they want to dispense with the S&B NRMP and supercede it with a future comprehensive plan.

The group discussed these and other possible approaches to modifying the NRMP. They are still interested in looking at NRMP revisions, beginning with the landfill. In the next two meetings, the group will consider how to tackle the NRMP and work its way through it. Stewart will devise a couple of approaches for the committee, perhaps in discussion with new chair, Patt Opdyke. Input from other Committee members would be welcome. Clark expressed a preference to work through the NRMP, considering it in sections, meeting by meeting.

Scarzello offered to come to the September Management Committee meeting to discuss the process if desired.

Updates

- Elaine reported that a meeting for the technical working group for the trail has been held. Arden, Clark and Stewart are on that group. Forty-five to fifty criteria for evaluating the different trail segments were outlined. Examples of the criteria included: cost factors, ecological factors, trail connectivity, safety and management considerations. At this point, none of the criteria are "weighted".
- Bybee Lake is tidal now; the last boards having been removed from the water control structure. Some results include salmon over-wintering there, shore birds appearing in amazing numbers with the appearance of the mud flats, and a number of very uncommon birds finding their way there.
- A large number of bird deaths have occurred at Smith & Bybee Lakes. A recent count totalled 40 mallards and 15 shorebirds. Stewart is having animals tested for a number of possible causes such as avian cholera and West Nile virus. As blue-green algae has been in evidence in Vancouver Lake, Stewart may have testing done for that condition as well. It is not known if these birds are becoming infected with a disease elsewhere and making their way to the lakes or if they are becoming infected at the lakes. Stewart does not believe the recent change to tidal conditions has been the cause.

St. Johns Landfill Future Use

The group will consider everything in the current NRMP and determine whether it is in favor of each possible use. Then they will add other uses that they may favor. A straw list for discussion follows.

Currently favored by committee

Wildlife habitat: meadow, scrub/shrub,
savannah
Trail
Wildlife viewing
Canoe launch
Fishing

Not currently favored by committee

Model airplane flying

Opdyke proposed that the group consider whether it can help the model airplaners find another place to fly. Stewart is to bring definitions of the habitats listed above to the next meeting. Stewart will also assist the group in drafting a list of wildlife species for which the habitats would be managed.

The agenda for September will include continued discussion of the landfill.

The meeting was adjourned.