

**Summary Meeting Notes  
Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee  
February 24, 2004**

**In attendance:**

Frank Opila *	Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Elaine Stewart	Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area Manager
Nancy Hendrickson *	Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES)
Jane Bogus *	St Johns Neighborhood Association
Denise Rennis *	Port of Portland
Troy Clark *	Portland Audubon Society
Pam Arden *	40 Mile Loop Trust
Dennis O'Neil	Metro Solid Waste & Recycling (SW&R)
Paul Vandenberg	Metro SW&R
Amanda Spencer	Hart Crowser, Consultants
Taku Fuji	Hart Crowser, Consultants
Patt Opdyke *	North Portland Neighborhoods
Patricia Sullivan	Metro Regional Parks & Greenspaces (RP&G)

\* denotes voting SBLMC member

**Introductions**

**Approval of Jan meeting notes**

A motion was made and passed by a unanimous vote (six in favor, no opposition and no abstentions) to approve the January 27 meeting notes as presented.

**Remedial investigation proposal**

Paul Vandenberg reminded the Committee of the overview provided by Amanda Spencer of Hart Crowser at the January meeting, including a hydrogeologist's perspective on how groundwater moves in the vicinity of the landfill, based on her evaluation of the extensive relevant information available. At this meeting, Amanda and Taku Fuji (also of Hart Crowser) would discuss how site hydrogeology is incorporated into a risk assessment for human health and ecological risks. Paul described how the risk assessment will involve an evaluation of how contaminants move from the waste materials into the groundwater and to possible points of contact with people, wildlife and aquatic organisms. There will also be an evaluation of the possibility of people and wildlife coming into contact with landfill gases. The gas collection system captures and controls essentially all of the gas generated by the landfill, but this project will examine the situations where people and wildlife may come in contact with gas that, for one reason or another, may not be captured.

Amanda provided handouts which gave a visual impression of how chemicals from the refuse might move away from the landfill and come into contact with different receptors. Landfill layers include the refuse, and under that, low permeability silt layers that differ in thickness under different parts of the landfill, from 20 ft. to 150 ft. at the central part. Below that, layers of sand are sometimes present, and then a gravel layer, which has a greater lever of conductivity. A mound of leachate exists in the refuse, and the leachate constituents coming out of the landfill will do one of two things – move towards the sloughs or the lakes

that generally surround the landfill, or it will be pushed through the silt and into the gravel layer.

Amanda described how, during certain times of the year, there will may be upwelling of the water from the gravel towards the North Slough, and a discharge into it. The North Slough is going to be a significant area of consideration as part of the process

Taku identified the different media of concern (soils, sediments, surface water, ground water and aquatic organisms) that could contain chemicals from the landfill. It will be necessary to determine if there is enough data for each of those media to be able to answer the questions that will be posed. He described the primary source of chemicals (landfill waste) and release mechanisms by which they can be released into the environment. Historically that could have been due to erosion of the landfill, flooding, etc. – direct releases to the environment. The landfill is now capped and managed so that those direct releases don't occur.

Taku described the components of the risk assessment process: 1) exposure assessment - the duration and frequency of exposure and 2) toxicity assessment – why the compounds are toxic, whether they are carcinogens or non-carcinogens, etc. Once the chemicals in the leachate have been identified, a screening is done to determine which chemicals are present in levels high enough for concern. There are also concerns with food chain effects and predator-prey interactions. The greatest challenge is going to be on the toxicity side of the equation.

Taku stated that it will be necessary to identify gaps that exist in the data which must be filled in order to complete the remedial investigation and then begin the baseline risk assessment. He said that the overall goal of the remedial investigation is to determine if current conditions are resulting in the release of compounds that are causing unacceptable risks. If that is the case, remedial or cleanup actions can be designed that can address the situation.

Taku discussed receptors, both human health and ecological. The main human receptors will be workers on the landfill as well as future recreational users; trespassers on the landfill must also be considered. One of the unique aspects of this project is that in the consent order with DEQ which identifies what is required for the remedial investigation, there were nine ecological receptors that were identified as a preliminary list of things to consider in the ecological risk assessment. They were a mix of classes of organisms and also some very specific species such as river otters, osprey and Western painted turtles – representing a wide range of life cycle behaviors, such as types of feeding behaviors and where they live and breed. Elaine Stewart noted that the list of organisms included in the consent order is the list submitted to DEQ by the SBLMC.

## **Updates**

Denise Rennis reported that the wildlife undercrossing is nearly complete. Dan Layden of the Portland Dept. of Transportation (PDOT) has offered to take this committee on a visit to view the project. Denise added that they may want to visit other sites during that same trip such as the water control structure and the Ramsey mitigation site. There was debate as to whether to substitute this visit for the regular April 29 meeting or include it as an additional one. It was observed that by the end of April it should be lighter until later in the evening.

Elaine reported that preparations for the trail feasibility study are proceeding. A Request for Proposals (RFP) will go out in mid-March for this work. The technical working group (which includes Troy Clark from the SBLMC) will participate in the consultant selection.

Denise also reported that there is now a conceptual plan for the piece of property adjacent to the Expo Center that the Port of Portland acquired in the trade that brought the triangle piece to Metro. She offered to give a power point presentation on the plan at a future SBLMC meeting when there is 10 minutes open on the agenda.

According to Dennis O'Neil, the planting at the North Portland Road site is nearly done.

Elaine will give a presentation on the new water control structure for the Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes at the April meeting.

Following a very productive recent meeting between Metro and Portland Parks, the Smith & Bybee Lakes trail planning project will be steadily moving forward now.