

Metro | Agenda

Meeting: Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee (SBAC)
Date: Tuesday, September 23rd, 2014
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Place: Metro Regional Center – Room 270
600 NE Grand Ave, Portland Oregon 97232

5:30 p.m.	Welcome and introductions	All
5:35 p.m.	Approve SBAC April 22, 2014 meeting minutes	Troy Clark
5:40 p.m.	Water Management Update <i>-Bathymetric Mapping</i> <i>-Water Management/Dam Removal</i>	Katy
6:10 p.m.	Field Season Update <i>- Invasive Species Management Treatment Plan</i> <i>- Elk Sighting?</i>	Elaine
6:40 p.m.	Trail Update <i>- Trail around the prairie</i> <i>- Bridge across Columbia</i> <i>- Bridge across Slough</i>	Mel Huie
7:00 p.m.	Committee Bylaw questions/ Final approval	All
7:15 p.m.	Adjourn	

Upcoming SBAC meetings:

Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at the Metro Regional Center

For agenda/schedule information, contact Ally Gregg-Zellars at 503.797.1545 or ally.gregg-zellars@oregonmetro.gov

Metro's nondiscrimination notice

Metro respects civil rights. Metro fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that bans discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin. For more information on Metro's civil rights program, or to obtain a Title VI complaint form, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/civilrights or call 503-797-1536.

Metro provides services or accommodations upon request to persons with disabilities and people who need an interpreter at public meetings.

All Metro meetings are wheelchair accessible. If you need a sign language interpreter, communication aid or language assistance, call 503-797-1536 or TDD/TTY 503-797-1804 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays) 7 business days in advance of the meeting to accommodate your request. For up-to-date public transportation information, visit TriMet's website at www.trimet.org.



Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee

September 23, 2014

Committee members in attendance

Sara Henderson*St. Johns Neighborhood Association
Dan Moeller*Metro, Sustainability Center
Patt Opdyke *North Portland Neighbors
Troy Clark*Audubon Society of Portland (Chair)
Carrie Butler*Port of Portland (Vice Chair)
Pam Arden*40 Mile Loop Trust
Eric Tonsager *Oregon Bass and Panfish Club
Dale Svart*Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Dave Helzer*City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services
Jane Van Dyke*Columbia Slough Watershed Council

Others in attendance

Elaine StewartMetro, Sustainability Center
Katy WeilMetro, Sustainability Center
Mel HuieMetro, Sustainability Center
Ally Gregg-ZellarsMetro, Sustainability Center

Committee members not in attendance

Susan Barnes*Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bill Briggs*ORRCO

*Denotes voting Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee member.

Welcome

The meeting opened with the approval of the July 22, 2014 meeting minutes – there were no objections and the minutes were approved as written.

Water Management Update

Katy provided information on the current water management status of the lakes and the functioning of the channel. Katy explained that when the channel is functioning normally, water will naturally recede from the lakes leaving a few remaining puddles. Metro staff began the draw-down process at the water control structure in May 2014. Bybee Lake functioned as expected and became tidal, while Smith Lake only partially drained as the tide gates remained closed to prevent *Ludwigia* from travelling downstream.

This fall the type C botulism outbreak in the wetlands has been significantly reduced compared to previous years. So far, duck mortality is somewhere around 100-125. To help minimize the number of affected birds, Metro staff is working with Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife to conduct light hazing activities at the lakes – no large pyrotechnics will be used this year. An informational mailing went out to the neighboring community and targeted outreach was done within the birding community as well.

Metro contracted Pacific Habitat to create a bathymetric map of the lakes and provide other consultation services to help understand water movement at the site. Pacific Habitat recommends that Metro develop both long and short-term plans that address the lake and channel draining issues. This year Pacific Habitat brought in a small excavator to break down the large beaver dam that was adding to the standing water left in the

channel. In addition to dam and silt management, annual channel “notching” was recommended to assist the natural water evaporation process during the summer months. This interim draw-down work will cost \$8-12K annually. As a long term solution, Pacific Habitat suggested looking at a connection between Smith Lake and the Columbia Slough. The connection would be established near the old Smith boat launch and would require a second water control structure. The consultants will also be completing a feasibility study on the channel connection that will include pros/cons and cost estimates. The study should be ready within the next six months and Katy will update the committee as things progress.

The group discussed thoughts surrounding the pipe connection to the slough and plan to revisit the topic once the feasibility study has been completed and shared.

Field Season Update

Elaine distributed a presentation handout ([Attachment1](#)). She shared that contractors are currently treating *Ludwigia* around the perimeters of both lakes, and enthusiastically noted that there has been a lot of emergent vegetation this year due to the draw-down process.

Throughout the Leadbetter Peninsula Metro will do plugs and over-seeding to establish sedge vegetation. The ash trees in the sand deposits will remain, while the blackberry will be cleared.

The south end of Bybee Lake has a sizeable ash forest. A total of 40,000 floodplain Oregon ash will be planted nearby, with some being inter-planted among the cottonwood forest along N Portland Road. Trees will be staked without mesh tubing. Money has been budgeted for future prevention against beaver damage.

Streaked horned lark habitat continues to be managed at St. Johns Prairie. This fall, the 17 acre area will be seeded with wildflowers and upland prairie species. Metro scientists will begin monitoring pollinators at this site. The new trail through the landfill will have a spur trail with a view of the prairie restoration site.

Metro will bring on another student from Portland State University to continue monitoring and collecting data on the streaked horned larks in 2016.

Trail Update

Mel distributed a map ([Attachment2](#)) of the draft trail alignment from Chimney Park to Kelley Point Park, which will be a part of the North Portland Greenway. Metro will be the project manager for the Chimney Park trail segment and will work with Portland Parks and Recreation during the process to ensure that the dog park is maintained.

There is a promising \$1.5 million grant from Oregon Department of Transportation, but this still will not cover the full funding needs of the project. The grant would fund the trail leading from the new Chimney Park bridge across Columbia Blvd and the landfill bridge. Due to a number of challenges relating to hazardous waste, existing vegetation, crossing train tracks, etc., the alignment of the trail will need refining as the project progresses. The trail will be multi-use to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians, and will meet ADA standards.

The North Portland Enhancement Committee has allocated funds to build the segment of the trail through the St Johns Landfill that includes a spur trail with a viewpoint area.

Regulations and specifications for the Columbia Blvd bridge are still being investigated at this time, but it will likely be 12 feet wide and consist of a combination of steel and concrete.

The project timeline will be guided by funding source deadlines. Construction of the trail from Chimney Park to the landfill bridge will be the first project to move forward, likely beginning in 2016. Funding sources and

permits for phase two, which includes construction of the remaining trail segment and the north slough bridge crossing, are still being assessed.

Bylaws

Dan wanted to confirm that there were no outstanding issues with the bylaws. The group accepted the bylaws as written at the September 23, 2014 meeting.

Future Agenda Items

The project list from the CNRP has not been addressed since the CNRP was ratified. The committee agreed to review the list and rank projects at the next meeting – Metro will then be able to follow up with proposed timelines for the projects. Dan will also arrange for Metro staff to give a presentation on the Natural Areas System Plan. The next meeting will be a special, half-day retreat held at Metro.

Next meeting: January 27, 2015

Minutes recorded by Ally Gregg-Zellars.