

Agenda



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting: Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee (SBAC)
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2018
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 Nov. 2017 meeting minutes	Troy Clark
5:40 p.m.	Response of plants to water level management	Robbie Lascheck
6:15 p.m.	Multnomah County jail updates	Troy Clark Jonathan Soll
6:35 p.m.	FY19 funding update and future of S&B Fund	Jonathan Soll
7:05 p.m.	Conservation projects updates	Jonathan Soll
7:25 p.m.	Goals and next meeting agenda	All
7:30 p.m.	Adjourn	

Upcoming SBAC meetings:

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at Metro Regional Center

For agenda/schedule information, contact Ann Toledo at 503.813.7575 or

ann.toledo@oregonmetro.gov

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Meeting minutes

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee

January 23, 2018

Committee members in attendance

Troy Clark*Audubon Society of Portland (Chair)
 Michelle Moulton* City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services
 Jonathan Soll* Metro, Parks and Nature
 Matthew Lee* Columbia Slough Watershed Council
 Pam Arden* 40 Mile Loop Trust
 Patt Opdyke* North Portland Neighbors
 Sara Henderson* St. Johns Neighborhood Association

Others in attendance

Robbie Lascheck.....Portland State University
 Ann Toledo Metro, Parks and Nature

Committee members not in attendance

Bill Briggs*ORRCO
 Carrie Butler* Port of Portland (Vice Chair)
 Emily Roth* Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
 Jennifer Devlin* City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services
 Eric Tonsager* Oregon Bass and Panfish Club
 Don VandeBergh* Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

*Denotes voting Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee member.

WELCOME

The November 27, 2017 meeting minutes were approved. Michelle Moulton from City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services is filling in for Jennifer Devlin.

RESPONSE OF PLANTS TO WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT

Robbie Lascheck, a recent graduate of Portland State University’s Masters in Environmental Management, presented his research findings regarding the response of plants to water level management in Smith and Bybee Wetland Natural Area. He is the third graduate student funded by Metro to research the impacts of the managed flooding to control invasive reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) after the implementation of the water control structure installed by Metro in 2003. The goal of the water control structure is to mimic historic hydrology and control non-native invasive species; his research concluded that it has been successful in accomplishing just that.

Robbie found that the water control structure helped to reduce invasive reed canarygrass by 30% and has allowed for native species to fill in that area—specifically smartweed (*Persicaria amphibia*) and Pacific willow (*Salix lucida ssp. lasiandra*). There have been no herbaceous plantings at Smith and Bybee, so the response must be from seeds found in the seed bank or those that have traveled via the Columbia River. Smartweed is much better for the ecosystem than reed canarygrass because juvenile fish can use it as a cover and seeds provide food for waterfowl in winter. Conversely, reed canarygrass is not a good food source for wildlife.

Diversity has decreased overall since 2003, and smartweed is currently more dominant than reed canarygrass ever was. Will the growing smartweed be at the detriment of other native species? Hopefully the next graduate student can monitor that development.

In conclusion, the hydrologic management work has restored the area to its historic flooding pattern and controlled reed canarygrass. The key is to know when to lower the water levels and by how much. Alternating the water regime every couple of years may be helpful in promoting native plant diversity.

Next Steps

Still unexplored is how the seed bank responds to plant community and hydrology shifts over time. Also, how might the climate change affect future hydrologic management efforts?

MULTNOMAH COUNTY JAIL UPDATES

Jonathan Soll gave updates to the committee. Jonathan and Tom Heinicke (of Metro's acquisitions team) contacted the buyer of the Multnomah County jail regarding selling them a conservation easement. After a while of no response, Ken Elliott from Multnomah County contacted Tom and said that they were interested in selling Metro the conservation easement for \$6 per square foot. Jonathan mentioned that this would work out to \$900,000 for a conservation easement on what is practically valueless land. Jonathan spoke with Tom and Dan Moeller at the negotiator's meeting this morning and agreed that Tom would get back to Ken and say that it is not a reasonable way of valuing the land, and that Metro is ready to pay the appraised value and ready to have a conversation about an appropriate deal. Jonathan suggested that the message to the County might be that the Good Neighbor Agreement should be permanent and that they should donate the easement to Metro because it is for the community. So, the discussion is just starting. No real updates yet, but at least Metro now has a contact at Multnomah County.

FY19 FUNDING UPDATE AND FUTURE OF S&B FUND

Jonathan reported that Metro is in the homestretch of making funding decisions for FY19 and are laying out a plan of action for Levy 2. We are definitely going to proceed with the third phase of the prairie restoration on the old St. John's landfill which will make the restoration half complete. Elaine wanted to complete the restoration of the entire prairie, but the price tag is too steep for the levy funds allotted. Grant funds could be attained for the restoration, but that conversation will be ongoing. The habitat already created will certainly be maintained.

FY19 is a tough year for levy funds due to the fact that certain projects that were targeted for Levy 1 ended up being pushed back due to sociopolitical issues, and those projects have all lined up to be done in FY19. That is taking a large percentage of the levy funds, which will limit our ability to start new projects with those funds in FY19. This leaves the committee in the position to be more aggressive with the Smith and Bybee fund (SB fund) in order to carry the weight of restoration on the natural area, or waiting to launch the next phases of the wetland restoration. The total amount of the SB fund Jonathan is proposing is \$100,000.

Jonathan says that there are two ways that the committee could proceed:

- 1) We can use the SB fund to start the projects, and then in the later years of those projects we can tip it back towards the levy and get closer to a 50/50 ratio, or
- 2) Just use the SB fund to get started with the projects regardless of what happens in the future.

Jonathan hasn't been able to get the traction in Metro to start the preliminary conversation about the Fund and what resources the planning team is hoping to use for the bridge construction, trail restoration, restoration mapping, etc.

Matt asked if by not using the SB fund money and therefore not starting new restoration projects, if the projects will end up costing more in the future. Jonathan said that they would not cost more, but it would delay the accrual of benefits. To affirm, they would still actively maintain the habitat already created.

Patt, Pam and Troy would rather not use the SB fund (for more than \$100,000, which was later clarified). Troy would like to use the SB fund to supply as much leverage as possible to get the matching funds. He would rather not consume the entire fund in the 10-year cycle, even if that means not completing everything they set out to do in the CNRP. Sara wants to look at what projects we have left and what the priority is in getting them done. She feels it would be more realistic to stay with the projects we have already outlined, rather than creating new ones.

However, in terms of the Columbia Blvd. Bridge, the committee has already made a nod in the direction of using the funds for that. Since a bridge is a capital cost, the bond money could also be used to finance the construction.

Next Steps

The topic will be moved to September and the committee asked that Jonathan email them by August 25, one month before the September meeting, to provide them with a list of scenarios regarding the funds that could be used for what projects, and what the timelines would look like.

Jonathan asked that the committee come to the September meeting having these questions about the SB fund answered:

- 1) What is the account balance that you'd like for us to protect? 1 million? \$500,000?
- 2) How much do you weigh the value of having resources sitting in a bank account versus having habitat sitting on the land?
- 3) What do you want our legacy to be?
- 4) What do you consider to reasonable leverage?

CONSERVATION PROJECT UPDATES

Jonathan Soll shared updates on the various conservation projects taking place at Smith and Bybee Wetlands and St. Johns Prairie.

Not much has changed since last time. The water control structure is completely done and it should function. Metro is looking forward to making decisions based on the research done by Elaine Stewart and the graduate students. The channel project is finished and the implementation went really well.

Patt asked if there is any way that Metro could establish some kind of evaluation process for treating weeds and *Ludwigia*. Jonathan said that since *Ludwigia's* arrival is fairly recent, just in past 3 years, we won't know until this year if the methods we used to treat the aggressive invasive species have worked. The question is whether or not we are collecting adequate monitoring information. Jonathan mentioned that the committee should be very excited by what we've accomplished so far, and that Metro fully expects to do another round of Smith and Bybee science monitoring in the next levy.

Next Steps

Treat weeds at Smith and Bybee and analyze whether or not the methods for treated *Ludwigia* have worked.

GOALS FOR NEXT MEETING AND WRAP-UP

Columbia Blvd. Bridge

Jonathan said that Allan Schmidt is planning to come to the next meeting to give an update on the Columbia Blvd. Bridge project.

Homeless encampment clean-up

Troy brought up that there is a homeless encampment near the bend on N. Portland road, adjacent to the boat launch, and he is concerned that the mass amounts of trash are going to flow into the water. Patt said that she could check with Terrance Moses, project lead for Neighbors Helping Neighbors PDX (NHN PDX) which helps clean up trash at homeless encampments, about the possibility of the organization helping with the cleanup of this site. Terrance would need access through the gate so he could drive his truck and trailer to the site. Jonathan will pass a message along to both Justin Takkunen and Bonnie Shoffner (Metro's volunteer coordinator), to contact Patt if they would like to discuss whether NHN PDX can assist.

Update 1: RID patrol cleaned up all they could; the rest of the cleanup will need to be organized by Bonnie, if appropriate for volunteers. Patt can be contacted regarding possibility of NHN PDX helping with the cleanup project.

Update 2: Justin Takkunen said that Metro will not be having Bonnie lead a camp cleanup.

Dreiling property

Jonathan mentioned that they closed on the Dreiling property.

Fall agenda item proposal

Troy proposed that we contact Michael Guebert with the St. John's landfill and ask him to give a presentation about the landfill management and public interface in regards to the trail. This could be for the September or November meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.