

Agenda



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

Meeting: Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee (SBAC)
Date: Tuesday, September 25, 2018
Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Place: Metro Regional Center – Room 270
600 NE Grand Ave, Portland

5:30 p.m.	Welcome and introductions	All
5:35 p.m.	Approve Mar. 2018 meeting minutes	Troy Clark
5:40 p.m.	Smith and Bybee planning projects update	Allan Schmidt
6:10 p.m.	FY19 funding update and future of S&B Fund	Jonathan Soll
6:40 p.m.	Conservation project updates	Jonathan Soll
7:05 p.m.	Open forum	All
7:25 p.m.	Goals and next meeting agenda	All
7:30 p.m.	Adjourn	

Upcoming SBAC meetings:

Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at Metro Regional Center
For agenda/schedule information, contact Ann Toledo at 503.813.7565 or
ann.toledo@oregonmetro.gov

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Metro protects water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and creates opportunities to enjoy nature close to home through a connected system of parks, trails and natural areas.



Meeting minutes

Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee

September 25, 2018

Committee members in attendance

Troy Clark*Audubon Society of Portland (Chair)
Carrie Butler*Port of Portland (Vice Chair)
Matthew Lee*Columbia Slough Watershed Council
Bill Briggs*ORRCO
Emily Roth*Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Jennifer Devlin*City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services
Jonathan Soll*Metro, Parks and Nature
Eric Tonsager*Oregon Bass and Panfish Club
Pam Arden*40 Mile Loop Trust
Sara Henderson*St. Johns Neighborhood Association

Others in attendance

Ann ToledoMetro, Parks and Nature

Committee members not in attendance

Patt Opdyke*North Portland Neighbors
Don VandeBergh*Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

*Denotes voting Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee member.

WELCOME

The March 20, 2018 meeting minutes were approved.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS UPDATES

Jonathan Soll presented a slideshow regarding 2018 conservation updates. *Attachment 1*. Metro is on track for all of the major habitat projects. To aide in the discussion, a map titled "Smith and Bybee Restoration Project Areas 2013-2018" was also shown. *Attachment 2*.

Smith Lake channel

Smith Lake wasn't draining well because of the channel geomorphology. The channel project was initiated to enable Smith Lake to be drained more effectively and to protect emergent wetland habitat. The project is now complete and the lake drained well. There has been a bloom of native emergent vegetation. The beavers are still around, but since the lake is not packed with mud we don't expect nutria to be a big issue. However, if you do see nutria, please report the sighting to Jonathan.

Ash forested wetland

The purpose of this project is to extend and connect fragmented habitat patches. The project is currently in maintenance for phases one and two and there is a need for inter-planting. Around 20,000 plants will be planted this upcoming January and February.

St. John's Prairie

This project aims to build diverse habitat suitable for grassland birds, support insects (pollinators), and support a beautiful experience for trail users. The prairie project is currently in phase one, but the work is winding down. Elaine Stewart has been conducting pollinator surveys and the results are favorable. Western meadowlarks and horned lark have been spotted at the prairie.

Referencing the Smith and Bybee Restoration Project Areas 2013-2018 map, Jonathan explained the different phases of the prairie project. He mentioned that the white patches which are the lark habitat are being maintained. Once phase three is completed, the vast majority of the restoration work outlined in the current Comprehensive Natural Resource Plan (CNRP) will be complete.

Water control structure

The water control structure has been updated for function and safety. It has been suggested that water management is helpful for invasive species management according to a graph shown in the slideshow. It's important not to be too patterned with the water levels; something with a shifting mosaic is best for species diversity.

Invasive species

Invasive species maintenance with a focus on treating Ludwigia. The Ludwigia treatments are in their fifth year but, unfortunately, there is still Ludwigia everywhere. Changing the hydrology might change the Ludwigia behavior, as the strong infestation years have been correlated with not controlling the water levels. Seventy-five thousand dollars has been invested this summer in having Integrated Resource Management out there controlling the water and treating Ludwigia as soon as they see it.

Columbia sedge meadow restoration

This restoration effort conserves rare habitat. The meadow is growing nicely, the plants are thriving, and we are currently in spot treatments for weeds.

Dreiling property

All of the structures on the former Dreiling property have been removed, including the above-ground septic tank.

Wildlife

Along with the Western meadowlarks and horned lark that have been spotted at the prairie, river otters have been spotted at the site. Any specific wildlife questions should be directed towards Katy Weil or Elaine Stewart.

COMPREHENSIVE NATURAL RESOURCE PLAN (CNRP)

We are in year five of the 10-year CNRP. The previous CNRP took three years to complete, but now that the framework is there the next version should not take as long, but it will take at least one year. Carrie Butler mentioned that it would be nice to have a schedule that documents the timing of things in regards to this plan so that the committee can work backwards. Emily Roth suggested that the new CNRP might be an amendment to the current plan instead of a brand new document. Maps relating to current conditions should be part of this new document or amendment.

Next Steps

- Discuss the timing of possible new CNRP or amendment to current CNRP at a future meeting.

FY19 FUNDING UPDATE AND FUTURE OF SMITH AND BYBEE FUND

Jonathan Soll presented a spreadsheet of the dollar amounts allocated to restoration and management projects, broken down by phases. One column showed the full expenses and another the expected share of the Smith and Bybee Fund (the Fund). After reviewing the numbers, Jonathan then presented a second spreadsheet regarding the Fund balance and projected spending. This was broken down by fiscal years and categories such as staff costs, project costs, and non-project costs. He mentioned that if there was no money in the Fund, the site would still get funded through Metro.

The committee then discussed the amount of money they would be comfortable with having in the Fund after the end of the current CNRP, in fiscal year 2024. Most members said they'd be comfortable with 1 million dollars left in the Fund, but there was not a consensus as to the reason for that amount. Most said that they would like a financial safety cushion in case of an emergency.

A subcommittee will be formed to look at the numbers, the plans, and the priorities, and will come back to the committee with a recommendation for the Fund balance.

Next Steps

- Jonathan to provide more clarity to the committee regarding the expenses coded to “non-project costs” in FY2017.
- Jonathan to follow up with Metro leadership regarding money from the Fund going towards the N. Slough Bridge plan.
- Subcommittee to meet two or three times before the next SBAC meeting to bring a recommendation to the group. The following members volunteered for the committee: Emily Roth (lead), Sara Henderson, Troy Clark, Jonathan Soll, Carrie Butler and Bill Briggs.
 - Emily Roth to organize the subcommittee meetings.

SMITH AND BYBEE PLANNING PROJECTS UPDATE

Allan Schmidt was not in attendance, but Jonathan Soll read updates regarding the Columbia Blvd. Bridge and St. John's Prairie Trail. *Attachment 3.*

Columbia Blvd. Bridge

Local engineering firm KPFF has been selected to help design and administer construction the bridge. Design and engineering is scheduled to begin this winter, while the public involvement portion will begin in the summer or fall of 2019.

St. John's Prairie Trail

Allan is currently scoping the project and drafting an RFP to release this winter for local design firms. Throughout the process, Allan will come to the committee regularly to provide updates and have discussion with the group.

Kiosk

Using feedback from the SBAC, the kiosk sign was designed to be more inclusive and reach more users of the lakes by adding more information in multiple languages. This will be installed very soon.

Next Steps

- Allan to send out an email with the kiosk sign proof.
- Allan to discuss the Interlakes Trail extension project with the committee.
- SBAC to give some thought as to who they would like to add to the citizen advisory committee for the St. John's Prairie Trail project.

METRO PARKS AND NATURE BOND 3.0

Jonathan Soll discussed the third Metro bond with the group and indicated that this bond will be taking a racial equity lens. The bond core team will have a recommendation about the framework of the bond to the Metro Council in late November or early December of this year. Many of the Council members are being replaced in January, so the conversation will start up again at that time. After community discussion, hopefully there will be a resolution in June of next year and the initiative will go on the ballot in November 2019.


Next Steps

- Jonathan to send out handouts regarding the bond.
- Jonathan to send out a list of the community stakeholders.
- Committee to ask their organizations what capital investments would help Smith and Bybee.

GOALS FOR NEXT MEETING AND WRAP-UP

- Subcommittee to bring a recommendation for the Smith and Bybee Fund spending to the next meeting on November 27.
- SBAC to give some thought as to who they would like to add to the citizen advisory committee for the St. John's Prairie Trail project.
- Committee to ask their organizations what capital investments would help Smith and Bybee.
- Jonathan Soll to report back to the committee regarding Metro spending money from the Fund to support the bridge project.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**2018 conservation update**

**Smith and Bybee Wetlands
Advisory Committee**

Jonathan Soll, Elaine Stewart and John Catena
Metro – Conservation Program

Smith channel project

Beavers are still there

Smith Lake drained well



Floodplain forest plantings

Maintenance in
spring and fall 2018

Interplanting in
early 2019 (20,000
plants)



Sedge meadow plantings

Expanding meadow
on Leadbetter

Original area is
yellowed (but
healthy) and new
plants are in
foreground

Purple Martin
gourds in distance



Sedge meadow (cont.)

Expanding near
Interlakes Trail too

Young plants
installed in 2017

Maintenance on
both meadows in
2018



St. Johns Prairie Phase 1

Plectritis put on a
great show in
spring

Pollinator surveys
show lots of use



St. Johns Prairie – Phase 2

Grasses dominate one area (great for meadowlarks)

Forbs dominate the rest (great for pollinators)



Bird surveys

- Western Meadowlark detected during breeding bird surveys!
- Horned lark detected early spring (see next slide)

Streaked Horned Lark update

Playbacks:
Rivergate dialect;
solar powered;
timed morning and
evening



May 25th visit by male

Habitat suitable
Lark seen on
playback box late
May
Deferred spray on
vegetation



Three weeks later...

Habitat no longer suitable (6/15 photo)

Lark no longer present (gone by end of May)



Ludwigia update

5th year of treatments

Late June, summer and fall pulses of work

Another bad year; lack of water management?

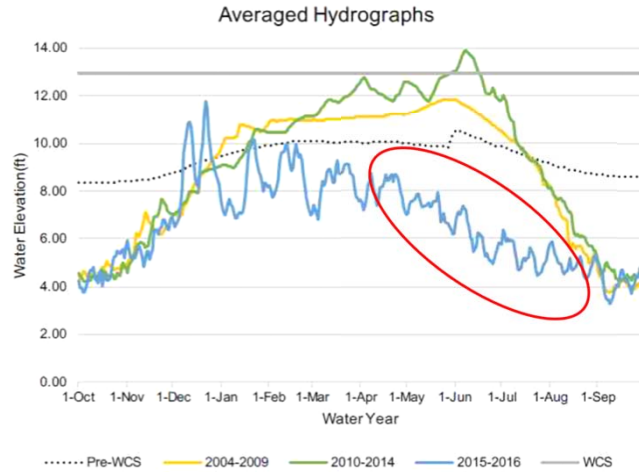


Managing water this year

Green and yellow lines typical water mgt.

Blue line: no water held back

Red oval: early drawdown may encourage Ludwigia?



Just for fun: otters in the channel

Scat is full of large fish scales (carp) and small shells (exotic clams)

Holes go into old nutria tunnels. Otters use them.



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Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area
Restoration Project Areas 2013 - 2018

Restoration Project Types

	Streaked Horned Lark Habitat
	Upland Prairie Habitat
	Columbia Sedge Meadow
	Forested Wetland



Attachment 3

From: [Allan Schmidt](#)
To: [Jonathan Soll](#)
Cc: [Ann Toledo](#)
Subject: S+B Updates / Columbia Blvd Bridge and Prairie Trail Updates
Date: Tuesday, September 25, 2018 1:49:47 PM

How does this look...

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Columbia Blvd Bridge (CBB)

The project has taken some big steps and is about to formally contract with a local engineering firm (KPFF) to help Metro, PPR, and ODOT design and administer construction for the CBB. We hope to begin design / engineering this winter with the public involvement phase starting in the summer/fall of 2019. The design team will focus on site analysis and preliminary engineering for a few alignments prior to heading into a public conversation.

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St Johns Prairie Trail

The time has come to begin scoping this project and drafting the RFP for a winter release to local design firms. Allan will be the lead on this process and will come to the group regularly throughout the process to give updates and get input. Please give some thought as to who the group would like add to on the citizen advisory committee for the project.

New Kiosk Sign

We took your advice and have put a lot of time into the new kiosk sign. We have added more information in multiple languages to reach more users visiting the lakes. Allan will send a proof of this sign to the group via email. We hope to install it very soon.

-

Allan Schmidt

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