

**METRO****Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee*****Revised Meeting Notes**

Metro Regional Center

Room 270

Tuesday, June 25, 1996

5:30 PM

In Attendance:

Joe Pesek	Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Joe Fitzgibbon	The Oregonian
Mary Abrams	City of Portland, Bureau of Env. Services
Jim Morgan	Metro, Regional Parks & Greenspaces
Tim VanWormer	Port of Portland
Pat Lee	Metro, Regional Parks & Greenspaces
Jeff Kee	Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Eve Vogel	Portland Audubon Society
Troy Clark	Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Neil Schulman	Metro, Regional Parks & Greenspaces
Patricia Sullivan	Metro, Regional Parks & Greenspaces

Metro Councilor Ed Washington made a brief appearance at the meeting. He expressed appreciation for the committee's efforts on behalf of the Smith & Bybee Lakes area.

Eve Vogel opened the meeting with a reminder that her term as chairperson of the Management Committee has come to an end. She asked that other committee members consider their interest in and availability to accept this position. She recommended that a vote be taken and the post filled at the next meeting.

Updates of Activities

Among activities briefly mentioned were the Northwest History Symposium, (by Jeff Kee) and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council meeting (by Troy Clark). Troy, who represents this committee's interests on the Watershed Council, offered to present any concerns or information members might wish to share with the Council. Troy reported that at the last Council session, Ed Squire gave an informative presentation on the Clean Water Act. Jeff requested that Troy provide announcements of upcoming Columbia Slough Watershed Council meetings and updates of relevant decisions and activities. Troy agreed to do so.

Troy also brought up the forthcoming 2nd Annual Columbia Slough Small Craft Regatta to be held on Sunday, July 28th. An "Unrace to Save the Slough" will be part of the festivities.

AGENDA:

Neil Schulman - Recommendations for Environmental Education and Interpretive Programs

Neil provided handouts of a draft of the Environmental Education and Interpretation Goals for Smith and Bybee Lakes. This included the following 1996-97 programs: Monitoring and Stewardship Programs, Field Trip Programs and Smith and Bybee Lakes Day. Neil hopes to organize a committee to re-examine Smith and Bybee Lakes Day for next spring. This group might include members of this committee as well as some teachers and other interested parties. Both Jeff and Troy expressed an interest in participating.

Further discussion revolved around an Adopt-A-Plot Program, teacher training and involvement in the North Portland and St. Johns communities. In addition, Neil described the direction being taken with the Interpretive Center. Now being considered is a small classroom with wet lab and a modest interpretive area. These would have to have the ability to be removed in case of flooding. Jim Morgan observed that there is an obtrusive 8 to 10 ft. triangle of sand at the water's edge which would be a good location for a buffer with the Interpretive Center. It is the area least prone to flooding.

Jeff would like to have a data base established which would incorporate (1) a Smith & Bybee Lakes calendar of events for participation by the general public, (2) information helpful to the Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee for funding and management rationale and (3) information on modeling projects, including PSU and OSU research projects. It was suggested that this idea be discussed at the next Management Sub-Committee meeting. Mary Abrams emphasized it must be understood that data collected during the monitoring projects will not be used for 'higher' purposes without quality assurance requirements being met. Other data can be useful, but it must be understood under what conditions it was collected.

Neil Schulman was commended for the fine job he has done in this area of environmental education and interpretation for Smith & Bybee Lakes. Jim Morgan thanked him for taking the initiative on a number of issues. Beginning July 1st, however, Neil's position becomes half-time. Pat Lee interjected that year-long continuity would be helpful. *There is flexibility to assign a 40 hour per week work shift during peak demand period (early fall/ spring) and reduce work shifts to less than 20 hours per week during slower demand period (winter and summer).*

Third Port Mitigation Action

Jim Morgan would like to present a firm recommendation to the signatory agencies of the Port mitigation agreement. He asked the committee to consider putting the "Cadillac" management option to the agencies as the third mitigation component. Jeff stated he was of the understanding that these were completely separate. Jim replied that was true they are independent, however, they are undeniably intertwined. He is apprehensive there will be a missed opportunity for the Port to fulfill its perceived obligations. The Port had given a figure of how much it wants to spend on the three projects. There are, therefore, limited funds and a limited time frame in which to work. Joe Pesek stated that the projects are already in excess of the amount of funds the Port committed to. He added that the Port is going to have to mitigate for losses on Hayden Island, however, and this might lead to another funding resource.

Further discussion centered on whether there was a need to request a meeting of the mitigation agreement's signatory agencies. Jim felt there was no need for such a meeting in July. Jeff asked if it was possible for them to meet to evaluate the "minimum" and "Cadillac" options as a possible third mitigation action. Pat Lee offered that it may be a more effective use of their time if there was a firm recommendation for them to consider. He also said he sensed a reluctance on the part of some committee members to accept the "Cadillac" option as the third mitigation project and asked for other suggestions, other options to put on the table. Eve asked if Joe could compile a list of other possible alternatives. She also suggested a memo be put out to signators for their input. Joe pointed out that the mitigation agreement does not stipulate the project must be at Smith & Bybee Lakes. Troy was not in favor of any project that was outside the lakes area. Pat concurred that Metro staff would like the third mitigation to happen in support of Smith & Bybee Lakes.

No decision was reached.

Prioritization of Components of Management Committee Recommendation

Note: A Reminder of the six components of the recommended "Cadillac" option are listed below. The first four components comprise what was termed the "minimum" option.

- 1) to remove the current structure
- 2) to replace it with a structure that will allow unobstructed flow both on a seasonal and daily basis through the North Slough into the lakes
- 3) to retain the ability to pump
- 4) to retain the ability to raise the water level in the event of management needs, such as responding to an occurrence of avian botulism
- 5) To directly connect the western arm of Bybee Lake to the Columbia Slough with an adjustable wier and tide gate
- 6) To separate the western arm of Bybee lake from the rest of the lake with an adjustable weir.

Pat Lee reminded the committee that if any other type of control structures were going to be considered, this was the time to do so.

Discussion ensued on the order of the components. Eve suggested problems would arise if the dam was removed without providing for the ability to augment the water and that at least the first four components need to happen at the same time. Joe wanted to prioritize the six components. Mary supported packaging the first four components, giving none special priority. Jim maintained that a phased-in approach to the "Cadillac" plan for reaching the maximum practical option was best.

Vote

Mary Abrams made the following motion:

Accept Jim Morgan's phased-in approach to the "Cadillac" option as defined below:

1st phase - Implement the minimum option (components one through four)

followed by monitoring to observe the effects.

2nd phase - Based on the monitoring, make a decision on whether to implement components five and six of the "Cadillac" option.

Jeff Kee seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

The motion passed. The vote - four to one in favor. The votes were cast as follows:

In favor: Mary Abrams, Jeff Kee, Pat Lee and Tim VanWormer
Against: Joe Pesek
Abstention: None

Jim Morgan: Circumvential Trail Update

A complete trail cannot be constructed until the closure of the landfill is complete. A U of O landscape architect student is interning this summer at Metro Parks & Greenspaces. It is hoped he will be able to do some work on this trail project.

The next Management Sub-Committee meeting was set for Thursday, July 18th at 6:30 PM at the Lucky Lab on 9th & Hawthorne.

The next Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee meeting was set for Wednesday, July 31st at 5:30 PM at Metro. (Note: this is a departure from the usual fourth Tuesday of the month to accommodate schedule conflicts.) The agenda will include selecting a new chairperson, and the third Port mitigation project.

Meeting Notes submitted by Patricia Sullivan. Please call me at 797-1870 if you have any additions or corrections or bring them up at the next meeting.