



METRO

Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee Meeting Notes

Metro Regional Center
Room 270
Tuesday, March 25, 1997
5:30 PM

In Attendance:

Troy Clark *	Portland Audubon Society
Neil Schulman	Metro, Regional Parks & Greenspaces
Frank Opila *	Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Paul Vandenberg	Metro, REM
Patricia Sullivan	Metro, Regional Parks & Greenspaces
Nancy Hendrickson *	City of Portland, BES
Dennis O'Neil	Metro, REM
Emily Roth	Metro, Regional Parks & Greenspaces
Joe Fitzgibbon	<i>The Oregonian</i>

* voting members

In the absence of Jeff Kee, committee Chair, Emily Roth of Metro opened the meeting with introductions.

Updates

Troy Clark updated the Management Committee on his recent testimony to the Port of Portland. About two weeks ago, the initial presentation was given of the **West Hayden Island project**, a twenty year, \$657 million Port project. After determining that the meeting was open to the public and anyone could testify, Troy asked that they re-think the plan as initially proposed. The bridge to west Hayden Island is part of the planned Phase II of development. The suggestion from the group called "High Noon", a Jantzen Beach neighborhood association, to build the bridge in the first phase of development dovetailed with Troy's idea to re-align Marine Drive.

On the subject of **recreation**, **Frank Opila** reported that 19 canoes participated in the Saturday trip. The general consensus of those who were there - "It was very cool!"

Neil Schulman reported on **education** projects. A wetlands program was also held at the lakes last Saturday in which 14 people attended. Things are getting geared up for spring including the training of volunteers.

On the topic of the N. Marine Drive Extension and Rail Bypass Project, **Nancy Hendrickson** commented that she had not heard back from Jeanne Caswell concerning Nancy's participation on the **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**. If she is to be part of that group, she is uncertain if she will represent BES or the S & B Management Committee.

Dennis O'Neil informed the committee he is developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to achieve the goal of **establishing native vegetation at the former St. Johns Landfill**. His department has been working on this since 1992. They have experimented with test plots of vegetation covering several acres. Positive results have been difficult to obtain, however, as native plants are being out-competed by invading species. A question that has arisen - should herbicide be used on the landfill? A consultant will be hired to run a 5 year test on a larger plot than had been tested previously, to monitor results and make a recommendation. REM wants to use a cautious approach. In answer to a question, Dennis stated that top soil at the landfill averages 12 inches, below which is a layer of sand 12 to 18 inches thick, and underneath that a plastic "membrane". Another piece of information Dennis provided was that gas in the underlying pipeline can remain there for 10 to 20 years. Sheep will be used again on the landfill on an experimental basis.

Emily added that this year the sheep will not be free to graze the whole landfill. There is a grazing plan that keeps sheep from plots of native plants until the plants have set seed which has then been collected. She stressed that the landfill is an extremely disturbed site. The grazing plan that has been devised is an adaptive management plan, a 5-year experiment to learn what works best. In addition the hope in the larger landfill area is to find some type of stabilization crop, perhaps wheat, that will help to keep the weeds down, make sure there is no erosion - to maintain that land in a "holding pattern" until more is learned. There are no experts in this field, experimentation is the only option at this time.

Emily commented on the **North Marine Drive project**. The first TAC meeting is going to be Tuesday, April 8th from noon to 5:00 p.m. at the University of Portland's Chiles Center. Members of the TAC should be receiving a phone call or letter soon to that effect, according to Jeanne Caswell. She did not have the information immediately at hand, however, concerning the Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting when she last communicated with Emily, except that it will be sometime in the week of April 8th. CAC members should also be receiving a letter soon from project coordinators with meeting details. Emily had requested from Jeanne a finalized list of CAC members a week ago, but learned the list was not yet completed. There will be a meeting coming up this Thursday between Charlie Ciecko, Director of Regional Parks & Greenspaces, Jeanne Caswell and Bill Bach and one of their topics of discussion will be the TAC and the CAC lists to make final selections.

Emily noted that Charlie met previously with Jeanne and Bill to discuss the entire project, after which he sent a letter to them with recommendations of who his department felt should be included on the TAC that were not on her original list. Charlie has not received a response from her as to whether any of those people were added; that will be the point of discussion of their Thursday meeting.

Concerning the project itself, Emily has not heard anything from Jeanne since her presentation to this committee. During a recent trip to the lakes, Emily encountered an employee of the Port of Portland on the old section of North Marine Drive, equipped with an aerial photo of the entire alignment, with survey and flags, checking the utilities. She mentioned to members of the Management Committee who are also on the project TAC or CAC that, because of concern over impact to the lakes, it will be necessary to push to have the alternatives looked at with a broad, long-term perspective.

Emily discussed the probability that the removal of the dam may not occur this year. The signatory agencies to the Rivergate Agreement, excluding the Port, met recently to discuss what the Port had to do to come into compliance - including re-planting the riparian area by Ramsey Lake. They concurred that to complete the agreement for the fill the Port would have to remove the water control structure and to help pay for some of the willow habit restoration around the lakes. They are going to take that proposal to the Port on April 15, 1997. Even if it were to be approved at that time, because it has to go through the Port Commission and the permit process, it may not be done before August of 1998. This will also allow for more of a public outreach process related to the project.

At this point Emily explained about the Corps of Engineers' administrative memo relating to the Port's action on the fill and its mitigation in Rivergate since 1991.

In a meeting between Tim VanWormer and Emily, a "**Purple Loosestrife Strike**" was decided upon. Weekly from June until September of 1997, a hoped-for group consisting of the City of Portland, the Dept. of Agriculture, the Port of Portland and Metro, working with labor crews, will be doing cuttings and identifications. The plan is that every time this plant flowers, it will be cut and areas will be staked out for digging. Sites involved will include Ramsey Lake, the storm water facility and Smith and Bybee Lakes.

If committee members had been out to the lakes recently, Emily pointed out, they would have noticed the "sea of tubes" on the landfill (the protective tubing for tree seedlings) now connects all the way to North Portland Road. In addition, 12 acres of blackberries have been mowed and nine thousand trees have been planted. A contract through the year 2000 with George Krall of the BES will provide continued maintenance. Emily added an interesting note concerning items discovered which had been covered by the blackberries. These included barns, boats, and old farm equipment. The BES is removing remaining silt fences along old North Marine Drive.

Emily has asked the **40-Mile Loop** group to make a presentation at the next S & B Lakes Management Committee meeting. She also reported meeting with the police recently concerning a growing drug problem at the lakes. Soon a sign will be posted that reads "Wildlife Area - Open from 7:00 a.m. to legal sunset". This will allow the police to ticket people there after that time and/or tow their cars.

Paul Vandenberg - (Metro, REM) Environmental Monitoring Program for the Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area. He addressed three basic questions: (1) why are they doing the monitoring? (2) what is the program? and (3) how does it work?

Why? To meet three broad objectives: (a) to be in compliance with permits (in particular related to landfill closure) and regulations (mainly having to do with the Columbia Slough) - surface water standards that are being developed, ground water quality protection rules, and environmental cleanup rules, (b) to conform to objectives and policies of the Smith & Bybee Lakes Natural Resource Management Plan and (c) to provide information for management decision making.

What is the program? A plan that monitors environmental quality through characterizing contamination in the various media - surface water, ground water, storm water, sediments, fish tissue. This is an upgraded and updated plan which fuses the objectives of the REM (Regional Environmental Management) Dept. with the objectives of the Parks and Greenspaces Dept. REM's objectives are oriented toward the landfill and protecting the wildlife area from negative affects of the landfill. Parks and Greenspaces objectives are aligned more towards maintaining and enhancing the wildlife area as an environmental and recreational resource.

REM is working on a post-closure monitoring plan for the landfill which DEQ will eventually review. Defensive monitoring is also an aspect of this plan. (Metro could be forced into costly investigations or cleanup actions to remediate effects which may not be caused by the landfill but which come from other sources of contamination.) The plan is being implemented now, although modifications and updates are anticipated based on DEQ's review, on regulation changes that occur and on the evaluation of data.

How does the program work? They will routinely measure the parameters which are the most indicative of environmental quality for the media being sampled. This includes surface water and sediments in the wildlife area generally, and ground water on and around the landfill, stormwater, leachate and gas on the landfill. There will be biological monitoring where further investigation is required (e.g., fish and other aquatic organisms).

Parameters include: (a) standard indicators (e.g., quality of surface water), (b) chemical contaminant (e.g., in groundwater) (c) biological indicators (e.g., coliform bacteria in stormwater; chlorophyll in surface water) and (d) water level.

Paul then displayed photos indicating monitoring locations

Objectives of evaluating data include: (a) characterizing existing environmental quality, (b) detecting significant changes, (c) determine trends and (d) risk assessment .

The next phase will be more site specific. It must also be remembered that everything will change once the dam is removed. As evaluations of data are made, Paul will inform the Management Committee.

Discussion - Brainstorming

Troy Clark advised the Management Committee of the Wapato Wetlands Committee meeting which will be held this Wednesday at 4 p.m. Troy asked for suggestions on how to approach the possibility of acquiring or managing the property.

It was decided that the evaluation of projects and grants as well as their prioritization (that resulted from the brainstorming sessions) should be tabled until a quorum was present.

Discussion - Plans for Public Meeting/ Open House

This item from the agenda was also put off until next month's meeting.

Additional Updates

- A class of "Columbia Slough 201" will be held April 5th. Call Nancy Hendrickson at 823-6001 for further details.
- Molly Ryan, a Metro intern, will be working on publicity and outreach for the upcoming Smith & Bybee Lakes celebration.
- There will be a SOLV-IT clean-up project on Saturday, April 22nd at Peninsula Crossing Trail. Call SOLV or REM for details.
- The Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes will hold their next canoe trip on April 20th from 4 p.m to dusk.

Items for April 22, 1997 agenda:

Updates

40 Mile Loop Presentation

Jerry Friesen - Portland Fill Gas (15 minutes)

Continuation of Brainstorming Results

Plans for Public Meeting/ Open House