
coordinated by:

**Smith & Bybee Lakes Natural Area
Management Committee**

Nancy Hendrickson, Chair

Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 797-1870

Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee Meeting

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 23, 1999

Metro Regional Center, Room 270

600 N E Grand Ave.

Portland, Oregon 97232

Call to order; Introductions

5:30 - 5:35 pm

Review and approve minutes of January meeting (5 min.)

Updates (15 min.)

5:35 - 5:50 pm

N. Marine Drive
Turtle Monitoring Project
Multnomah County Jail Siting
C.R.U.E. Restoration
Landfill Activities
Purple Loosestrife
Others

Presentation – Dean Apostol (30 min.)

5:50 - 6:20 pm

FACILITY PLANNING -

The process

A decision on the Committee's involvement

Discussion – 40-Mile Loop Land Trust (40 min.)

6:20 - 7:00 pm

40-Mile Loop

Where do we go from here?

7:00 pm

Adjournment

Enclosures:

Jan. 26, 1999 Meeting Notes

Jan. 29, 1999 Letter from Chris White, Port of Portland to TAC and CAC

Feb. 5, 1999 Letter from Mgmt Committee to Multnomah County Commissioners

Feb. 8, 1999 Letter from Carol Durand, City of Portland to Emily Roth
with Schedule for N. Marine Drive Widening Project

Feb. 3, 1999 Wall St. Journal article on Turtle Study (incomplete)

Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee Summary Meeting Notes

Metro Regional Center
Room 270
February 23, 1999
5:30 PM

In Attendance:

Dennis O'Neil	Metro Regional Environmental Mgmt
Gerry Wright *	Fuel Processors Inc
Marcia Sinclair	Public Involvement Consultant
Dean Apostol	Landscape Architect Consultant
Frank Opila *	Friends of S & B Lakes
Holly Michael *	Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife
Pam Arden	40-Mile Loop
Susan Oman *	Port of Portland
Gerry Meyer	Port of Portland
Bob Akers	Reg'l Parks & Greensp Advisory Comm
Nancy Hendrickson *	Portland Bureau of Env Services
Troy Clark *	Portland Audubon Society
Jim Sjulín *	City of Portland Parks & Rec
Emily Roth	Metro Regional Parks & Greenspaces
Patricia Sullivan	Metro RPAG
Bill Bach	Port of Portland
Dawn Uchiyama	City of Portland Parks & Rec
Kevin O'Sullivan	North Portland citizen
Mel Huie	Metro Regional Parks & Greenspaces

* voting member

"Recognition Buttons" were awarded to the Management Committee members as Metro thanks for those who have volunteered their time and energies this year by serving on all-important advisory committees.

Gerry Meyer, new Development Manager of the Port of Portland, was introduced to the committee by Susan Oman. He is taking over the position held by Marilyn Leitz who will be retiring.

Minutes of the January 26, 1999 meeting were approved as submitted.

UPDATES

North Marine Drive – The design phase of the North Marine Drive project is about 30% complete. All the property owners on the north side of Marine Drive have now been contacted. Bill Bach of the Port of Portland and Greg Jones of PDOT have requested 40 minutes of the committee's time at the March meeting to provide a full update. They will present information on alignment, receive input from the committee and talk about the public process which will take place.

A Regional Transportation meeting concerning the North Marine Drive project was also held at Metro the evening of February 23rd. Decisions will be made on the distribution of federal transportation funds

throughout the region over the next several years. One of the projects they are considering is the road over rail bridge for North Marine Drive. The Port has asked the Regional Transportation Committee to fund that project with federal dollars.

The Turtle Monitoring Project – 150 people have signed up as volunteers. An interesting note: almost ¾ of the volunteers had never been out to Smith & Bybee Lakes prior to this project. Frank Opila attended the orientation for volunteers held February 22nd. The plan is, working five days a week, to send out 12 volunteers at a time to set up traps to capture turtles and collect data from them. Four staffers from NERI (Northwest Ecological Research Institute) will be guiding the volunteers. Data will begin being collected as soon as the turtles appear.

Jail Siting – Jim Sjulín represented the Management Committee last week at the hearing before the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners. He alluded to the major points in the letter sent from the Committee to the Board on February 5th. These contained four main issues: habitat, stormwater, recreational feasibility, and design suggestions, which emphasized resource protection. The Board will act on the issue on April 1st at a 10:30 a.m. county board meeting.

C.R.U.E., high school students from the Open Meadow Learning Center, have been hired to do a restoration project at the lakes near the parking lot. They have removed exotic vegetation, planted shrubs and rebuilt a berm, incorporating coconut netting for erosion control. They will be working at the wildlife area several more times this year to do mulching, weeding, re-planting and finishing up projects.

Landfill Activities – At the last meeting Dennis O'Neil of REM reported on the erosion of the perimeter of the landfill. A consultant has been hired to model the water flow in the North Slough with and without the dam. A written document will likely not be available from them until mid-March. Dennis also reported DEQ is presently developing a draft permit for the landfill solid waste for the next ten years. A draft will probably be released for comment sometime in the spring. Dennis offered to meet with the Committee at that time to hear feedback.

Purple Loosestrife – Efforts by the City of Portland have been made over a 3 year period to remove this exotic plant at Ramsey Lake both manually and with biological controls, according to Nancy Hendrickson. This is the last year of the project, which is headed up by Russ Lawrence. Emily added that she has talked to Scott Carter of the Port of Portland; a coordinated effort will be put together to work on purple loosestrife removal. There is money in the S & B Lakes budget to hire crews and in the Port budget as well.

FACILITY PLANNING - Dean Apostol and Marcia Sinclair have been hired to do the facilities plan for Smith & Bybee Lakes. Included will be plans for a boat launch, education shelter and vault toilet.

Dean shared preliminary information: 1) Proposed timeline. 2) Preliminary design program which includes identified needs, planning issues, project goals and siting and design criteria. Committee members were asked to look over the planning issues list and add issues missed or those that have come up since the list was created. He welcomed e-mail or fax responses. Members were also encouraged to consider and respond to five questions from the preliminary design program within the next two weeks. 3) Draft of the Communication and Public Involvement Strategy. Marcia's approach to public involvement requires articulating the goals of the project and also articulating what is wanted from the public before going out to talk with them.

Emily suggested if Committee members know of people or groups not on the contact list that should be, they inform Dean or Marcia. Other types of information needed are meeting times and dates in March and early April for contact groups– also newsletter deadlines.

The issue of whether to hold public meeting(s) was discussed. Part of the decision will be based on the information Dean and/or Marcia obtain from the contact groups. The idea of holding a second meeting using a "direct focus" format with separate stations was examined. The various stations could feature information on facility planning, jail siting, education and turtle monitoring. This approach would go beyond the facility planning to include other issues involving the S&B Lakes Wildlife Area.

40-MILE LOOP LAND TRUST – According to Bob Akers, the land trust is still looking at possible routes, while continuing to fall back on the S & B Lakes Recreation Master Plan, Natural Resources Management Plan for S & B Lakes and the Comp Plan for the City of Portland Planning Bureau.

Points discussed:

- One element Bob would like incorporated is the spectacular view of the lakes from the top edge of the landfill.
- The 40-Mile Loop philosophy includes getting off main roads; building/ using trails which allow people to "get into nature".
- Instead of referring to "trails", Bob would prefer calling them "linear parks", noting a distinct difference. A park is a place where one goes to recreate, to learn, to relax and enjoy oneself. A trail is a way to get from point A to point B.
- The "regional" concept of trails is vital.
- Mel Huie noted that Metro and City of Portland Parks have joined forces in a feasibility study, funded through a REM enhancement grant, of the area between St. Johns Bridge to the Steele Bridge.
- The City of Portland has 26-26 local share money for planning and construction of the trail around Smith & Bybee Lakes. The fund was identified to close gaps in the trail system.

Other questions posed included:

- Does the Committee want a mini-master plan?
- What does that mean in commitment of funds?

Jim Sjulín offered to prepare a brief work program for a mini-master plan to have ready for the March 30th meeting. A compilation of applicable maps will be sent out with the March agenda for Committee members' reference. Jim included among the maps that "have standing" those from the City comp plan, the S & B management plan and the recreational master plan as well as the Regional Trails Map.

The next meeting of the Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee will be March 30th.

Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
P.O. Box 83862
Portland, OR 97283-0862



March 18, 1999

Commissioner Bev Stein, Chair
Commissioner Diane Linn, District 1
Commissioner Serena Cruz, District 2
Commissioner Lisa Naito, District 3
Commissioner Sharron Kelley, District 4

Dear County Commissioners,

We would like to inform you about a current situation involving the Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes. The Friends are being confronted with a hostile attempt to overturn our position on the proposed new jail. A group of citizens, primarily from the St. John's community, consider themselves to be "members" of the Friends and are attempting to schedule a General Membership meeting of the Friends. These citizens, with perhaps 1 or 2 exceptions, have not attended any meetings of the Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes prior to December 1998. The vast majority have not attended any Friends' meetings. Several of these citizens have already testified in opposition to the jail at the February 22, 1999 public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners.

We have not changed the Friends' position of conditional support for the proposed jail. The Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes advocate the conservation and restoration of the Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area as a historical remnant of the Columbia River Estuary System. The Friends support the permanent protection of the lakes in recognition that natural areas are a valuable resource in an urban environment.

Sincerely,

Frank Opila
President

Board of Directors
Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes

Copies: Smith and Bybee Lakes Management Committee
Donna Babbitt
Kevin O'Sullivan