

Coordinated by:

**Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area
Management Committee**
Nancy Hendrickson, Chair



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

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

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 12, 2000
Metro Regional Center, Room 270
600 N E Grand Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97232

AGENDA

Arrive, mingle (15 min.)	5:15 - 5:30 pm
Review and approval of September & October meeting notes (5 min.)	5:30 - 5:35 pm
Update - Portland Parks/Metro Trail IGA - Jim Sjulín	5:35 - 5:45 pm
Update - Ramsey Rail Yard - Denise Rennis	5:45 - 5:55 pm
Update - North Marine Drive project - Stacy Bluhm	5:55 - 6:05 pm
Update - N. Lombard Overcrossing, Request for Participation - Janice Newton	6:05 - 6:15 pm
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Update - Water control structure sub-committee - Troy Clark	6:20 - 6:30 pm
Set January 2001 agenda	6:30 - 6:35 pm
Slide Show - Holly Michael's Trip to Africa	6:35 - 7:00 pm

Enclosures:
October Meeting Notes

Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee Summary Meeting Notes

Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area
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In Attendance:

Nancy Hendrickson *	City of Portland, BES
Holly Michael *	Oregon Dept of Fish & Wildlife
Jim Morgan *	Representing Metro Exec Officer
Denise Rennis *	Port of Portland
Patt Opdyke *	North Portland Neighborhoods
Frank Opila *	Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Jim Sjulín *	City of Portland Parks
Troy Clark *	Portland Audubon Society
Patricia Sullivan	Metro Parks & Greenspaces
Elaine Stewart	Metro Wildlife Area Mgr
Gerry Meyer	Port of Portland
Kevin O'Sullivan *	St. Johns Neighborhood Association
Tim VanWormer	Port of Portland - Marine Dept.
Dennis O'Neil	Metro Regional Environmental Management
Bill Bach	Port of Portland
Stacy Bluhm	Portland Dept of Transportation

* - voting member

Update - North Marine Drive Project - Stacy Bluhm

PDOT Project Manager Stacy Bluhm provided a project summary and schedule and reported the design phase is nearing completion. At the Port Planning Commission hearing on December 13th the Port of Portland will be seeking the Commission's authorization of additional funds needed to complete the project. At this time it is underfunded by approximately \$2 million. PDOT has accounted for \$600,000 to \$700,000 out of federal transportation funds and the Port of Portland will be providing the balance. The next step is the City Council hearing on Wednesday, December 20th, at 9:30 a.m. in Council Chambers. In that forum Bluhm will be discussing the project elements, the process taking place and request authorization for funding of construction. She sought Elaine Stewart's testimony at the Council hearing and that of any interested committee member.

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A number of committee members agreed to form a trails sub-committee to make recommendations to the full committee. Those persons include: Jim Sjulín, Troy Clark, Gerry Meyer, Holly Michael and Jim Morgan. In addition, the following are listed as potential sub-committee members who will be invited: Pam Arden, Susan Barthel of BES, and Tom McGuire of Portland Planning. Dennis O'Neil of REM will be listed as an interested party. Sjulín will e-mail sub-committee members to set up a meeting.

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Update - Water Control Structure Sub-Committee - Troy Clark

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The sub-committee would like to see elevation data for the lakes and North and Columbia Sloughs. Stewart reported she obtained elevations for about half of the lakes' area last summer. As water levels rise she will be able to complete the work.

Additional Update

Related to the county jail facility going in on Ledbetter Peninsula, a public hearing by the Regional Arts and Cultural Council (RACC) will be held Wednesday, December 13. RACC will be responsible for choosing the 1% for art public displays in the area. The citizens working group on the jail was supportive of funding for interpretative displays at the wildlife area. Stewart will be attending, providing information about the Management Committee and the Management Plan.

Setting January 23rd Agenda

Updates: N. Lombard overcrossing, trail IGA, sub-committee report on water control structure, and James Davis' report on the environmental education program.

11-16-2000

to: Smith and Bybee Lakes Management Committee

re: sub-committee for evaluation of tidegate option

Dear committee members,

It has come to our attention that there is currently an active sub-committee investigating the feasibility of placing a tidegate structure connecting the Columbia Slough and Bybee Lake. The Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes (The Friends) believe this evaluation of options for a tidegate and the expenditure of funds to study options is premature.

We believe there are more pressing matters in the management area such as beaver control, siltation in the lakes, enforcement of buffer requirements and a vegetation master plan.

Going forward with resource expenditures based on a possible scenario at this time is not justified in our opinion. There are claims that there is polluted water moving around the Lakes/slough system. But despite years of water quality data gathered by METRO the public has yet to receive any summarized water quality data for the lakes, the North Slough and the water bodies around the landfill. Without data supporting the placement of a tidegate between the Columbia Slough and Bybee Lake it seems a waste of time to proceed with this evaluation.

The Friends are also concerned with issues involving permits, long term maintenance of a possible tidegate and a cost/benefit analysis. These are questions that need to be addressed.

The Friends recommend that the committee looking into the tidegate feasibility issue either be put on hold or proceed slowly. We further suggest that the management committee develop an action plan for the lakes based on OWEB guidelines. An action plan would identify the most pressing concerns within the management area, prioritize them and develop strategies for addressing these concerns.

The Friends are bound by our mission statement advocating the conservation, maintenance, restoration and enhancement of the lakes as an historical remnant of the Columbia River system. We are particularly concerned with the restoration of the lakes, as much as is practicable, to mimic its historic courses and functions.



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Received 12/6/00
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Vice President of the Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes

Received 12/6/00
-ems



METRO

December 11, 2000

Jeff Kee
Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes
P.O. Box 83862
Portland, OR 97382-0682

Dear Jeff:

I received the Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes (FOSB) letter to the Smith and Bybee Lakes Management Committee last week. I will see that the committee gets the letter and hears your recommendation against funding a feasibility study for a tidegate at the southwest arm of Bybee Lake at this time. Thank you for taking the time to weigh in on the issue.

The FOSB recommendation to put the tidegate feasibility study on hold or proceed slowly is in keeping with the Wetland Technical Advisory Committee's and management committee's recommendations. The TAC suggested replacing the current structure first, and then evaluating the necessity of a tidegate at the southwest arm of Bybee Lake. The management committee endorsed that approach twice, in 1996 and 2000. Your representative has been active in the sub-committee looking into the tidegate issue, and I anticipate that his report to the management committee will include the FOSB recommendation.

There are a number of other issues raised in the letter that I should address as manager of the wildlife area. Beaver control is one of several pressing matters listed in the letter; this often refers to trapping efforts, but I believe you intended a more generic meaning. Beavers are an important part of Smith and Bybee lakes, and their current population size is a response to the lakes' increased carrying capacity due to the dam. Attempts to remove animals will be ultimately ineffective, because births and immigration will offset removals. The most effective way to regulate the number of beavers is to stop impounding water in the lakes and restore more innate hydrologic processes that will profoundly change the lakes' habitat. The carrying capacity for beavers will be lower, and their population size will change accordingly. This habitat management approach is my preferred method for managing all native wildlife at the lakes.

Another issue listed was the development of a vegetation plan. I am continuing previous managers' efforts on vegetation planning on three fronts: controlling invasive species, creating a working master plan for the entire wildlife area and proceeding with revegetation efforts. I am glad that you agree this is essential, and I would like to review my plans with FOSB at one of your meetings.

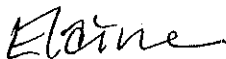
Regarding water quality data, no summary for the management area has been provided to the general public. For citizens actively participating in management issues, like FOSB, Metro continues to provide detailed presentations on the lakes' environmental quality. For example, at the September 2000 management committee meeting, Metro provided a detailed briefing on sediment and water quality monitoring and a summary page on landfill leachate. I have enclosed a copy of the handouts and notes from that meeting for your information; please let me know if you have questions about the data.

FOSB recommends an action plan based on OWEB guidelines. I like to take advantage of all good information sources that are available, and I will look into the guidelines. There is an existing management plan for the lakes that outlines and prioritizes the goal and objectives for managing the lakes, and forms the basis for management actions. I believe that the management plan objectives are as relevant today as they were 10 years ago, when the plan was adopted. This particular comment in your letter tells me that I need to attend more of your meetings and help you stay better informed on activities and plans for the wildlife area. Although you have a representative on the management committee, it is often engaged in land-use issues. I have been working to re-focus some of the management committee meetings on short- and long-term management of the lakes, to keep it better informed also.

I am very gratified to read that FOSB is especially interested in the restoration of the lakes. Restoration is my highest priority, and FOSB has a vital supporting role to play in that work. As we discussed at your meeting last week, I am very excited about building your organization and involving your members in expanded vegetation management activities at the lakes.

Thank you for writing to the management committee with your recommendation on the tidegate feasibility study. I appreciate your interest in and advocacy for Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area. I will plan to attend your meetings quarterly (at least). In the meantime, please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Elaine M. Stewart
Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area Manager

Enclosures



Regional
Arts &
Culture
Council

notice

In your back yard...
Public Art in the Peninsula of North Portland

Workshop
Wednesday, December 13, 2000
7:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
we will begin and end promptly

Water Pollution Control Lab
6543 N. Burlington Ave.

The purpose of this workshop is to get input from citizens in the Peninsula Area of North Portland on how to best use the Percent for Art funds generated by the Wapato Corrections Facility, which will be located adjacent to Bybee Lake in the North Rivergate Industrial Area.

Workshop participants will be asked to brainstorm potential sites and types of public art. In addition, they will be asked to identify community groups or individuals who could potentially participate with, or be resources to, professional artists who will be selected to create public art.

Please call Kristin Calhoun at 503.823.5401 if you have any questions or if you have input but are unable to attend this meeting.

RACC's Role

The Regional Arts & Culture Council is a publicly funded, non-profit organization with a mission to provide leadership, funding and advocacy for arts and culture throughout the tri-county Portland region. RACC's four primary services are Grants and Technical Assistance, Public Art, Arts Education, and Arts and Culture in Communities. RACC is funded by the City of Portland, Metro, and Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties.

Please attend if you can. Members of the Wapato Jail Citizens Working Group have encouraged RACC to consider installing interpretive displays at Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area as part of the 1% for Art expenditures for the facility. This is a rare opportunity to provide input to RACC. The focus may be on art installations, and I am less comfortable with that. I believe that the management committee and/or I should have an opportunity to review and approve art installations at the lakes to ensure they would be consistent with the goal and operation of the wildlife area.

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