

WAPATO WETLANDS TASK FORCE

August 14, 1996

Task Force Members Present: Troy Clark, Barry Groce, Laf Keaton, Leora Mahoney, Guy Marshall, Paul Vandenberg

Guests: Ann Levine, DEQ

BES Staff: Chee Choy, Mary Abrams, Susan Barthel, Chris Prescott

Consultants: Sheila Fleming, Ecology & Environment; Clark Worth, Barney & Worth, Inc.

1. Chee Choy, BES project manager for the Slough sediment project, welcomed Task Force members and guests. Introductions followed.

Choy reviewed the meeting agenda. The purpose of the meeting being to background the Task Force on Wapato Wetlands (formerly "Unnamed Reach") and the current project – followed by a brief site tour.

2. Choy gave a brief overview of the Wapato Wetlands Early Action project. Site tour followed.
3. Susan Barthel led a Task Force goal-setting discussion after the tour:
 - Guy Marshall asked if Columbia Steel might be a possible source of contaminated sediments. Some of the metals (Manganese) are used in Cascade's processes; others are not.
 - Troy Clark suggested that airborne pollution could be the cause. Ann Levine responded that the pattern of contamination, near stormwater outfalls, indicates that airborne pollution is not the problem.
 - Clark confirmed that the Wapato Wetlands has special significance, and asked that a series of questions be answered before the Task Force proceeds: who owns the property? What is the zoning? What are the development plans of neighboring property owners? Any known sources of pollution?
 - Sheila Fleming, Ecology & Environment, is concerned that the efforts to implement interim actions at Wapato Wetlands would be futile – if the entire wetlands were filled for development.
 - Guy Marshall and Barry Groce responded to Clark's question: all property is owned by Union Pacific and Columbia Steel.
 - Groce clarified that the Oregon Division of State Lands may consider the wetlands navigable. Marshall thinks, this determination has already been made. Choy offered to check with DSL.
 - Marshall said Columbia Steel would like to see barge access to the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. His company sends steel all over the world, and some products weigh up to 60,000 pounds per part. Troy Clark questions whether this dream is realistic.

- Leora Mahoney asked if the CSO outfall pipes would be removed when the CSO Slough program is completed. And where will Slough CSO flows be rerouted?
 - Paul Vandenberg commented that Wapato Wetlands should be considered part of the Smith & Bybee Lakes wetlands ecosystem. This is a unique resource area – the largest protected urban wetland in the U.S.
 - Laf Keaton stated that Union Pacific's plans to change the banks for development may impact the wetlands negatively.
 - Groce pointed out the Union Pacific track expansion has been proposed for many years, and the decision process would require permits and environmental hearings.
 - Groce asked Choy to explain: what is the driving force behind the Wapato Wetlands sediment cleanup?
 - Several Task Force members asked how much of the wetlands was considered to be part of the water body. How far east?
4. Susan Barthel distributed a draft Mission Statement for the Task Force's review. Discussion followed.
- Barry Groce suggested rewording the statement: "... restore Wapato Wetlands by controlling sources and preventing additional contamination.
 - Laf Keaton suggested the Statement emphasize preventing pollution.
 - Another goal suggested by City staff coordination with property owners.

Barthel said the Mission Statement will be redrafted for the next Task Force meeting.

5. Sheila Fleming of Ecology & Environment, consultant team manager for the Wapato Wetlands project, gave an overview of the consultant work plan (copies distributed). There is very limited data on Wapato Wetlands, and the City needs to learn more before deciding on the best remediation strategy for contaminated sediments. The work plan gives a summary of the data needed. Ecology & Environment will be assisted by Adolfson Associates, wetlands specialists.

A sampling plan is being prepared, but isn't ready yet. One goal is not to repeat previous work.

Discussion followed:

- Guy Marshall offered to furnish a list of chemicals used at the Columbia Steel site, to find out if there are any matches with contaminants found in the wetlands.
- Marshall asked how much of the railroad's property is located in an environmental zone.
- Troy Clark asked how far east the Wapato Wetlands extend? And is it part of the Slough? Chee Choy responded that Wapato Wetlands is connected to the Slough at the west end, and DEQ has said the City must analyze the "sidearms and channels."

- Leora Mahoney asked how deep sediments will be sampled. Fleming responded that most will be surface samples during this years sampling effort.
 - Paul Vandenberg asked how sediment sample sites will be chosen. Also, how high were the Wapato Wetlands sites ranked in the overall Slough sediment ratings? Choy answered that Wapato Wetlands has one "B" - ranked sites – one of the 36 top-ranked sites on the Slough.
6. Chee Choy reviewed the milestones for the Wapato Wetlands project over 1996-97. The next Task Force meeting is set for **Wednesday, September 25, 4:00 - 6:00 pm** at Columbia Steel Casting, 10425 N. Bloss.. The main purpose of the meeting will be to allow Task Force members to gather more information about property owners' development plans which might affect Wapato Wetlands.

WAPATO WETLANDS TASK FORCE (Rev. 8/14/96)

Draft Mission Statement:

The Wapato Wetlands Task Force will guide the City of Portland in its decision making and actions to protect, enhance and restore Wapato Wetlands by, preventing additional new future sediment contamination, and if warranted, reducing existing contamination.

Draft Task Force Goals:

Members will provide:

- analysis
- constructive criticism
- problem solving solutions
- and advocacy for the Wapato Wetlands (sediment project)
- to meet project timelines
- meet budget limitations
- Information on property owners' plans and viewpoints

City and Consultant staff will provide:

- project timelines
- budget information
- work plans
- technical expertise
- environmental assessments
- project information in a timely manner
- status updates
- task force support
- background and history
- coordination with property owners

WAPATO WETLAND TASK FORCE

NAME/ADDRESS	ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE/FAX
TASKFORCE		
Troy Clark 2821 NE Klickitat Portland, Oregon 97212	Columbia Slough Water Quality/Sediment Comm. Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee	Work: 284-8805 Home: 249-0482
Barry Groce McEwen Gisvold Rankin Carter & Streinz 1100 SW 6th, Suite 1600 Portland, Oregon 97204	Union Pacific Railroad	Work: 226-7321
Mike Houck c/o Portland Audubon Society 5151 NW Cornell Road Portland, Oregon 97210	Audubon Society Columbia Slough Water Quality/Sediment Comm.	Work: 292-6855
Laf Keaton 3540 N. Mississippi Portland, Oregon 97227-1155	American Indian Association of Portland Columbia Slough Watershed Council	Work: 771-6881 Home: 284-6525
Leora Mahoney 9571 N. Tioga Portland, Oregon 97203	St. Johns Neighborhood	Home: 286-1782
Guy Marshall 10425 N. Bloss Portland, Oregon 97232	Columbia Steel Casting	Work: 286-0685
Eric Olson 7037 N. Ivanhoe Portland, Oregon 97203	Chief Joseph School	Work: 280-6255 Home: 289-8889
Paul Vandenberg Metro 600 NE Grand Portland, Oregon 97232	Metro St. Johns Landfill	Work: 797-1695
ADVISORY TEAM		
Mary Abrams Susan Barthel Chee Choy Chris Prescott Michael Pronold (8th Floor) 1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Room 400 Portland, Oregon 97204	Bureau of Environmental Services	823-7032 823-7268 823-5310 823-7089 823-7584 Fax: 823-6995
Duncan Brown 1120 SW Fifth Avenue, 10th Floor Portland, Oregon 97204	Bureau of Planning	823-7841
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WAPATO WETLANDS TASK FORCE

September 25, 1996

Task Force

- Members Present: Troy Clark, Barry Groce, Leora Mahoney, Guy Marshall, Eric Olson, Paul Vandenberg
- Guests: Ann Levine, DEQ; Tom McGuire, Bureau of Planning; Jay Mower, Columbia Slough Watershed Council
- BES Staff: Chee Choy, Susan Barthel, Rob Cozzi
- Consultants: Kim Connors and Sheila Fleming, Ecology & Environment; Erik Jensen, Barney & Worth

1. Chee Choy, BES project manager for the Columbia Slough sediment project, welcomed Task Force members and guests. Introductions followed. Choy reviewed the meeting agenda.

Choy gave an overview of the Wapato Wetlands history. He reviewed the contaminants found in the wetlands and potential solutions. The purpose of the Task Force is to help guide BES in the clean-up of these wetlands.

2. Choy asked Task Force members to review the draft mission and asked for any comments. No discussion was offered and the mission was unanimously adopted.
3. Tom McGuire, Portland Bureau of Planning, gave a presentation regarding zoning issues related to the Wapato Wetlands. The wetlands are in the most restrictive environmental zone (IGZp) which means that a Type III land use review process would be required for any development. He reviewed the criteria for approving development in the area. An alternatives analysis would be required for any development in the area.

Questions and comments followed:

- Guy Marshall asked if anything has been done on Goal 6 relating to flood plain management.
 - Choy asked: If there is high contamination in the Wapato Wetlands, would BES have to go through a Type III or Type II land use review for any remediation activities?
 - Troy Clark requested a list of definitions for all zoning code designations in the Wapato Wetlands area.
4. Guy Marshall gave a presentation on Columbia Steel's development plans for the Wapato Wetlands area. Columbia Steel bought 50 acres of land in the area in 1980 which will be used to make settling ponds. The company will also be applying to fill more of the water body at the northeast end of their property. He anticipates it will be about 15 years before Columbia Steel fills the area, which may be used for more buildings. The filled area will be covered with asphalt as required by DEQ. There is a stormwater pipe which runs through their property which the company may work with the City to move. At the west end of the company's property, Columbia Steel proposes to donate some land to Metro for open space or park use.

Questions and comments followed:

- Kim Connors asked: Can Columbia Steel expand directly to the east?
 - Mr. Clark asked: Where is the nearest place Columbia Steel employees can access the Slough?
 - Mr. Clark also inquired if citizens would be trespassing if they tried to access the Wapato Wetlands from the south.
 - Marshall noted he would be willing to put in a path to the Wapato Wetlands. He added that Columbia Steel wanted to keep the option open of barging materials up the Slough but this is a long-term (25 years) idea.
 - Olson asked Marshall where a dock would be located for barges and if it would require dredging.
5. Barry Groce gave a presentation regarding Union Pacific development plans for the Wapato Wetland area. The railroad company has a plan to construct the "Barnes Bypass" which would provide a new track to access Rivergate development. The "pinch point", where the new track would break off from the main line, is located by the wetlands and would require some fill. This project would require environmental review. Groce said the project would most likely be implemented in the next 2-3 years. The completed tracks would be subject to typical grading and a weed control program using herbicides. As mitigation for removing vegetation, Union Pacific plans to plant cottonwood and willow trees around the track as well as install environmental enhancements to the pond.
6. Rob Cozzi, BES source control department, gave a brief update on current investigations in the area. A list of industries in the basin have been identified for review and two sites have been inspected so far. No current sources of contamination have been identified yet. BES will be inspecting the remainder of the sites in the next 3-4 weeks. The inspections include investigating what products are stored on-site and potential hazardous exposures while checking the site for signs of gross contamination. Historical document searches, outside of City kept files, are not part of the review. The Industrial Stormwater Section is only performing facility inspections at industries in the Outfall 55A basin. Cozzi asked Choy for a list of other contaminants which could act as carriers for the metals found in Wapato Wetlands.

Questions and comments followed:

- Clark asked if the two outfalls by the wetlands are the ones that will not be remediated by the construction of the consolidation conduit.
- Ann Levine asked: Are there any companies in the area that might contribute heavy metals?
- Groce inquired: What types of industries would generate heavy metals?
- Marshall asked: How far can heavy metals migrate in the Columbia Slough?

7. Sheila Fleming, Ecology & Environment, consultant team manager for the Wapato Wetlands project, gave an update on the Wapato Wetlands sampling plan. Written comments (see attached) were received from DEQ regarding the draft work plan and draft sampling and analysis plan. There are six contaminants of concern in the Wapato Wetlands – chromium, cobalt, copper, manganese, molybdenum, and nickel (see attached). Outfall 55A is the center point. Some subsurface sampling has been done as required by DEQ. BES has expanded the sampling area to the east (see map). They are tentatively scheduled to start the sampling process on September 30 depending on when access to the site is obtained. The results of the sampling will be ready in about 30 days. Preliminary data are expected to be available for the December Task Force meeting.

Choy suggested members of the Task Force could come and observe the sampling. Fleming provided dates, times, and locations for the members to observe.

8. Susan Barthel talked about current photo monitoring efforts at the Wapato Wetlands site. A BES forester and other staff are doing a series of photos at monitoring sites. They will be looking for volunteers to help with this effort. Task Force members were encouraged to call Barthel if they are interested in volunteering.

Choy suggested it might be good to take photos of birds on the site as well. Ann Levine asked if students would be involved in the photo monitoring. Barthel said students would be used in areas that are safe.

9. Choy announced a citizen workshop to be held November 16. It will be a half day workshop to educate people about the Columbia Slough and how citizens can get involved. It will be held at the PP&L office on NE 33rd. Invitations will be sent to the Task Force members.

10. Mr. Clark asked what the Task Force's role would be in the near future. Choy said the driving force for the project was identification and remediation of contaminants in the Wapato Wetlands. The Task Force was established to make sure BES is getting all the information it needs on the contaminants and potential remediation.

Mr. Clark asked if the Task Force would be making decisions or preparing recommendations. He wants to make sure the Task Force has some influence. He feels the goals of the committee are not clear.

It was decided to discuss the issue of Task Force objectives at the next meeting.

11. Choy proposed an additional meeting of the Task Force be scheduled Wednesday, November 6 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Columbia Steel conference room. All members present agreed to the new date. The main topics for the meeting will be Task Force objectives.

WAPATO WETLANDS TASK FORCE

November 6, 1996

Task Force Members Present: Troy Clark, Barry Groce, Laf Keaton, Leora Mahoney, Guy Marshall, Eric Olson, Paul Vandenberg

Guests: Ann Levine, DEQ

BES Staff: Chee Choy, Susan Barthel, Chris Prescott

Consultants: Sheila Fleming and Pete Geiger, Ecology & Environment; Stacey Wenger, Adolfsen Associates; Clark Worth, Barney & Worth, Inc.

1. Chee Choy, BES project manager for the Columbia Slough sediment project, welcomed Task Force members and guests. Introductions followed. Choy reviewed the meeting agenda.

Sheila Fleming of Ecology & Environment introduced Pete Geiger, who will take over as consultant team manager in the coming months. Choy and the Task Force congratulated Fleming, who has been promoted to manage her firm's Northwest regional office in Seattle.

Choy thanked Task Force member Barry Groce for his assistance in arranging for Union Pacific Railroad's timely permission to conduct sampling on the railroad's Wapato Wetlands property.

2. Using slides, photos and maps, Chris Prescott of BES reviewed the sampling program conducted in October. Sediment and Wapato plant samples were collected near outfall 55A, along 3 transects from the outfall, as well as from, discretionary sites chosen across Wapato Wetlands. Samples were also collected from Cunningham Lake, a reference site located on Sauvie Island (Prescott distributed a map). The reference site was selected based upon the concentration of Wapato plants and absence of industrial discharges.

The sampling crew also observed:

- A buildup of accreted land surrounding the outfall, where Wapato plants don't flourish.
- Litter: tires, railroad ties, other – at many locations along Wapato Wetlands
- Discharges: diesel and floor wax discharges during sampling.

Sheila Fleming distributed copies of a report on variations from the sampling plan in how the sampling was conducted. The next step is detailed analysis of the sampling results. The reports will be ready for review in December, and will be the focus of the next Task Force meeting.

Discussion followed:

- Choy asked Barry Groce if Union Pacific Railroad would be opposed to cleanup of litter in Wapato Wetlands. Groce replied he will check with the railroad.

- Paul Vandenberg asked what will be done if no toxic levels of metals are found in sediment / plant samples near Outfall 55A. Prescott responded that samples taken along Transect C, located upstream from the outfall, as well as samples from other discretionary locations, provide a double-check to ensure there aren't higher concentrations further from the outfall.
 - Guy Marshall said Columbia Steel has instructed its chemists to sample the company's production methods for all of the metals of concern. The company will report its findings to BES.
3. Chee Choy distributed a copy of the Task Force mission statement, adopted at the September 25 meeting. Choy also presented a series of questions on which BES is seeking the Task Force's feedback over the coming months.

Discussion followed:

- Eric Olson asked if BES will look at historical information to identify possible upstream pollution sources from past activities, which could be important causes of pollution near outfall 55A. Choy answered that a student intern project is now underway, conducting a "Level One" assessment of past activities. Ann Levine said she has asked DEQ staff to re-examine at 108 known sources along the Slough, in light of pollutants found in Wapato Wetlands.
- Leora Mahoney asked why pollutants are entering the wetlands during the dry season. What is BES doing to control illicit discharges? Also, does polluted air deposit harmful chemicals in the Slough and Wapato Wetlands?
- Vandenberg asked what is the main source of Slough flows during the wet season: Willamette River? Groundwater? Or stormwater flows from the Upper Slough? Also, are the pollutants in Wapato Wetlands due to poor water quality or deposits of contaminated sediments? Choy suggested asking Dr. Li from PSU, who has developed a computer model of sediment transport in the Lower Slough. He will make a presentation to interested citizens in early 1997.
- Barry Groce asked what are the usual sources of the targeted metals. Can these be matched with existing or past uses nearby? Fleming said that issue is being studied. But many of the target pollutants, such as elevated levels of heavy metals, are common in the environment, often associated with highway, and railroads. Choy added that BES has inspected all 11 industries located in the Wapato Wetlands drainage. BES does not think that any of these contributed directly, although two may contribute pollutants indirectly through vehicle washing.
- Levine pointed out that one of the target metals, nickel, is more unusual than the others. One possible source is auto wrecking yards in the area. A recent inspection of 25 yards suggests they could be a source. A similar "suite" of metals has been found near stormwater outfalls. Fleming added that most auto wrecking yards are not using "best management practices." But it is too early to speculate on pollutants or possible sources.
- Troy Clark said he would like the Task Force to address larger issues, beyond pollutants and sources. He will raise this issue again at a later stage of the Task Force's work.

4. General discussion of the Task Force followed:

- Eric Olson asked for an explanation of how the auto-sampler to be installed at Outfall 55A will operate. Prescott explained that the device has a flow-activated sensor. The amount of flow that is sampled is proportional to the amount of discharge. The device must be checked regularly.
- Ann Levine asked when the Task Force will receive results of the stormwater source investigation. Chee Choy reported: in the next few weeks.
- Vandenberg asked if Wapato plants are a receptor of pollutants. Clearly, they are thriving – not adversely affected. So is plant tissue being studied in order to determine risk to species that eat the Wapato plants? Fleming answered that plant tissue samples are being checked against phyto-toxicity benchmarks to assure the contaminant levels aren't harmful to plants, and also being evaluated to find out whether there's any risk to animals that might consume the plant.
- Vandenberg commented that this appears to be a unique circumstance. Is Wapato Wetlands a water body, or a wetland?
- Sheila Fleming said a new law goes into effect in January, but new rules won't be ready at that time to clarify definitions.
- Vandenberg asked if BES will be required to remediate any new "hot spots." Ann Levine said there are no rules yet, so it's unclear.
- Groce asked when an "end-of-pipe" solution may be warranted. Choy answered that this may be suggested as an option to address an ongoing pollution problem.
- Troy Clark suggested the Task Force's focus should be the long-term plans for Wapato Wetlands. He sees the necessity for testing and source controls. But cleanup should be geared to the intended long-term vision and anticipated use (for example, will it be a wetland – or an industrial site?).
- Vandenberg asked if the study approach is consistent with the new cleanup law. Fleming said the new law may be a major issue for proposed developments by Union Pacific Railroad and Columbia Steel.
- Choy asked Groce for more details on the railroad's future plans. How far along is the design? Will the railroad encroach into the wetlands? Discussions should start now to avoid conflicts. Groce responded that this is one of about 5,000 proposed capital projects for the railroad. This project is not currently a high priority.
- Laf Keaton asked if the railroad might fill or block part of the wetland. Groce said he did not know.
- Troy Clark said he hopes there are opportunities for public access to Wapato Wetlands, although not necessarily through railroad property. This is a unique resource area, and warrants public access.

- Leora Mahoney asked what level of public access is appropriate, and would safeguard the wetlands. The area is important to the community, but should be protected. Stacey Wenger suggested that public education will be important if any public access is anticipated.
 - Vandenberg asked if the ecological value of Wapato Wetlands is its most unique feature. Have the wetlands been delineated? Or is Adolfsen Associates under its current work scope, prepared to delineate the wetlands if necessary?
 - Choy described his "personal dream" that the railroad and Columbia Steel might deed a portion of the wetlands habitat area to Metro or the City of Portland, to be preserved in its natural state. Groce answered that it's impossible to speculate until more is known about the railroad's future plans.
 - Chee Choy wondered how the railroad considers the value of wetlands in its decisionmaking.
 - Sheila Fleming inquired whether the railroad participates in "banking" of resource areas. This is common with pipeline companies. Barry Groce responded that this isn't the usual approach, but the railroad is open to creative solutions. One approach used elsewhere has been a trust fund created for habitat protection.
5. The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Columbia Steel conference room. The main topic for the meeting will be reviewing results of the fall sampling.
- Susan Barthel asked if Task Force members can suggest ways to ease the burden of reading the analysis results of fall sampling. Sheila Fleming said the consultants will provide an executive summary to explain the results in simple terms. Barthel questioned whether Task Force members think an informal breakfast or lunch meeting, or one-on-one briefings might be needed. Consensus among Task Force members is that they can read the report, and ask questions at the next meeting.

WAPATO WETLANDS TASK FORCE

April 30, 1997

Task Force Members Present: Troy Clark, Laf Keaton, Leora Mahoney, Guy Marshall, Eric Olson, Paul Vandenberg

Guests: Ann Levine, DEQ; Emily Roth, Metro

BES Staff: Chee Choy, Susan Barthel, Chris Prescott,

Consultants: Clark Worth, Barney & Worth, Inc.

Introduction

1. Chee Choy, BES project manager for the Columbia Slough sediment project, welcomed Task Force members and guests. Introductions followed. Choy reviewed the meeting agenda. Agenda items include: a discussion of the results of further research on the Task Force's preferred options identified at the February 19 and March 26 meetings. The Task Force will also discuss its recommendations for next steps.

Wapato Wetlands -- Investigation of Possible Actions

2. Clark Worth of Barney & Worth reviewed a matrix that was designed to help the Task Force evaluate a checklist of possible actions being considered for Wapato Wetlands -- these to be considered as interim actions, requiring further investigation, or having long-range potential.
3. Chee Choy read a letter from Wrandoll Brenes, who directs the BES Capital Improvement Program. Brenes' letter confirmed, "The additional goal of picking up the stormwater from the existing storm-only system in Columbia Blvd. was approved for this CSO project 11. Brenes said this decision was "...based on the recognition that something could be done with minimal additional resources which would have a positive impact on the environment."

However, Brenes also clarified, "It would require significant design and construction resources to pick up the additional stormwater system which flows to outfall #55A. Therefore, this work is beyond the scope and budget...of that project."

Copies of the Brenes letter were not available at meeting time, but will be distributed to the Task Force.

Discussion followed:

- Clark Worth handed out, for review, copies of a letter to BES, which was drafted at the Task Force's instruction after the March 26 meeting.
- Task Force members suggested several edits to the draft letter. Worth relayed comments on the letter offered by Task Force member Barry Groce, who was unable to attend the meeting. Worth was instructed to use input from the meeting, revise the letter and send it right away to Dean Marriott, BES administrator, and Commissioner Erik Sten.

4. There were reports on further investigations of the significance of the cultural resources in Wapato Wetlands. Task Force member Laf Keaton reported that his contacts with tribal sources had confirmed that the wapato plant was once a traditional source of food and medicine. Keaton hasn't been able to contact two further resources: Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) and Rose Hill of PSU.

Chee Choy reported on his contacts with the Oregon History Center and Portland Landmarks Commission staff to help determine the cultural significance of Wapato Wetlands. Thus far, these contacts have been inconclusive.

5. Emily Roth, Metro, reported on the ecological significance of Wapato Wetlands. A standard ranking system updates Wapato Wetlands as G4S2. (Roth distributed explanatory material). While wapato plants aren't threatened globally, Wapato Wetlands is one of five or fewer significant stands in Oregon. Other positive attributes: it is ecologically diverse and isolated: a good hiding place for birds and animals.

Susan Barthel distributed copies of a letter from Russ Pinto of Nature Conservancy, and also relayed comments by John Christy of the Oregon Natural Heritage Program. Both confirm that Wapato Wetlands is of some interest to their groups, but not a high priority at this time.

6. Emily Roth also discussed prospects for incorporating Wapato Wetlands in the Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area. Wapato Wetlands is not currently part of the Wildlife Area, but could be admitted as a "major exception" to the Natural Resources Management Plan for the area. This would require approval through the City of Portland's Type III review process. The Plan is expected to be updated within the year, because the Port of Portland is proposing a Marine Drive extension project nearby.

Roth said Metro would be supportive of including Wapato Wetlands in the Smith & Bybee Lakes area, but only wants to do it if "all parties are on board." The designation would require an appraisal of private property (costing about \$6,000).

Discussion followed:

- Troy Clark said this option is "worth considering."
- Roth suggested the Task Force write a letter in support.
- Troy Clark backed the idea of proceeding with an appraisal. This might interest private property owners in selling or donating their property. He also asked, "Is this a single tax lot?"
- Chee Choy said he would find out if BES has funds available to contribute to the appraisal.
- Guy Marshall suggested existing Metro appraisals in the area might yield some useful information.

7. Private Property Owners' Plans:

- A. Clark Worth relayed Barry Groce's report: there's no change in Union Pacific's plans for the area, and no schedule for planned trackage improvements.

- B. Guy Marshall reported on Columbia Steel's expansion plans for their site, to the northwest of the existing plant. Mitigation will be required if the company fills any land either within the floodway or in wetlands. Columbia Steel wants to improve the existing wetlands: planting willows, creating duck ponds, and trails in the area. The company owner is an environmentalist, and wants to build a nature trail and swales, and plant apple trees (for deer). Options also include looking at mitigation at other locations, or trading the company's land along the Slough with a public body. Marshall said the company is also open to entertain suggestions from Task Force members or others.

Discussion followed:

- Troy Clark raised issues based on his observations canoeing nearby. He reported that Columbia Steel appears to be filling the eastern end of the wetlands. Guy Marshall responded that the wetland has not been filled.
 - Emily Roth asked if the Columbia Steel site was flooded in 1996. Marshall confirmed that the northwest corner of the plant site was flooded, and that the buildings and equipment there had to be steam cleaned.
 - There was a general discussion of the location and abundance of wapato plants in the eastern end of Wapato Wetlands. Ann Levine and Troy Clark confirmed there are some wapato plantings, but sparse.
 - Chris Prescott, BES, asked where the environmental zone boundaries are in the vicinity of Columbia Steel. Marshall answered that there is no E-zone near Columbia Steel's plant. The only E-zone in this area is located north of the man-made slough, along the banks of the Columbia Slough's main stem, further to the north of Wapato Wetlands.
 - In response to questions, Marshall gave more details about the plant's history. Columbia Steel relocated to the site in 1959, moving from Northwest Portland with the assistance of the City of Portland.
 - Troy Clark raised concerns about the content of fill being deposited on Columbia Steel's site. Marshall answered that the fill includes foundry sand, slag and refractory (fire brick), which is inert material used as fill for highways. The company conducts tests to ensure there is no leaching into groundwater or streams. Ann Levine, DEQ, confirmed the fill material has been tested and is "relatively clean." Emily Roth noted that very little will grow in this type of material.
8. Chee Choy reported on the results of further investigation of end-of-pipe solutions: BES has confirmed that federal and state rules do not allow modifying the existing mitigation wetland located on Union Pacific property to receive stormwater from outfall #55A. Also, staff of Ecology & Environment have calculated that a wetland of at least one acre would be needed to store storm flows from the north side of Columbia Blvd. However, to allow for a 14-day treatment cycle, the wetland must be at least 8 acres.

Discussion followed:

- Eric Olson suggested there may be 8 acres available in the marginal land located under the power lines.
9. Clark Worth reported Barry Groce's suggestion that the Task Force recommend an education program to influence the stormwater practices of the industries in the sub-basin.

Discussion followed:

- Ann Levine suggested that Portland's model for "best management practices (BMPs)" for stormwater could be tailored to meet the particular needs of the outfall #55A sub-basin. Property owners could be contacted through aggressive outreach, via an "Upland Drive Stormwater Management Program."
- Chee Choy offered that it might be possible to target this area for special attention. He will inquire with the City staff involved in the stormwater program.

Next Steps

10. The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 25 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM**. The agenda for the meeting will include a tour of industries on Upland Drive and the eastern end of Wapato Wetlands (near Columbia Steel), and another discussion of the Task Force's final recommendations. Chee Choy said he will also try to arrange for Dawn Hottenroth or Tom Liptan from the City's stormwater program to attend the meeting. Emily Roth, Metro, also agreed to participate again to assist the Task Force.

WAPATO WETLANDS TASK FORCE

June 25, 1997

Task Force Members Present: Troy Clark, Barry Groce, Laf Keaton, Leora Mahoney, Guy Marshall, Eric Olson, Paul Vandenberg

Guests: Ann Levine, DEQ; Emily Roth, Metro

BES Staff: Chee Choy, Rob Causey, Susan Barthel, Chris Prescott,

Consultants: Pete Geiger, Ecology & Environment; Clark Worth, Barney & Worth, Inc.

Tour

1. Rob Cozzi, of the Bureau of Environmental Services stormwater program, led a tour of industries on Upland Drive. These industries are located within the sub-basin which drains to Outfall 55A at Wapato Wetlands. Cozzi pointed out "best management practices" in place for different types of industries:

- A trucking company with on-site maintenance, fueling and truck washing
- Warehouse / distribution firm with on-site fueling and truck parking, and materials storage
- A warehouse / distribution center with no on-site truck parking, fueling, maintenance, storage

The tour group also observed landscaped areas and storm drains in the Upland Drive right-of-way.

Discussion followed the Task Force Tour:

- Pete Geiger noted the differences between stormwater practices of older and newer industries.
 - Barry Groce expressed surprise on how the regulations impact similar businesses quite differently, based on their SIC (standard industrial classification) codes. This may suggest there needs to be more emphasis on encouraging voluntary efforts by area industries to control their stormwater discharges.
 - Chris Prescott confirmed that stormwater regulations provide both "carrots and sticks," but that incentives may be more effective in this instance.
 - Several participants noted that the City storm drains on Upland Drive have no sediment traps. Rob Cozzi reported this is also true for Columbia Boulevard storm drains. The City of Portland's Maintenance Bureau is concerned about the added cost and maintenance responsibility if traps are installed in storm drains.
2. Guy Marshall hosted a Task Force tour of the eastern end of the Wapato Wetlands, adjacent to the Columbia Steel plant site. Task Force members noted a portion of the wetlands in this area has been filled during the past year.

Following the tour, Guy Marshall reported that he recently learned a Columbia Steel, Arizona Slag, contractor was responsible for the unpermitted fill. Marshall is working with the contractor to seek the appropriate Corps of Engineers permits, which Marshall expects will require mitigation.

Wapato Wetlands -- Investigation of Possible Actions

3. Emily Roth, Metro, distributed a draft letter for the Task Force's review. Addressed to the Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee, the letter explores the possibility of Wapato Wetlands becoming part of the Smith & Bybee Lakes natural area.

Task Force members suggested several changes. Roth will revise the letter, and Clark Worth will send it on behalf of the Task Force.

4. Susan Barthel, BES, distributed three letters from Bureau staff:
 - A. A response from BES administrator Dean Marriott answering the Task Force's earlier letter. Marriott has assigned Lloyd Stauning and Russ Lawrence, staff engineers, to evaluate options for diverting Wapato Wetlands stormwater flows.
 - B. A memo from Lloyd Stauning discussing issues associated with rerouting flows to the Ramsey Lake wetland. Stauning has calculated that the 36 acre Wapato Wetlands sub-basin could generate 45 cfs (cubic feet per second) during a 10-year storm event. Neither the new separated sewers nor outfalls are sized to handle these added flows. Cost would be at least \$.5 million.

Stauning also gave an update on the efforts to include Columbia Boulevard storm drains in the separated system. Flows from the residential (south) side of Columbia Blvd. will be diverted to the separated system. However, the northern (industrial) side is at a lower elevation and may be difficult to route to the separated system. If these flows can't be diverted, they will continue to go to Wapato Wetlands.

- C. A letter from BES engineer Russ Lawrence reporting on the Bureau's investigations of possible end-of-pipe solutions. The outfall line has been inspected to show there are no illicit connections, and the pipe is in excellent condition. This indicates that any pollution is probably associated with normal street runoff and light industry activities. One possible solution is placing an appropriately sized "stormceptor" in the stormwater line. This is a new device that effectively removes suspended solids (such as metals). Lawrence suggests the device could be installed in the access road on the south side of the rail yard. Cost is estimated to be \$50,000, with an additional \$4,000 to \$10,000 per year for maintenance. A diagram and additional information on the stormceptor was distributed to the Task Force.

Discussion followed:

- Chee Choy emphasized the importance of maintenance costs and considerations in reaching solutions.
- Emily Roth and Leora Mahoney are skeptical that the Ramsey Lake wetland will be an effective stormwater treatment system because it has been underwater much of this year.
- Chee Choy promised that he and Mary Abrams will continue to investigate other options. Also, the stormceptor device is being tested in the Johnson Creek basin.
- Troy Clark suggested that BES look at the possibility of a constructed wetland, using the model of the new created wetland next to the BES water quality lab near Cathedral Park.
- Barry Groce asked about the proposed location of a wetland and property ownership. It is unlikely Union Pacific would support a wetland that might threaten the rail tracks with flooding. However, there should be enough room for stormceptors.
- Chris Prescott and Susan Barthel reported that the City of Seattle is doing a side-by-side test of several end-of-pipe technologies. The Task Force may be interested in the results from these and other tests.

- Guy Marshall asked if the City's stormwater program is monitoring for hydrocarbons. Rob Cozzi answered this is "very difficult."
- Cozzi added that the stormceptor device is designed to handle "first flush," but is not as effective for large volume flows.

Next Steps

5. Chee Choy asked Task Force members to suggest what should be their next steps. Discussion followed:
 - Leora Mahoney asked BES to develop a longer list of options
 - Barry Groce suggested that more work is needed to identify funding sources, including grants, to pay for Wapato Wetlands solutions. He also suggested that the City look into installing sediment traps in the street storm drain inlets.
 - Troy Clark recommended that the Task Force review their initial matrix, and look again at all options. For example, what about dry wells as a possible on-site solution for area industries?
6. Rob Cozzi said that BES staff will revisit some of the sensitive Upland Drive industrial sites more frequently, to encourage better housekeeping.
7. Task Force members agreed that another meeting is warranted. The next meeting is tentatively set for **Wednesday, September 24, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at Columbia Steel.**
8. Susan Barthel invited Task Force members to participate in the 3rd Annual Columbia Slough Regatta on Sunday, July 27. Interested persons can call Susan for details (823-7268).