

Smith and Bybee Lakes Management Committee
Subcommittee meeting on the water control structure-Summary Notes
August 21, 2000 Metro Regional Center Room 270 5:30pm to 7:00pm

In Attendance:

- Jim Morgan, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces
Dennis O'Neil, Metro Regional Environmental Management, St. John's landfill
Denise Rennis, Port of Portland, Natural Resource Manager
- Nancy Hendrickson, City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services
Mikey Jones, private citizen, local sportsman
- Troy Clark, Portland Audubon Society, meeting facilitator
Denis O'Brien, Metro Regional Parks and Greenspaces, meeting recorder
- indicates Smith and Bybee Lakes Management Committee Member

Meeting began at 5:45 and opened with introductions.

Denise Rennis began by expressing concerns about water storage and from where the water will be pumped into the lakes. She also had a comment on water chemistry saying that in her experiences, shallow lake systems with eutrophic sediments tend to remain anoxic even if a flushing mechanism is introduced to the system, adding that it may take years to aerate lake sediments.

Jim Morgan informed the committee that the project might require a new permit in order to pump water from the North Slough into the lakes because that would be removing water from the Willamette River drainage, which is considered a separate body of water. Currently, Metro has a permit to pump Columbia River water. The difference in operational costs between pumping from the North Slough versus the Columbia River is outstanding, making it impracticable to attempt diversion from the Columbia River.

Dennis O'Neil informed the group that the landfill bank stabilization project is underway and has to be completed by September 15, 2000. Dennis also mentioned that REM is looking for areas within Rivergate where approximately 5,000 cubic yards of fill could be removed to satisfy the permit requirements for balanced cut and fill.

Mikey Jones advocated installing a tide-gate weir at the western extension of Bybee Lake west of the mouth of the North Slough. Mikey believes there is a pollutant load trapped in the North Slough by the existing head of the Willamette River and if the dam is removed, the polluted North Slough water would enter into Bybee Lake and not be able to exit. Mikey said that studies have shown that Willamette River water travels as far as the landfill road bridge and that mixing of North Slough water and river water does not take place within the North Slough.

Troy asked about the cost for implementing the 5th and 6th components of the 1996 Management Committee recommendation. Jim replied that it would depend largely on varying dredging scenarios. Mikey insisted that placing a tide-gate at the western extension of Bybee Lake would encourage scouring of the newly created flow pattern and therefore dredging would not be an issue. Nancy asked if an engineer had examined the cost and feasibility of implementing the 5th and 6th components. Mikey Jones insisted that a neutral party be hired to conduct a feasibility study on the implementation of the 5th and 6th components of the proposed recommendation. The subcommittee agreed that the 5th component, installation of a tide-gate at the western arm of Bybee Lake, was a priority and should be addressed before any construction activities occurred.

At 7:15 pm, Dennis O'Neil and Mikey Jones left the meeting. The remaining group continued discussion and agreed to recommend to the management committee to re-iterate the 1996 management committee recommendation while allowing for an independent consultant to be hired by the management committee to examine the feasibility and costs involved with performing the 5th component concurrently with the first four. The subcommittee concluded that another meeting was required to create a scope of work and identify potential consultants to perform the feasibility study. The subcommittee also agreed that the feasibility study would be completed and results analyzed before any construction activities occurred, therefore it was acceptable for Metro staff to work on permit applications and design plans for the new water control structure. Furthermore, the notion to invite one or more of the Ducks Unlimited, Inc. engineers to participate at the next subcommittee meeting was received with unanimous agreement.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.