

Coordinated by:

**Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area
Management Committee**
Frank Opila, Chair

Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 797-1515

Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee Meeting

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 27, 2004
Metro Regional Center, 600 N E Grand Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97232

Note: The meeting will be held in Room 270

AGENDA

Welcome, introductions	(Opila)	5:30 - 5:35 pm
Approve previous meeting's notes	(Opila)	5:35 - 5:40 pm
Briefing on remedial investigation (RI) proposal for St. Johns Landfill	(Paul Vandenberg, Metro SW&R & Amanda Spencer, Hart-Crowser)	5:40 - 6:00 pm
Review of public outreach plan for St. Johns Landfill RI/FS	(Vandenberg & Katy Brooks, J.D. White Co.)	6:00 - 6:20 pm
Updates		6:20 - 6:30 pm
Adjourn		6:30 pm

Future agenda: -ed. support needs & options
- dog/bike ~~to~~ use of RCD trail segment

**Summary Meeting Notes
Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee
January 27, 2004**

In attendance:

Frank Opila *	Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Jim Sjulín *	Portland Parks & Recreation
Elaine Stewart	Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area Manager
Nancy Hendrickson *	Portland Bureau of Environmental Services Services (BES)
Jane Bogus *	St Johns Neighborhood Association
Jim Morgan *	Metro
Patricia Sullivan	Metro Regional Parks & Greenspaces (RP&G)
Denise Rennis *	Port of Portland
Troy Clark *	Portland Audubon Society
Pam Arden *	40 Mile Loop Trust
Dennis O'Neil	Metro Solid Waste & Recycling (SW&R)
Paul Vandenberg	Metro SW&R
Amanda Spencer	Hart Crowser, Consultants
Katy Brooks	J. D. White & Company, Consultants
Bill Egan	Oregon Bass and Pan Fish Club
Patt Opdyke *	North Portland Neighborhoods
Robin Plance	St. Johns Neighborhood Association

* denotes voting SBLMC member

Updates

Troy Clark reported on the Feb 4 meeting of the Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes, which will feature a special speakers forum including Metro Council President David Bragdon, Councilor Rex Burkholder and Metro Parks & Greenspaces Director Jim Desmond. They will be speaking on the Metro Parks & Greenspaces program and, in particular, issues concerning the Smith & Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area. The meeting will take place at the BES Water Lab and begin at 6:30 pm.

According to Port of Portland's Denise Rennis, the wildlife undercrossing at Time Oil Road to connect parts of two mitigation sites is scheduled to begin construction this week. The city of Portland is taking the lead in construction, however foul weather may slow the proceedings. Within the next two weeks the rail line will be dug up and the specialized 3 ft. culvert installed.

Review of previous meeting's notes

The meeting notes from December 2, 2003 were approved as presented by a vote of three in favor, two abstentions and none in opposition.

Briefing on remedial investigation proposal for St. Johns Landfill

Paul Vandenberg, of Metro's Solid Waste and Recycling Dept. (SW&R) reviewed the process of the remedial investigation (RI), which includes investigating landfill-related contaminants, assessing risks from those contaminants to human health and the environment and evaluating the options for necessary remediation. According to the agreement with DEQ, the entire RI process must be completed within four years of the issuance of the consent decree (October 31, 2003).

Amanda Spencer, consultant from Hart-Crowser, has begun to develop a conceptual framework for the project including an understanding of how groundwater moves in the vicinity of the landfill (groundwater being the primary pathway by which contaminants may move into the surrounding environment). This framework will be included in the RI proposal to DEQ which is due on February 28, 2004. The RI proposal will create the basis for the details to be included in the RI work plan, the document which will describe how the investigation will be carried out.

At a January 15 meeting with DEQ, Dennis O'Neil of SW&R presented relevant site history and Amanda provided a conceptual framework for site hydrogeology. The objective was to give DEQ a sense of the direction in which the process is heading and Metro's understanding of site characteristics.

Amanda presented some of the fundamental concepts she presented to DEQ to give the Management Committee a sense of how basic site characteristics are used in this project. She referred to two steps in putting together the RI proposal. The first is to summarize all the data that has been collected to date and the second is put it into two main frameworks 1) a hydrogeologic model of the landfill and 2) a risk framework.

Using maps and charts, Amanda discussed soil types under the landfill – silt, sand and gravel. Extensive data collected on the soil from the last 30 years provides a visual concept of how area water may move and what are the most influential factors in water movement. There are areas of the landfill, according to Amanda, that have very thick layers of silt which do not allow leachate or other fluids to flow through easily. It was noted that fluids will move more slowly vertically through the silt than horizontally. Amanda spoke about the potential movement of leachate in relation to the Willamette and Columbia rivers, and particularly in relation to the closer bodies of water - the Columbia Slough and the North Slough.

Questions to be addressed: Can chemicals from the landfill get into the sloughs? Where are the areas of greatest concern regarding leachate? Is there sufficient data to adequately analyze those issues? Are there any gaps in the data? "Tools" used for evaluation are water movement, (pathways to the sloughs) and chemical movement (which chemicals might move with the water, at what speed, where they might end up and in what concentrations.

Review of public outreach plan for St. Johns Landfill RI/FS

Katy Brooks of J.D. White Co. reviewed the public outreach plan for the first phase of the St. Johns Landfill RI and Feasibility Study (FS). The overall goal is to make sure that current information is provided to the public and that interested parties have a forum in which to share ideas and become involved in the process. Metro's role, it must be remembered, is not as the regulator, but as the owner of this landfill. Information to be provided will include how the work plan will be put together and how the risk assessment will be done. It will also be important to address comments and questions as quickly and accurately as possible.

A list of the components of the public outreach program was distributed. In answer to a question as to how interested groups might become involved, it was suggested to contact Katy Brooks (kbrooks@jdwhite.com) or Paul Vandenberg (vandenberg@metro.dst.or.us)

Additional updates

A question was raised as to whether there were any remaining grant funds for bus transportation for environmental education trips to Smith & Bybee Lakes. Nancy Hendrickson reported that the grant funds ran out on December 31, 2003 and that very few teachers/schools took advantage of the

program. The "word" needs to get out to more teachers and school districts. Opdyke suggested this topic be put on a future SBLMC agenda.

Frank Opila distributed a copy of a letter sent from the Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes to the Multnomah County Commission on January 24 regarding the Wapato Correctional Facility. It expressed disappointment with the current status of the facility in regard to design, vegetative plantings, and other issues. The letter also asked that the County consider several actions to address the situation.

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Elaine Stewart reported that LaSalle High School has just begun a project for which students have "adopted" some of the sedge meadows at the wildlife area. They will be participating in education and stewardship activities. Elaine will be working with them to develop a curriculum on plant communities and resource management. It is hoped this will develop into a long-term relationship with the school.

Denise Rennis provided an update on the completion of the portion of the 40-mile loop trail through the Rivergate area. Only planting needs to be done and BES will have that completed within the next couple of weeks. "Non-inviting"-type plants will be used to discourage trail users from continuing past the end of this leg of the trail. Signage will also serve the same purpose.

The draft IGA and RFP for the trail feasibility study recommended by the Management Committee has been sent to Portland Parks from Metro Parks for review.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.



ST. JOHNS LANDFILL PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAM

1. Key Individual and Group Interviews

Purpose: Interview individuals and groups most interested in the project in order to identify concerns, ideas and needs for further information.

2. Landfill Site Tours

Purpose: Provide first-hand opportunities to view the landfill site in order to add context and familiarity with the site. Metro will complete one to two landfill site tours during Phase 1. Key interested groups and individuals will be invited to join Metro staff at the site for educational tours designed to provide familiarity with site operations and characteristics.

3. Informational Meetings and Presentations

Purpose: Metro will hold a meeting with interested individuals to discuss project background and workplan. Metro will also present information and project updates to interested groups including the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, St. Johns Neighborhood Association, North Portland Neighborhood Coalition and others.

4. Project Fact Sheets

Purpose: Metro will develop project facts and information sheets to be provided to interested parties, at meetings and will post them on their project web page.

5. Smith & Bybee Lakes Management Committee Involvement

Purpose: Because of its authority and the representation on Committee of several key stakeholders, this Committee is central to Metro's public outreach efforts. Metro will keep the committee updated throughout the project.

6. Newsletter Updates

Purpose: To keep the public informed of the landfill project, updates will be written for Metro's current newsletters.

7. Project Web Page

Purpose: Information and announcements regarding the St. Johns Landfill RI-FS will be posted on Metro's project web page. This page will be kept current throughout the project.

8. Community Grants Program

Metro's Community Grants Program has consistently provided funding and support to communities surrounding the St. Johns Landfill. As Metro continues with this successful program, it will be important to communicate both the landfill's history and its potential value to area residents and community groups.

9. Education Program

Metro has worked with several area pilot programs and schools on wetlands, environmental, and waste management education. Information pertaining to the St. Johns Landfill RI-FS project should be incorporated into this program.

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



County Chair Diane Linn
Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey
Commissioner Serena Cruz
Commissioner Lisa Naito
Commissioner Lonnie Roberts

January 24, 2004

Dear County Chair Diane Linn and County Commissioners:

The Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes (the Friends) are writing to express our current disappointment with the Wapato Correctional Facility. For several years the Friends have worked with Multnomah County and the community on the facility design. In 1999 the Friends gave conditional support for the original concept, which focused primarily on the landscaping and reducing the facility's intrusion in the wildlife area. The County accepted our conditions. Before the County chose the current site in 1999, the Friends gave tours of the wildlife area to then-Chair Bev Stein, then-Commissioners Diane Linn and Serena Cruz, and Bobbi Luna from the Sheriff's Office. As a result, we trust that you can appreciate how much we value this unique natural resource.

We understand that the Columbia Slough Watershed Council (CSWC) has presented an Achievement Award to the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office for the vegetative plantings at the Wapato Correctional Facility. This Achievement Award may give the impression that this project was a great success. Although the reduced vegetative buffer was implemented with professional quality, nevertheless, the Friends are displeased with the current status of the project.

When we examine the current status, here is what we see:

- An immense building, built to a height greater than what we were originally told would be done in the initial development.
- A facility surrounded in large part by what can only be described as a moat.
- Vegetative plantings that will not visually screen 80% of the facility for about 2 decades.
- Vegetative plantings that are actually far less than the 150-foot buffer that the county originally agreed to.
- A facility with an unfitting name. "Wapato" is the common name for an uncommon native plant with beautiful arrowhead-shaped leaves and with significant cultural and historical value. Now, for most county citizens, the name "Wapato" will be known as a jail facility.
- A facility that currently has no operational funds, leading the Sheriff's Office to consider housing state and federal inmates.

We acknowledge that the decisions regarding this facility were originally made in good faith, that they were made through a public process with the Jail Working Group, and that they were affected by the consent decree resulting from a citizen suit against the Port of Portland for illegal fill of wetlands (*Jones v. Thorne*). Nevertheless, we must examine the current status. The Friends believe that the vegetative buffer for which the CSWC Achievement Award was made does not significantly mitigate the impact of this facility.

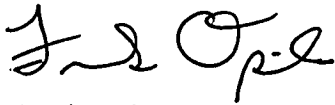
The Friends request that the County consider the following actions to ameliorate this situation:

1. Schedule a meeting with the Friends to discuss our concerns.
2. Coordinate with the Port of Portland and any other involved parties to create more natural-looking terrain in and around the moat.
3. Provide mitigation in the Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area for the reduced vegetative buffer.
4. Consider the safety of users of the wildlife area before allowing non-county inmates in facility.

For many years the Friends have been actively working to protect the wildlife area and have participated in numerous design projects that have affected the wildlife area. Our organization and its leaders undertook some serious pain for conditionally supporting the jail project. Our credibility is an important asset to the N. Portland community and by being active in supporting community well-being it will continue.

The Friends look forward to your reply. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Frank Opila
Board Director, Friends of Smith & Bybee Lakes
Phone: 503-283-1145

cc: Columbia Slough Watershed Council
Bernie Giusto, Multnomah County Sheriff
Lt. Jay Heldenrich, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office
Bill Wyatt, Executive Director, Port of Portland
Elaine Stewart, Metro, Smith and Bybee Lakes Wildlife Area manager
David Bragdon, Metro President
Rex Burkholder, Metro District 5 Councilor
Jim Desmond, Metro, Director, Parks and Greenspaces
Smith and Bybee Lakes Management Committee