



**Metro**

600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232-2736

# Agenda

Meeting: Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee  
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024  
Time: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Place: [Zoom](#)

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5:30 p.m.	Welcome and introductions	All
5:35 p.m.	Review meeting best practices	All
5:45 p.m.	Approve January 2024 meeting minutes	Carrie Butler
5:55 p.m.	Evaluate and restructure committee membership. Assign responsibilities for engagement and encourage personalized outreach to additional folks and organizations that could be interested.	Jonathan Soll
6:20 p.m.	Initiate transition process for new leadership selection	Carrie Butler
6:45 p.m.	5-minute break	
6:50 p.m.	2024 Work Plan for upcoming field season	Andrea Berkley
7:05 p.m.	Invited/tentative: Community Education and Stewardship Team 2024 Programming Plan	TBD
7:25 p.m.	Goals and next meeting agenda	All
7:30 p.m.	Adjourn	

**Upcoming SBWAC meetings:**

Tuesday, September 24, 2024, on Zoom

For agenda/schedule information, contact Jonathan Soll at [jonathan.soll@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:jonathan.soll@oregonmetro.gov).

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## **BEST PRACTICES FOR PRODUCTIVE SBAC MEETINGS**

The following meeting guidance is meant to encourage equitable participation in our discussions and respect for one another's opinions and positions while allowing everyone an opportunity to be heard and provide valuable input.

### **Make space/take space**

Participate in the conversation and be aware of your own time speaking. If needed, timekeeping will be used to allow room for all voices to be heard.

### **Listen to understand**

Focus on what is being said rather than how you will respond. Be present and attentive, minimize distractions, and ask questions.

### **Ask genuine questions**

Meaningful questions inspire curiosity and help us understand our different perspectives.

### **Succinctly state views and explain reasoning**

Stating our views clearly helps us understand how we reached our conclusions and where our reasoning differs. Always be mindful of time and speak your truth.

### **Speak responsibly**

Our own viewpoint is just one part of the whole. Share your views honestly and be mindful that your words could have a negative impact on others and cause harm.

*Note: these were adapted from multiple sources including the EMSWCD The Agreements and the Harvard Business Review article 8 Ground Rules for Great Meetings by Roger Schwarz (2016).*



# Meeting summary

## Smith and Bybee Wetlands Advisory Committee

March 26, 2024

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### Committee members in attendance

Carrie Butler ..... Port of Portland  
Eric Stern ..... Friends of Smith and Bybee Lakes  
Jonathan Soll ..... Metro  
Pat Jewett ..... 40-Mile Loop Trust  
Troy Clark ..... Oregon Bird Alliance  
Eugenia Tam ..... North Portland Neighbors

### Committee members not in attendance

Daryl Houtman ..... City of Portland, Bureau of Environmental Services  
Max Samuelson ..... Columbia Slough Watershed Council  
Ariana Scipioni ..... Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

### Others in attendance

Rowan Gibson ..... Metro  
Andrea Berkley ..... Metro  
Susan Barthel ..... Community member

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## WELCOME

The January meeting minutes were approved.

The committee best practices were reviewed.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP EVALUATION AND RESTRUCTURE

Jonathan Soll provided an overview of what has been previously discussed in meetings regarding committee membership and outreach engagement. He then opened the discussion to committee members, asking for their ideas and updates around community outreach.

The committee engaged in a dialogue about organizations that may be interested in having representation at this committee, as well as broader thoughts and concerns around committee membership. Pat Jewett gave insight into the St. Johns Neighborhood Association, mentioning their election cycle being yearly in the autumn. If the committee were to gain a member from this association, a new person would join each year. Troy Clark and Carrie Butler both mentioned the Columbia Slough Watershed Council as they are currently in talks about who could represent them at this committee.

Pat proposed considering Portland Harbor Committee as a target for outreach and offered to reach out to her connection there. Susan Barthel suggested conducting outreach to paddling groups that frequent Smith and Bybee to see if they would be interested in engaging with the committee. Troy agreed and mentioned that local biking and hiking communities and other recreation groups could be interested as well. Pat additionally proposed reaching out to a teacher or school group nearby the Smith Bybee Wetlands, specifically a group interested in local nature education activities.

Carrie raised concerns about how outreach has been conducted in the past with committee members never hearing back from certain groups or organizations. She suggested a more targeted approach might be more effective, where committee members perform direct outreach to specific businesses and groups. Carrie also seconded Susan's proposal to put up signage with a website or QR code at the Smith and Bybee site so that people who are interested can contact the committee administrator directly about engagement.

Committee members also conversed about engagement for certain marginalized community groups. Pat introduced the concept of engaging the houseless community. She suggested that it could be meaningful for an individual with experience being houseless to have a voice on this committee, especially considering the various shelter projects and sites around the Smith and Bybee natural area. Andrea proposed reaching out to Bybee Lakes Hope Center, and Troy responded that he had previously communicated with them but that they were uninterested in committee involvement. Eric Stern offered to connect with an individual he is associated with who is highly involved in houseless community advocacy.

Jonathan mentioned that this committee may not be the best way to engage with the houseless community if the purpose is simply to educate, but if committee members feel that houseless people around the site would have a vested interest and active stakeholder position and a houseless person's voice would be meaningful, this will be an important conversation moving forward. Susan raised the point that when working with houseless individuals directly, their housing is often unstable and in flux, and so often it falls to advocate organizations to engage with committees such as this. She also cited concerns about indirect engagement through such advocacy organizations, as there are common pitfalls to consider with this approach.

Committee engagement with local Indigenous communities was also discussed. Jonathan proposed outreach to Native American Youth and Family Center, and will follow up with Isabel LaCourse, the Indigenous Community Liaison for Parks and Nature.

Regarding committee structure, various topics were broached. Several committee members discussed introducing "at-large" positions and inviting Susan Barthel, who is not a full committee member at present but may be interested in an at-large position. Jonathan mentioned that there is no designated limit to the number of members the committee can allow, and that the committee is free to reshape and evaluate membership structure as they see fit. He also noted that this committee has never explored implementing stipends for committee membership or engagement as a method of involving interested parties who may have limited time or resources to participate, and that this could be a topic to discuss in future meetings.

Near the end of the discussion, Carrie asked for an update from Metro staff about formalizing the committee reporting to Metro Parks and Nature instead of Metro Council, a potential change first introduced in the November 2023 meeting. Jonathan answered that it has not been a priority for Metro leadership, but that he has broached the topic with leadership on several occasions. One of the issues he described is that that transition would make the committee not beholden to Oregon Public Meeting law, which may raise issues for Metro as an agency.

## **TRANSITION PROCESS FOR NEW LEADERSHIP**

Following up from her announcement at the committee's January meeting, Carrie expressed her intention to transition out of the chair position, which she has held since November 2019. She opened the floor for other committee members to ask questions, or volunteer for the position if they had an interest in committee leadership.

Eric volunteered, and committee members voted to approve him as new chair.

Pat volunteered to step up as vice chair, and members voted to approve her position.

## **CONSERVATION PROJECT UPDATES**

Andrea Berkley presented on the Conservation work plan for the upcoming field season. She noted that there will be a staff retreat held on April 25, where staff will cover assorted topics such as Key Ecological Attributes and how to monitor them, wildlife management and control with nutria and carp, and upcoming St. Johns Prairie phase four plans.

Carrie posed a question about carp control, and what the process entails. Andrea answered that she will follow up with Carrie once she has discussed the question with Katy Weil, fellow Senior Natural Resource Scientist. Troy raised concerns about over-control of carp, since fish-eating ducks rely on the many small fish carp spawn as a food source. Jonathan seconded this point and mentioned that carp control is an issue that will likely never be fully resolved due to the carp spawning continuously. However, he noted that carp population will continue to be evaluated by staff when it reaches a concerning elevated level.

Another query from the committee surrounded vehicle boundary issues at Smith and Bybee, and whether vehicle permeability is from the North Loop Trail or another location. Andrea responded that there are multiple points of entry that pose problems for the natural area, and that the topic requires more discussion and conversation with other Parks and Nature staff during the upcoming staff retreat.

Andrea then spoke about the work plan for the following seasons. The spring 2024 work plan will include continuing nutria control efforts, beginning water draw-down in May, weed control on St. Johns Prairie, and plant monitoring on the prairie in late spring or early summer. The summer work plan will largely be focused on control of weeds in the area, including reed canary grass in Forested Wetlands and Sedge Meadow areas, ludwigia, purple loosestrife, and iris in aquatic areas. Staff will also work to notch the Smith Lake beaver dam for drainage.

Troy voiced a question regarding if biocontrol will be used for weeds in Smith and Bybee Wetlands, to which Andrea responded that she has seen biocontrol be used previously in the natural area but did not have information on if it had been effective. Troy and Jonathan both emphasized how successful biocontrol has been when implemented at various natural areas, with Jonathan specifically mentioning its effectiveness at Oaks Bottom Wildlife Reserve. Carrie discussed how Port of Portland had seen meaningful results in the South Rivergate Corridor using biocontrol for weeds.

The fall 2024 work plan was briefly reviewed, with Andrea specifying that staff would begin site preparation for St. Johns Prairie phase four, perform work on the landfill BPA powerline, and close water control structure to outflows in order to capture water in the wetlands.

Towards the discussion's end, Andrea proposed a group outing for the late spring, summer, or early fall, which would give the committee an opportunity to engage in the work plan and with Parks and Nature scientists. Several committee members expressed interest in a bird walk, potentially in the month of May. Pat offered to reach out to a connection of hers at the St. Johns Review, who could join them on the outing and author an article about work being done at the site with the committee's input. Metro staff will follow up with the committee in the following weeks to coordinate scheduling for the outing.

### **COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP PRESENTATION UPDATE**

Jonathan provided a concise update around the Community Education and Stewardship team's committee presentation, summarizing that the CES team was invited to this meeting, but needed to attend to other obligations. Jonathan and Andrea will organize for the CES team to send the committee a written update within the next few weeks, and the team will attend the next committee meeting in September to present on their program plan.

### **GOALS FOR NEXT MEETING AND WRAP-UP**

- Planning update around the work plan and report on the state of the wetlands.
- Staff retreat summary from Andrea, as well as other surprising or newsworthy items from the spring and summer.
- Eeshoo Rehani to attend as a guest to discuss Construction Management and Planning team updates.
- Community Education and Stewardship team program plan presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.