

November 13, 2018

To: All Residents in the Greenbank Beach and Marsh Area

Re: Update on Greenbank Marsh Drainage and Restoration Efforts

From: Greenbank Marsh Working Group, the Greenbank Beach and Boat Club and Whidbey Island Conservation District

Greetings! You may recall Greenbank Beach and Boat Club (GBBC) hosted a community meeting on June 9, 2017 at the Greenbank Farm Barn to discuss drainage concerns for the Greenbank marsh area, plans for research and action steps to address concerns.

Following that meeting, GBBC established a stakeholder group called the Greenbank Marsh Working Group to work on issues related to GBBC's aging infrastructure, local drainage and environmental issues affecting the Greenbank marsh and beach communities.

This Working Group includes representatives from GBBC and neighbors from south of the GBBC property (those who are members of the Greenbank Beach Water Company and other well owners), and neighbors north of the GBBC property (North Bluff Association), plus advisors from Island County Public Works, Port of Coupeville and Whidbey Island Conservation District.

The purpose of this email is to let you know how work is progressing and to explain opportunities for you to get involved. (A similar update was sent in late August, but we are sending another since many residents may have missed the first one due to summer vacations.)

Since the June 2017 meeting, much has been accomplished:

1. GBBC completed an initial grant funded through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board that was used to research drainage dynamics and develop possible solutions.

An open channel design for the GBBC lagoon on the east side of North Bluff Road was identified as the preferred option based on a HHE/GBBC community survey that identified property owner priorities, as well as consideration of potential funding sources, short term and long-term costs, and potential community and environmental outcomes.

At the conclusion of the grant, a conceptual design for the open channel project was completed.

2. GBBC was awarded a second grant through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to conduct additional research and bring the conceptual design of the open channel project to a 90% engineering design ready to apply for permits.

Consultants have been hired, and research is underway about how an open channel project could affect sediment movement on the beach, neighboring wells and septic systems, intertidal and nearshore life, and marsh flora and fauna.

This grant will be completed in July 2019.

3. Throughout we have sought and welcomed dialogue with community members and neighbors. We continue to receive concerns from stakeholders and look forward to addressing these in the design process.

Looking ahead, data collected through 2018 will be reported to GBBC members in early 2019 and discussed with the Working Group. A community meeting will follow in the spring to share information with all GBBC members and residents throughout the Greenbank area.

If the data show that an open channel is viable and sustainable, many more steps must take place to bring this open channel project to completion:

- The 90% engineering design must be finalized for construction
- Permits must be secured
- Funding for construction must be secured
- On-going outreach to all stakeholders will continue

A website for the Greenbank Marsh work has been developed by the Whidbey Island Conservation District. The Greenbank Marsh Project Overview page provides the big picture and easy links to all related activities: <https://www.whidbeycd.org/greenbank-marsh-overview.html>

From this web page you can find links for:

- First grant, *2016-17 Greenbank Marsh Restoration Issues Assessment*: includes technical reports and conceptual design plans for open channel project
- Second grant, *2018-19 Greenbank Marsh Restoration Design*: includes details on scope and schedule
- *Greenbank Marsh Working Group*: includes roster of Working Group members, meeting minutes

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO GET INVOLVED – In the coming months here's what you can do:

- Check the project website (link above). It is a wealth of information and answers many questions.
- Attend future community meetings. We anticipate holding another community meeting in spring 2019 to present results of the 90% design.
- Reach out to the Working Group as soon as possible with questions/concerns, etc. You can join the group or get on the email list to receive meeting agendas and notes.

For questions or comments, contact:

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