

Greenbank Marsh Working Group - Notes

Meeting #5

Friday, March 16, 2018, Day Road Firehouse

*The Working Group is hosted by the Greenbank Beach & Boat Club (GBBC)
with support from the Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD)*

Attendance:

Greenbank Beach & Boat Club (GBBC):

Sally King, Co-Facilitator (Vice President, GBBC Board)
Barbara Bennett, Co-Facilitator (GBBC community member)
Judi Moore (President, GBBC Board)
Larry Graham (Trustee, GBBC Board)
Sharon Dunn, Alternate (Secretary, GBBC Board)
*Bob Monroig, Alternate (Treasurer, GBBC Board)

North Bluff Association (NBA – north of GBBC):

Jennifer Lind

Greenbank Beach Water Co (south of GBBC):

Michael Stansbury
Randy Schroder

Port of Coupeville:

Chris Michalopoulos
*Bob Monroig, Alternate

Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD):

Matt Zupich
Tom Slocum

Island County Public Works Dept.

Pete Seybert

Updates and Status of Working Group Work Plan:

- GBBC received funding for a design grant (see details below).
- Matt Z got the Working Group website on line; please send him any comments. Links are as follows:

For Greenbank Marsh Project Overview page (which has links for the feasibility and design studies): <https://www.whidbeycd.org/greenbank-marsh-overview.html>

For Working Group page: <https://www.whidbeycd.org/greenbank-marsh-working-group.html>

- Pumping of GBBC lagoon: Following 11/30/17 Working Group meeting, Larry G and Bob M explored costs to pump the lagoon and learned that costs for renting equipment privately could range from \$4000 - \$5000/month. We learned that Island County cannot provide pumping equipment, because the county cannot assist with pumping unless an emergency has been formally declared by the county, or a public drainage facility and public property are involved. Inquiries were made re: what permits are required and it looks like both an Island County and a state WDFW HPA could be required. This project is currently on hold.
- Randy S has a buoy ready to insert in culvert at north end of Island County's culvert/catch basin system (near 2821 N. Bluff Rd) in case we want to test how blocking water from flowing south from lagoon could affect water surface elevations in the ditch and in yards south of the GBBC lagoon.
- Storm surge monitoring: Barb B noted one meeting was held in January to learn methodology involving taking photos before and during storm events. Barb will be point person moving forward as data collection is to be coordinated through Sound Water Stewards. Expect data collection at two locations (GBBC beach and Randy's house) to begin in fall 2018.

GBBC "Greenbank Marsh Restoration Grant":

GRANT SCOPE AND SCHEDULE

- GBBC recently received a grant from Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to refine the conceptual open channel design into a "permit-ready" design for subsequent construction phase. This includes completion of a 90% engineered design, application for construction permits, and continuing stakeholder outreach and consultation. GBBC is contracting with WICD to handle financial and reporting tasks, oversight of technical consultants, and design/permitting tasks. Grant start date is 1/19/18, the end date is 7/19/19. A summary of the grant scope and schedule will be posted on the Greenbank Marsh Restoration Design website.
- There was discussion of the restoration projects at Dugualla (including the Dugualla Dike Road pocket estuary project which was completed, and a possible restoration project at the Dugualla Heights lagoon that was not implemented). It was suggested that we invite some project sponsors (and possibly property owners) involved in the Dugualla projects to meet with our Working Group to share insights.
- Barb B is coordinating a workshop sponsored by the Marine Resources Committee on 4/21, which will deal with community-owned aging infrastructure in the shoreline area. She will send more detail soon.
- Pete Seybert, engineer with Island Co Public Works, shared that he has been involved in several different restoration projects around the county and is happy to share his lessons learned.

TECHNICAL STUDIES

- Tom Slocum explained that technical studies to be completed by consultants will include: channel outlet design and verification of tidal conditions (based on coastal geomorphic and hydrologic & hydraulic data); refine hydraulic modeling to further evaluate potential for flooding in marsh; geotechnical investigation and dike design; and biological issues assessment (last item not yet funded).

- Discussion included need for archaeological review; passage of tidal flow through culvert under N Bluff Rd and potential impacts to flora and fauna in the “freshwater” marsh west of N Bluff Rd (and potential use of self-regulating tidegate); possible involvement by Port of Coupeville in environmental education activities and storage of water for irrigation; pre-application meeting with Island Co.

PLACEMENT OF ADDITIONAL WATER LEVEL LOGGERS

- Tom described ideas for additional monitoring equipment to measure water surface levels and salinity at different locations in the lagoon, marsh, ditches and yards along N Bluff Rd; he will purchase additional equipment for installation in April.
- Suggestions from the group included: place staff gage on piling at end of Wonn Rd to measure tide heights (tide charts are not accurate especially during storms due possibly to flood waters from Skagit River); monitoring at Randy’s catch basin and a location in marsh near there to better understand how water levels interact between north and south ends of marsh and on both sides of N Bluff Rd; importance of monitoring salinity before and after the restoration project at different locations; check in with Doug Kelly at Island Co who has data on wells and potential salt water intrusion.
- Several suggestions were made to improve accuracy of drainage maps; Matt will make these changes and put latest version on Working Group website.

OUTREACH

- Sally and Barb are working on an email to send to full community to update about the Working Group and the GBBC design grant; this should go out in April.
- There will be another large community meeting, perhaps in fall 2018 when there are preliminary findings from the design grant technical studies.

Next Steps and Wrap Up:

- Next meeting will be Friday, April 27, 9:30-11 at Greenbank Farm Barn A.
- Agenda will include Pete Seybert, Island Co Public Works, presenting on sea level rise and potential implications for Island County shorelines and Greenbank Marsh projects.