

Greenbank Marsh Working Group - Notes

Meeting #6

Friday, April 27, 2018, Greenbank Farm Barn

*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)
Sharon Dunn, Alternate (Secretary, GBBC Board)
*Bob Monroig, Alternate (Treasurer, GBBC Board)

North Bluff Association (NBA – north of GBBC):

Derek Pritchard

Greenbank Beach Water Co (GBWC - south of GBBC):

Michael Stansbury
Randy Schroder

Port of Coupeville:

Chris Michalopoulos
*Bob Monroig, Alternate

Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD):

Matt Zupich

Island County Departments:

Pete Seybert, Public Works
Jill Wood, Environmental Health
Dawn Spilsbury Pucci, Natural Resources

Updates:

Historical Photo

Judi shared a photo given to her by a retiring staff member of the Coupeville Museum that shows cows grazing at the water's edge at Greenbank prior to tide gate installation (exact date uncertain). Randy reported that Langley Historic Society has video taken of marsh at similar time.

GBBC Greenbank Marsh Restoration Design Grant:

- Grant agreement between RCO and GBBC has been signed (no small task)
- Water loggers have been placed and baseline information on water surface elevation is being collected at north and south ends of marsh and in and around lagoon. Additional

loggers to measure salinity will be placed in early May. A staff gage to measure tide height will be installed on a piling at end of Wonn Rd in early May.

- Request for Proposal (RFP) is being drafted during May for various technical studies. Draft RFP will be shared with Bob Montgomery and any others who are interested.
- Pre-application meeting was held with Island County 4/26/18 to learn about permits that will be necessary for open channel project construction. Sally volunteered to identify all households dependent on private wells in homes north and south of the GBBC tide gate. North Bluff Assn contacts are Ken Urstad and Pete Gross; Bob Montgomery is contact for Greenbank Beach Water Co.
- A pre-application for construction funding was submitted to WDFW's Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program. Though the GBBC project may be too small to be funded by this process, the technical experts from WDFW offered technical support as the GBBC project design evolves. Discussion ensued that perhaps WA DOT, WDFW/ESRP, and other funders could each absorb a percent of total project costs.

Outreach

- Sally/Barb are working on letter to larger community; they will distribute draft to WG in May/June
- Likely hold a broad community meeting this fall, once technical studies have produced draft findings (last broad community meeting was June 2017)

Potential funding for Working Group support and incidental expenses in future

Discussion was held regarding possibility that GBBC may need help with funding Matt Zupich's administrative support of the Working Group. It is possible that the design grant may not have sufficient funds to cover WICD's administrative support to the WG, and that GBBC may ask others in the community (e.g., NBA, GBWC) to contribute. Once the budget for technical studies is finalized, GBBC will have a better understanding of status of available grant funds. In addition, there may be some incidental expenses (e.g., related to future monitoring) not covered by the grant that the WG could help fund. At this time, there is no need for additional contribution, but this is a possibility for the future.

Plan to cover costs and responsibility for open channel project over time

Discussion affirmed that GBBC (as project owner) is responsible for managing and paying for the open channel project both during construction and for maintenance over the long term. While GBBC is ultimately responsible for these items, GBBC will bring to the Working Group a plan for long term maintenance so that WG members can ask questions and provide input, to assure that decisions are made with the benefit of input and consideration of all impacted by those decisions.

Potential Impacts of Sea Level Rise:

Dawn Pucci, Island County Natural Resources, reported on work currently being done regionally and in Island County to define and map basic elements of sea level rise (SLR) for specific shorelines. This data and the resulting maps are not the same as the models and maps

generated by FEMA to map the 100-year floodplain. This SLR information is complex, based on projections, and sensitive and for all of these reasons the information is only being presented by staff in person with ample education. The SLR project mapped 5 locations where restoration projects are underway or potential; perhaps Holmes Harbor and Greenbank Marsh area could be mapped in the future (it is not one of the original 5 locations). Pete Seybert provided links to these maps ahead of the WG meeting; contact Pete or Dawn if you would like to see them again.

Even with these caveats, anticipation of sea level rise, storm surge and intensifying storm patterns reinforce concerns already expressed within the WG of the potential for the frequency and intensity of natural stressors to add to the challenges faced in our watershed, along the beach, and in Greenbank marsh. Dawn noted that storm surge may be the biggest concern in the coming decades.

Dawn also pointed out that the GBBC open channel project is part of a new phase of restoration work: smaller projects in more populated and developed areas. Permitting and funding are not framed to consider this kind of project, and we have the unique opportunity to be among the first to press these systems to adapt for this new type of restoration.

In response to questions about the FEMA floodplain, Dawn said that Andy Griffin at IC is best contact regarding information about the FEMA mapping which is basis for regulations relating to elevation of first floor of homes in floodplain.

Randy talked about the need to have some standards/ uniformity among neighbors regarding their approach to armoring and other shoreline modifications along a shared stretch of beach. Or, a small community approach to septic systems. These may be future topics for members of this working group to lead in modeling a new approach.

What about failed septic systems? The "Craft 3" program offers resources. Details on IC Environmental Health website, or contact Jill Wood, IC Environmental Health.

Next Steps and Wrap Up:

Topics for future Working Group meeting

Carry over from this meeting agenda: Outreach to additional stakeholders? IC, Tribes, WA DOT?

Next meeting date

Suspend meetings until September

Hold broader community meeting sometime this fall

Through the summer continue email updates to WG members