

January 2018 – Working Group Activities Update; no meeting

Hi all,

First a note on our meeting schedule. I should point out that all scheduling decisions are being made in consultation with Judi Moore, GBBC President, and our meeting facilitators, Sally King and Barbara Bennett, also with GBBC. After the Nov 30 Working Group meeting, members decided via email that a regular meeting date of the 4th Friday of each month would help people schedule ahead. Unfortunately, this is not working out as anticipated. We had to cancel the Jan 26 meeting and are now cancelling the February meeting because meeting organizers/facilitators are unavailable. We are also having difficulty finding a meeting location for the 4th Friday of March (23rd).

Therefore, we propose the **next Working Group meeting be on Friday, March 16, from 9:30 to 11 am at the Day Road Firehouse. Please RSVP and let me know if you can make that date.** Apologies for the schedule adjustments. In the meantime, if there are issues to discuss or decide, we will handle them via email.

As I committed in my January 12 email, below is an update on the Greenbank Marsh Working Group (WG) activities since our last meeting (11/30/17):

- Pumping the GBBC lagoon: at the 11/30 meeting, discussion lead to a commitment to look into feasibility and required permits for pumping the GBBC lagoon down pre-emptively to allow more storage for potential storms. Larry G and Bob M explored equipment and costs and learned that costs for renting equipment privately could range from \$4000 - \$5000/month. Matt asked Connie Bowers re: potential for Island County to provide equipment and Connie explained that 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.
- Data collection: WICD has continued to collect data on water elevations at several GBBC locations including the lagoon, marsh and other monitoring wells. Larry G collected additional data on water surface elevation in the lagoon during first 2 weeks of December. WICD has several additional water loggers to deploy. A separate email will come soon to get WG member input on where to place these additional loggers.
- Storm surge monitoring: Barb B organized a meeting on Jan 12 to learn the methodology from the project leader at Sound Water Stewards. Barb will be point person moving forward as data collection is to be coordinated through Sound Water Stewards.
- Second SRFB grant for GBBC: The capital budget was adopted by the State Legislature on January 18 and signed by the Governor on the 19th. We've been informed that it will take some time for the granting agency (RCO) to make final decisions on funding amounts and timing for agreements for funded projects.

Let me know if you have questions. PLEASE "REPLY ALL" IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL UPDATES TO SHARE.