

Our Mission

The CBCC's purpose is to provide an effective means for residents of Coral Bay to participate in planning the future of Coral Bay development, by providing education and information on planning processes, and a forum for government, citizens, and developers to discuss plans. The agenda focuses on: land and water use planning, infrastructure, development and environmental issues. The Council seeks community consensus on the future of Coral Bay. The organization, with its nonprofit status, can implement community improvement and research projects through grants and donations, and serve a broader agenda of community services and concerns.

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During 2010 and 2011, The Coral Bay Community Council was fully engaged in achieving results under its two major Watershed and Stormwater Management projects, funded by EPA and NOAA. As of September 2011, the funded projects are substantially complete, although Watershed Management and maintenance is a perpetual responsibility. This significant community problem of muddy sediment plumes from public and private roads reaching our blue bay has begun to be addressed. CBCC has shown it can be done, with expertise, \$, and the community. See our website for complete details.

2010 - 2011 Projects & Activities

THE CORAL BAY WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROJECT:

Led by CBCC, in partnership with agencies of the VI government and the federal government (including VIWMA, EPA, NOAA, DPNR and PW), our \$300,000 multi-year EPA CARE "Community Action for a Renewed Environment" grant is bringing important watershed contamination and water quality issues to the forefront. The primary purpose is to stop the sediment plumes entering Coral Bay after each modest rain storm. These are caused by uncontrolled development and excavation activities, dirt roads and lack of appropriate stormwater control infrastructure. CBCC is proactive and seeks real solutions, through planning, expertise and implementation -- with active assistance from government and private landowners. As always, considerable volunteer effort was utilized: Individuals and businesses contributed lodging and meals to make the hiring process successful.

NOAA ECONOMIC STIMULUS GRANT FUNDS:

In January 2010, the NOAA-ARRA VI Watershed Stabilization project began. CBCC had a \$124,000, 18-month grant funded contract to manage the \$1.5 million of funding for projects in Coral Bay received by VI-RC&D. 18 projects are being completed by Fall 2011 and have provided very visible benefits in reduced sediment reaching the bay and also reduced water flows -- as water is being redirected into natural gullies high in the hills -- where it infiltrates into the ground. Special thanks to the residents and homeowners associations in the neighborhoods for contributing significant \$\$\$ to these paving and stormwater management projects: Hansen Bay, Privateer Bay, Sugarbird Hill, Calabash Boom, Mill Vista, Lala Land, and Bay Rum Estates. Also thanks to the Egbert Marsh Trust for donating the easement for the sediment detention pond, and to Public Works and the other government agencies who partnered to make these projects a reality.

WATER QUALITY RESEARCH: As part of the EPA grant, Dr. Barry Devine is our Research Coordinator, and is undertaking several water quality studies -- including gully stormwater, sea water and cistern water quality. CBCC now has sophisticated water quality testing equipment, and utilizes volunteers for collection activities.

PLANNING DISCUSSION SERIES: In November 2010, CBCC launched a Planning Series of monthly discussion meetings focused on basics in land use planning for Coral Bay's future. This series, which continued through June 2011, focussed on infrastructure, environmental protection of sensitive areas, proposed changes to the zoning law, and some particular infrastructure concerns: a potential plan for a reverse osmosis water production plant, and relocating the household waste dumpsters to a more highly managed site. Residents, government officials, and CBCC's professional resources participated in these meetings. The primary goal was to improve public understanding and discussion of land use planning options for Coral Bay's future. There will be follow-on meetings in the future.



COMMUNICATIONS: CBCC's members receive several emails each month about news and upcoming events. It is the major way we "call" for volunteers, participation and donations. We also maintain a list of other people in the community that we can contact and include in public issues and activities.

AIR QUALITY: The Tortola BVI burning dump occasionally has brought acrid smoke over Coral Bay. CBCC worked with DPNR & EPA to pressure the BVI government to fulfill its obligation to its own people by installing a new, less polluting incinerator. As of October 2011, it is installed and being tested.

DRINKING WATER QUALITY: CBCC, and volunteer homeowners who paid for the testing, completed an analysis of cistern water quality and the effectiveness of filters and Ultra Violet lamp purification systems in meeting EPA drinking water standards. Conclusion: Filters alone don't do it; Filters AND UV purification DO meet EPA drinking water standards. For \$1000 to \$3000 for an installed system, water can be pure -- and no more need to buy bottled water.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM: The 2011-2012 school year will be the third year of the 5-year federal "21st Century Learning Center" grant received by the Guy H. Benjamin Elementary School. CBCC is the primary community partner on this grant. The majority of the school's 100 children participate in this exciting program featuring dance, theatre, sports, arts and remedial or accelerated educational components.

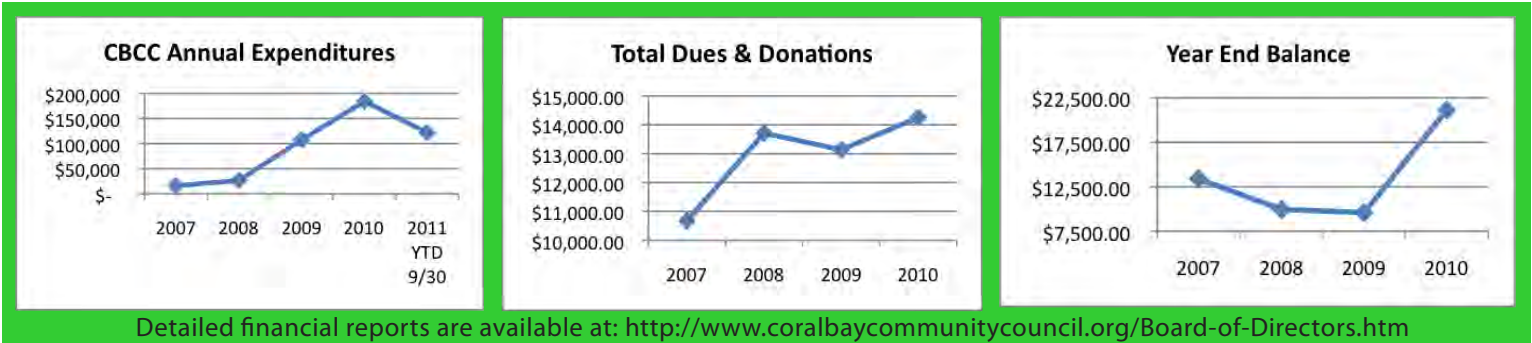
SEE ALSO CBCC'S INFORMATIVE WEBSITE

Email: coralbaycommunitycouncil@hotmail.com

CBCCC VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Thank you to everyone who has provided services for CBCCC programs -- from taking photos of stormwater, participating in the Mangrove Cleanup, volunteering in the office, providing the children with Santa's Christmas gifts, or helping researchers by snorkeling in the Bay. We know we can count on you in the future! Volunteers make all the difference. Anticipated needs: office volunteers, grant writing, small project construction skills, event/food management, plus a big fund-raising gala.

CBCCC Finances - A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization



INCREASED MEMBERSHIP

During this period, CBCCC expanded its membership from 200 to over 300 members providing financial support, principally \$30 to \$100 each. We are now developing a sustainable financial and organizational structure to allow CBCCC to maintain professional staff and seek additional grant funding for important community and environmental programs. Volunteers will still be the drive behind CBCCC. Grants and donations will continue to be sought for worthwhile projects. We will continue to seek ways to enhance our quality of life while protecting and honoring all of nature's beauty around us.



WHY SHOULD YOU SUPPORT CBCCC AS A MEMBER?

Numbers count! With politicians, government officials and funders -- when we can show that over 300 people support our activities, this is impressive. When we can legitimately say 500 people support us with their continuing support -- this is VERY IMPRESSIVE -- and really helps our CBCCC Board efforts on your behalf. Dues are \$30 per person -- so everyone can afford to be a member. **CBCCC really needs \$100 or more each year from those who can afford it. Your extra donation of \$100, \$200 or even \$1000 will be the real difference in making all our activities possible. When we have funds on hand -- we can get things done.**

CBCCC Staff

Chris Laude, CBCCC stormwater engineer, replaced Joe Mina in July 2010, as our stormwater engineer for the grant projects. Providing project design services, as well as expert advice to residents. Blake Parker was hired for 18 months to serve as the NOAA project coordinator and handled the very substantial volume of permitting and contracting paperwork involved in construction projects.

As these projects were completed, the CBCCC Board began to assess how future CBCCC work should be conducted. It was decided to hire an Environmental Projects Manager, with expert skills to write and manage grants and also perform and manage environmental research and analyses. This new position will allow us to continue and expand our environmental protection activities and grants on a professional basis; while freeing up volunteer resources to address more of the broad range of community needs. In October 2011, Patricia Reed was hired to fill this position. Please welcome her on-board!

With over 300 members providing volunteer and financial support, and general community participation, the Council has broad grassroots resources behind our activities. All of CBCCC's events and activities are open to the public. The CBCCC has become respected as a community resource by residents and property owners in Coral Bay.

Have you visited our website?

Visit coralbaycommunitycouncil.org

You'll find lots of useful information and links...

Make a Tax Deductible Donation

CBCCC relies on your assistance, both in time and financially. Please give generously, so that we can be even more ambitious in developing our scope of work. Thanks to the many of you who have donated throughout the year... It inspires us all.