



## CORAL BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Mail: 9901 Estate Emmaus, St. John, VI 00830  
8-1 Estate Emmaus, Coral Bay, St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands  
CBCC@CoralBayCommunityCouncil.org Phone: 340-776-2099  
[www.CoralBayCommunityCouncil.org](http://www.CoralBayCommunityCouncil.org)  
*- a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization -*

### **CBCC Agenda for 2020**

#### **Our Mission:**

**CBCC's mission is to serve our community by protecting the environment, improving infrastructure, supporting education, encouraging social progress, and planning for appropriate low-impact development.**

#### **Goals in 2020:**

- *Assist our community in recovering from the impacts of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in every way we can, both in immediate ways and in long-term resilience building actions.*
- *Continue effective role as Coral Bay's Watershed Management Agency, and build awareness.*
- *Engage in Planning and Development processes that respect the natural environment and local character. Formal planning processes should be driven by local needs and enacted with respect to cultural and historical resources.*
- *Engage in local infrastructure improvement projects*
- *Engage in environmental protection/restoration/repair projects*
- *Enhance participation by addressing the needs and engaging everyone in our diverse community*
- *Practice Inclusion: give weight to less represented elements in the community.*

#### **1. Post Hurricane Needs:**

- CBCC office & website are central places for info and assistance in Coral Bay, with knowledgeable staff. Also host St. John Community Foundation personnel who provide personal and housing assistance to people who request these services; and cooperates with other nonprofits and government to deliver needed services.
- "Muscle" for debris and other cleanup is often very helpful. Encouraging Government to provide additional debris cleanup and recovery services, especially removal of abandoned cars.
- Use donated CBCC hurricane recovery funds and volunteer time to support community recovery projects, such more debris clearing and removal, restoring the wetlands park, providing needed furniture and supplies as appropriate.
- Encourage recovery infrastructure grants for Coral Bay and St. John (details under topic areas) and expect to implement over several years; will write more proposals.

- Stuff Depot from January to March 2020: yard sale to reuse household goods, may do again as needed.

## 2. **Environmental Protection, Cleanup and Restoration:**

- Mangrove, shoreline and “in the water” hurricane restoration and cleanup: Using two grants from the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands (CFVI) and the VI Department of Natural Resources (DPNR) to fund cleanup activities and hauling to the Bovoni landfill, thereby supplementing hundreds of hours of volunteer cleanup, led by the Coral Bay Yacht Club. Cooperating with the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) and Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park (FVINP) on clean-ups.
- Wetlands “Corner Park” - CBCC to continue restoration and maintenance, and add improvements, including funding maintenance. (Cooperate with Dept of Agriculture and volunteers)
- Assess and continue activities to protect water quality and the environment as part of the Watershed Management Agency activities, including encourage planting, gardening, and other means to practice erosion control and green infrastructure to reduce runoff and sediment reaching reefs.
- Continue St. John Gardeners Facebook group & add “St. John Simply” group for reducing harsh cleaning products, reduce & reuse ideas, etc.

## 3. **Planning Projects:**

- “All St. John” planning efforts, especially related to hurricane recovery.
- Infrastructure and economic recovery planning for Coral Bay (with people, other organizations and government)
- Utilizing USDA grant for \$200K planning project for 2 to 5 community facilities:
  - Multi-purpose Community Center;
  - Emergency Services Center (Fire, Police, EMS, Rescue & Medical clinic),
  - Centerline Route 10 road rebuild and drainage hydrology;
  - Historical/cultural and experiential tourism;
  - Right-sized economic development that spreads advantages of Boating access to multiple land-owners/commercial enterprises around Coral Bay – based on small access docks for dinghies, and day-tripping boats, recreation facilities; and/or
  - Other community generated ideas for facilities;
- Marine Uses Planning for Coral Bay (Per VI Code/ with DPNR and others) (serving on DPNR territorial water use plan committee on designated mooring areas)

- Water Use conflict resolution – especially in Round Bay

#### 4. Watershed Management Agency Activities:

Mostly federal grant-funded (plus local volunteers and matching funds, and hoping for Recovery funds to cover hydrology and stormwater mitigation) projects:

- Watershed Management Plan - 5 Year Update –Continuing through 2020, with Department of the Interior (DOI) “WaterSmart” funding.
- DPNR 319h/EPA Stormwater Sediment Reduction Projects- (road improvements on several private and public roadways - co-operate with neighborhoods, PW and DPNR).
- Ongoing wastewater systems and drinking water purification outreach, with USDA support.
- Implement actions in Solid Waste Management Plan to move the Coral Bay waste bin site and upgrade to a Recycling center, encourage recycling and composting, and waste re-use & minimization. Cooperate with Waste Management Authority and nonprofits.
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program & Recovery Funding for Hydrologic Study and assessment and repairs to roads and embankments to mitigate against future subsidence and loss of access to homes and businesses, as well as reduced flooding and sediment reaching the ocean – Final Applications submitted in January 2020.

#### 5. Infrastructure Projects:

Hurricane destruction has interrupted some previous projects and made their future uncertain, but also created new opportunities for significant infrastructure construction dollars from the federal government, which CBCC will work hard to get for Coral Bay and St. John as a whole. However, it is not clear if this will be a FEMA or USVI government priority. **CBCC has been working with other St. John nonprofit organizations to emphasize the importance of MULTI-PURPOSE physical facilities in post hurricane reconstruction.**

- **Guy H. Benjamin Community Center** –
  - CBCC supports interim community center project with modular building, and made an application to the VI Government in 2019 to pay for items to make it usable in the short term. CBCC is willing to work with any and all organizations to make this building available

for multiple community uses ASAP. CBCC has made a formal proposal to the Governor and the Department of Education and Department of Property and Procurement to be able to coordinate, design and implement, and help fund a new permanent community center on this site.

- CBCC continues to encourage planning effort for historic/culture education/museum/tourist welcome center in historic schoolhouse (Building 1) on GBS campus.
- **Alternative Community Center** - If the above Guy Benjamin community center and property re-use is not a near-term priority for the VI government, CBCC is planning to team up to identify private land and grant and donor funding, and cooperate with other nonprofit organizations to develop one or more physical spaces in Coral Bay for our needed community educational, social, and recreational activity uses.
- **Coral Bay Preschool** – CBCC is teaming with the St. John Christian Academy to rehabilitate the building the Baptist Church owns in Spring Garden to become a preschool for 21 children. CBCC is paying for supplies and labor, and there will be donated labor and supplies from Coral Bay residents.
- **Wetlands preservation and “Corner Park”** - CBCC provides funds/volunteers (In Cooperation with Dept. of Agriculture)
- **Road and Drainage Improvements** – As the Watershed Management Agency - utilizing recovery and other funding, in cooperation with DPW, DPNR, VITEMA, FEMA and others to dramatically improve the entire Watershed’s roadways and drainage systems, for safe access roadways, even in storm and after-storm conditions, and reduced/eliminated sediment reaching the blue bay waters. Expectations have diminished for receiving major federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and other funding to do work on St. John.

#### 6. Projects working to get underway:

- **Work to secure for future public infrastructure purposes:** the land that Guy Benjamin School is on, and the adjacent parcel 7 land owned by the Port Authority and in jeopardy of being swapped to Moravian conference, apparently due to a mid-2000’s legal settlement. These two parcels are the ONLY current publicly owned flat topography parcels that are not in FEMA flood zones in central Coral Bay. These parcels need to stay in public control.
- **Comprehensive Land Use Plan for St. John** – To be led by DPNR CZM

- **Relocating Main Waste Bin site to Attractive Recycling/Collection Center** Need to get this project on Waste Management Authority's priority list .
- **Pursue Boating Access facilities:** Small access docks and services for local boaters and tourists while minimizing impact on the marine environment. Been discussing with citizens, DPNR, and others. Would include waste pump-out, other services. Available grant funding for planning and implementation – working with private shoreline owner partners and government.
- **Utilize the Historic School Building (rms 1 &2 of GBS)** as a cultural and historical education center with exhibits serving school children on field trips, local visitors and tourists; Also use as a “Welcome Center” to connect local entrepreneurs sharing historical/cultural education & goods as their product—and their customers (visitors, resident adults) Idea continuing to be discussed – especially welcome center - grant possibilities
- **Coral Bay New Relocated Emergency Services Center** – Provide assistance to VI Government in expanding the scope of the new facility to serve more multi-purpose community needs, and seek funding for these – such as adding a medical office, a gym for public and staff use, and other amenities.

## 7. Other Community Issues

- Accurate tax assessments on parcels, and legislation to keep people from losing family land. (Lincoln Land Institute could help with expertise.)
- Encourage local businesses/local jobs – use website, Facebook, other PR means, also hold **CBCC Bizarre Bazaar** - December TBD 2020– arts/crafts/food.
- Growing Food locally - encouraging gardening, farming.
- 7-day bus service restoration.
- Lack of phone communications in all places – East End & Bordeaux do not have VIYA landline and cable TV service. Cell service is limited and unreliable.
- Calabash Affordable Housing- Promised Ownership issue, maintenance, sewage/water infrastructure issues.
- Youth vocational education & preschools– part of multi-use community center project; Encourage life skills courses for teens.
- Police protection
- Medical care facility in Coral Bay (for emergency/ urgent care).

**8. Major Marinas and Development Project Proposal Review: Do they meet environmental or community goals?**

CBCC's direct role is:

- 1) encouraging community participation;
- 2) providing information to assure developer adherence to environmental and local concerns; and
- 3) seeking "right-sized development" that encourages/supports character of community vision and existing successful tourism-based economy.

*CBCC welcomes discussion and input from everyone, particularly residents of Coral Bay, on all these issues – and on reshaping the CBCC agenda for future years! Please email [cbcc@coralbaycommunitycouncil.org](mailto:cbcc@coralbaycommunitycouncil.org) or call 340-776-2099.*