



Coral Bay Community Council 2017 Annual Report

CBCC is “For People who love Coral Bay”

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

Using CBCC’s substantial nonprofit organization presence built over the last 15 years, CBCC was ready in 2017 to help when our world changed completely in 6 hours as the intense 185+ mph winds of Hurricane Irma destroyed or damaged our homes, businesses, boats, and the environment.



Coral Bay suffered the most intense winds in the Virgin Islands and terrible damage, but saw our shell-shocked residents step forward immediately to care for neighbors, clear roads, and start the process of recovery. Soon, caring people from everywhere who love Coral Bay began to donate dollars and needed items. Huge Thanks to You All!

In the Eye Wall of Hurricane Irma

On September 6, 2017, Coral Bay experienced being in the eye wall of Hurricane Irma, one of the strongest hurricanes in history. Then on September 20, we were hit again by Hurricane Maria—a second category 5 hurricane followed by two months of heavy rains. The combination of these events resulted in **damage to 90% of all structures in Coral Bay**, and other places in the VI.

CBCC sent emails before the storm with preparation advice and plans for a mid-day meeting, as soon as the pre-announced curfew was lifted. The storm that came was beyond our imagination. As we gathered two days later, most walking down blocked roads and found out we were all alive, a satellite phone was made available so residents and stranded tourists could make one-minute calls to loved ones to say “I’m OK”. More than 300 calls were put through in the first several days. CBCC used all of its resources to start helping people. For the next 2 months, 50-100 residents attended the daily meetings held in our office parking lot to get updates on the next hurricane tracking toward us and available assistance to take back to their neighborhoods. We all persevered without electricity, limited generators, food & water distributions and sharing and caring for each other. Help began to come in from off island and initially our sister island, St. Croix - which brought catamarans straight to Coral Bay with nurses, food, fuel and allowed evacuations of more than 100 people.

As a nonprofit community agency, we collaborated with relief groups including FEMA, VITEMA, the Bloomberg Foundation, Global DIRT, Love for Love City, St. John Community Foundation, Rotary, the Red Cross, and the Salvation Army. We are grateful to our landlord, Elizabeth Ford, for everything she did to accommodate community needs after the storms,

This annual report presents CBCC’s accomplishments in 2017, all made possible by the support of our 400 members, grants and additional generous donations of time, materials and money from our many friends. Thanks to all who contribute to our collective ability to help our community in this special time of need. Recovery will continue for several years, and when it is complete we will have improved buildings and infrastructure better able to survive hurricanes and serve us every day.

CBCC staff in 2018 are: Office Manager Michelle Bransom, Environmental Programs Associates Rachel McKinley and Mary Vargo. In 2017, CBCC’s employees were Sean Richardson, Scott Eanes and Michelle Bransom. With leadership from Sharon Coldren, the volunteer president and our board, CBCC is managing a number of environmental and community projects, including significant hurricane recovery projects.



Board of Directors

As of 12/17

Sharon Coldren
Wendy Davis (resigned 1/18)
Robert DeBonis
Jason Hayman
K. Sara O’Neill
David Silverman
Terry Witham

New –2018

Kate Reed
Loraine (Pat) Richards
Josh Bourassa

Officers 12/17

President
Sharon Coldren
Vice President
Jason Hayman
Secretary
David Silverman
Treasurer
Vacant

including allowing CBCC to host a distribution center and providing space for a FEMA Disaster Recovery Center in Coral Bay when there was no other possible building available.

CBCC and your dollar donations helped Indigo Grill serve daily free lunches for about 5 weeks to all who came. Events for relaxation, health care and donated goods distribution were held—and we took residents’ recommendations on their own needs and worked to get these individual needs fulfilled fulltime until January 2018, and as-needed thereafter.

CBCC’s annual holiday **Bizarre Bazaar**, generously hosted at Pickles, was held in a reduced form on December 9th. Usually this is CBCC’s main fundraiser. Instead in 2017, it was a combined celebration and CBCC’s Annual Meeting, with no fees charged. We had a great turnout from 300+ residents and visiting workers who enjoyed music, food, art and crafts from local vendors, smiles and a visit from Santa. All the children got lots of toys, thanks to Santa Bob Debonis and his many stateside elves who sent down presents for the children.

Adopt-a-Family also sent down over 400 5# priority mail boxes of essentials and goodies to be distributed near Christmas to families. We could barely move—the boxes & Santa’s presents were piled so high in CBCC’s office, as we started distribution.

None of us had power or local cell service til mid December. Internet is being slowly restored.

In May 2018, it is becoming clear that while St. John and the VI will eventually get millions of dollars of infrastructure aid, it is very difficult for some individuals and businesses to visualize a clear path forward. CBCC will continue to provide assistance as we can with your generous support and grants.

Please Make a Tax -Deductible Donation & Become a Member!

CBCC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and relies on your assistance, both volunteer and financial.

Please give generously so we can be even more caring in service to Coral Bay. *Thank you!*

Coral Bay Caring - Starting Hurricane Recovery



Coral Bay Watershed Management Projects

For over a decade, CBCC has demonstrated its ability to be an effective watershed management agency for the large Coral Bay watershed. CBCC is both a planning and implementation-oriented advocate for environmental protection, that is balanced with economic growth within the community vision. CBCC does this through community forums and projects, partnerships with Virgin Islands government agencies, federal agencies, homeowners associations, local businesses and individual volunteers.

Since 2008, CBCC has received more than a dozen grants from federal agencies (EPA, NOAA, USDA), foundations, professional associations, and local agencies, all for various components of effective watershed management planning and restoration implementation. CBCC is regularly recognized by federal agencies for its work and that of its many community volunteers and supporters. CBCC routinely works with the Virgin Islands government, including the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Public Works, Agriculture, Sports, Parks and Recreation and more. In Fall 2017, we began working with FEMA and the Army Corps and other federal agencies on key stormwater and infrastructure issues to assure we invest federal disaster relief dollars to become more resilient, have safer structures and reduce landslides and flooding in the future.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT: CBCC has several grants to work with neighborhoods to initiate stormwater management improvements, such as paving eroding road surfaces and redirecting road water runoff into natural gullies as often as possible. In 2016, Gerda Marsh Rd. and Calabash Boom Rd. improvement projects were completed. In 2017, more work was being planned on Johnny Horn Trail, Freeman's Ground, Gerda Marsh Road and Spring Garden when the hurricanes hit and stopped normal operations. These are being restarted in 2018, along with more. Some other neighborhoods have received engineering advice and will be among the next neighborhoods to get their ideas through the engineering, permitting and construction stages with CBCC help. Homeowners are raising dollars to match with grant dollars to accomplish the needed construction work. These projects will use financial support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, NOAA, DPNR EPA 319(h) funds, along with the in-kind funds and work from neighborhood residents. In addition, post hurricanes, there will be federal hurricane relief and resilience funding that CBCC and Coral Bay will qualify for — some directly for effective watershed management. To prepare, CBCC funded a report on post hurricane conditions: <http://coralbaycommunitycouncil.org/stormwater-mgt/>

Cooperation with Public Works, DPNR, VITEMA, FEMA and other agencies is essential to fulfill our goals for watershed management and improved resilient road and infrastructure.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT: With a \$73,000 USDA grant, CBCC's Scott Eanes conducted outreach on improving waste management practices in Coral Bay and the VI, by engaging in campaigns to encourage the 4 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle. Guidance was provided on composting, reducing disposable plastics, and more — working closely with the VI Waste Management Authority and other organizations and volunteers. A repurposing guide was published too. See all the activities and useful info at: <http://coralbaycommunitycouncil.org/solid-waste-2/>.

The project's most significant activity was hosting Alison Fraley, Solid Waste Management Coordinator for the island of Kauai, Hawaii, to spend a week here in July 2017. She shared her experiences transforming the solid waste programs on her tropical island at public forums held on St. John and St. Thomas, as well as meeting with Waste Management Authority officials, professors at the University of the Virgin Islands, and VI Senators. Her "lessons learned" in 20 years of establishing Kauai's methods for effective incentives and programs lead to a solid waste diversion rate 8% higher than the national average. Presentations on website: <http://coralbaycommunitycouncil.org/solid-waste-2/solid-waste-management-lessons-from-kauai-hawaii>

LANDSCAPING MANUAL TO REDUCE EROSION: NOAA provided a \$58,000 grant to conduct outreach and write a manual on landscaping and other best management practice techniques that homeowners can use to reduce erosion and stormwater runoff into our bay. The 98-page book authored by Sean Richardson was published in July—and distributed free after the storms. Also available to download: <http://coralbaycommunitycouncil.org/landscaping-sediment-reduction/>.

LANDUSE PLANNING: CBCC has continued its efforts to implement the 2013 AIA Vision for Coral Bay and encourage more effective planning for community and economic development. CBCC is participate very actively in the St. John Long Term Recovery Team in 2018 hosted by the St. John Community Foundation with FEMA and local agencies. <http://coralbaycommunitycouncil.org/coral-bay-vision/>

Let's Talk Trash!
Join Speaker Allison Fraley
Solid Waste Management Coordinator, Kauai County, Hawaii
Thursday, July 27, 2017
1:30 pm
Westin St. John, Coral Reef Room
at the
Plastic Free Island-St. John Summit Event
Topic: Recycling in an Island setting
Friday, July 28, 2017
2:00-4:00 pm
Guy Benjamin Community Center, St. John
at the
Plastic Free Island-St. John Summit Event
Topic: Solid Waste Management Systems in an Island setting
Speaker Allison Fraley will share her experiences transforming the waste programs on her tropical island! Discussion will include on how we can improve:
• Recycling & Source Separation • Waste Bins & Collection • Solid Waste Management Costs • Waste Diversion
YES, WE CAN!
For more information contact Scott Eanes at
CORAL BAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
340-776-2099
www.CoralBayCommunityCouncil.org
The United States is proud to support and encourage the Republic of the Virgin Islands, United States Territory, in its efforts to improve its waste management and reduce its dependence on the mainland for waste disposal. This support is provided under the terms of the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Virgin Islands.

Communications, Office Resources and CBCC Financials

COMMUNICATIONS: CBCC members receive several emails each month about news and upcoming events. Email is the major way we share news, and "call" for volunteers, participation and donations. We also maintain a list of other people in the community whom we can contact and include in public issues and activities. **Follow us on Facebook—**
[Coral Bay Community Council](http://CoralBayCommunityCouncil)

CBCC continues to encourage real planning processes for Coral Bay and all the Virgin Islands that focus on capacity and infrastructure planning that will serve both people and the natural environment.

OFFICE: Stop by CBCC's office across from Skinny Legs and see the resources that our members support. Many brochures are available with good advice. Hurricane Recovery assistance available too.

FINANCIALS: CBCC's annual detailed financial reports are available on our website.