

Coral Bay Community Council

October 2012

Read this newsletter online at: www.coralbaycommunitycouncil.org/Board-of-Directors.htm to access the links!

Expanding CBCC's Reach

The Coral Bay Community Council (CBCC) is a 9-yr-old nonprofit community organization funded by dues, donations, and grants, and relying on volunteers. CBCC reached a new high of 348 members in 2012, and added paid staff. Patricia Reed, as Environmental Projects Manager. With several new board members and the continued leadership of its volunteer President, *CBCC has expanded the range of environmental and community projects that can be accomplished, adding: dengue/ciguatera awareness, youth programs, wetlands restoration and water quality monitoring. The next organizational step is expanding our funding base to continue these valuable efforts.*

The 2012 Membership Year started off with the Annual Potluck and Annual Meeting at the beautiful Miss Lucy's, followed in December by the Community Carole Sing and Santa bring gifts to the children (provided by our generous CBCC members individually). By January 2012,

we breathed a sigh of satisfaction as all of the 18 NOAA & EPA grant-funded stormwater management projects in Coral Bay were completed on the ground. CBCC then received funding to write up Project Reports, detailing best practices and next steps in six of our Coral Bay subwatersheds.

With much volunteer help, in February, CBCC moved its office downstairs to make it easier for people to drop in and talk with us. Big thanks to Scotiabank and Dr. Cool for helping CBCC get the needed Air Conditioning System for our new office. Special thanks to Jean Vance for our website. Thanks to all our many volunteers!

Through the year, we have worked on the various initiatives described below in this Annual Report of our CBCC Activities. Thanks to everyone in Coral Bay for your volunteer activism and financial support. Let's work together to make our 10th year Coral Bay's best ever!

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Coral Bay Watershed Management Project

The goals of the Coral Bay Watershed Management Project are to empower the community to 1) effectively reverse the past environmental degradation caused by poor construction practices, badly designed roads, violated wetlands, and other human and development choices, and to 2) envision and plan for future physical and economic development that does not exceed the carrying capacity of the land and environment, and provides all infrastructure needs (water, waste water, solid waste, roads, public services).

The Coral Bay Watershed Management Project is now entering its second phase (or iteration). As in the past, it will be grassroots-led with professional and monetary assistance from government agencies. This next phase will expand upon prior pollution reduction efforts and include comprehensive watershed management planning and implementation of plan elements. CBCC has received a 1:1 matching grant from the NFWF Coral Reef Conservation Fund to update the existing 5-year-old Watershed Management Plan and include more robust water quality improvement measures. There

will be a strong continued focus on prevention of sediment and other stormwater contaminants reaching critical marine habitats (mangroves, seagrass and coral reef habitats with endangered species turtles and corals) of Coral Bay. Much of the matching efforts will focus on the ongoing process of engaging residents and DPW in properly maintaining stormwater drainage into ghuts (intermittent streams) and the bay to reduce erosion, and also repairing and retrofitting 30 years of improper construction practices. Previous on-the-ground work focused on 6 subwatersheds and their residents; several more subwatersheds will be added before 2014.

The scope of the overall project is dependent on the recommendations of the partners, community involvement, and funding sources. CBCC will continue in its role of active coordinator of Coral Bay Watershed Management project. To this end, CBCC will host a steering committee of community, businesses and government agency partners, recommend studies and task-committees, and seek additional grant funding.

Make a Tax Deductible Donation

CBCC, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and relies on your assistance, both in time and financially. Please give generously so we can be even more ambitious in our scope of work. Thank you!

Environmental Education Initiatives

FOLLOW NATURE'S WAY: CBCC wants to broaden our environmental education reach. We sought and received a \$4,500 grant from the Temper of the Times Foundation for print advertising to promote our local stormwater control objectives. Have you noticed the ads in the *Tradewinds* and the *Daily News*? They will continue until year end. You can see all the ads on [our website](#).

REUSE, RECYLING IN CORAL BAY:

– CBCC published “[What to do with your Trash... in Coral Bay?](#)“ It will be updated and improved often – with your ideas. Let's put LESS in those awful dumpsters... and save our resources and dollars by Re-Using – right here in Coral Bay.

DENGUE & CIGUATERA AWARENESS:

CBCC received a \$5,000 grant to provide presentations and brochures on

dengue fever and ciguatera fish poisoning to three St. John schools and several churches. With Dr. LaVerne Ragster's University of the Virgin Islands project: *A Collaborative Response to Public Health Challenges Linked to Climate Change Impacts in the Virgin Islands and the Caribbean*, CBCC provided this information on local health threats. [See website](#).

Youth Programs: Guy Benjamin School & Coral Bay Job Club

YOUTH PROGRAM: A \$4,500 VI Department of Labor Grant made it possible for CBCC to offer a 4-week summer program to 10 teenagers called “Coral Bay Job Club”. The students learned to understand employer expectations; how to interview well, do role-playing, write a resume, and how businesses work. Computer-based personality assessments helped focus on long-term educational and



career objectives. Volunteer time and CBCC resources made up the total cost of the program: about \$10,000. [Learn more and see a video of the students](#) sharing what they learned. An afterschool club is planned. See [website](#).

GUY H. BENJAMIN SCHOOL SUPPORT:

CBCC continues to support the goals of improving

our local public school so that it can be the best in the VI! With the second new principal in two years, CBCC provides some continuity in maintaining the campus, and real volunteer help this year to get the playground and school grounds ready for this school year. CBCC spoke out about the value of GBS school -- and all the people and businesses in the community who help make it a great school. [This letter appeared in the all local papers](#). CBCC is a partner in making the [Flotilla fundraiser](#) fabulous. Reading Volunteers Needed!

On the Ground: Wetlands Restoration, Park, Geoweb –Volunteers Rule!

WETLANDS: Using a \$20k grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and EPA to restore a degraded wetlands area in central Coral Bay (across from the current dumpster site). CBCC has committed to raising an equal dollar amount of in-kind and volunteer services. Volunteers are working under the direction of a professional plan to remove invasive species, install fencing and plant native species. A small park with fruit trees and shade will be created. Public Works, Dept of Agriculture and other agencies are also supplying services, as part of our local match. One step forward in protecting Coral Bay ecosystems! Learn more on [our website](#).

GEOWEB DEMONSTRATION: CBCC & PW did a cooperative project to use

Geoweb™ mesh to stabilize a steep portion of the public Johnny Horn Trail dirt road.

CBCC volunteers helped PW machine operators. In just two hours, 100 feet of roadway was laid. PW did significant maintenance on the road and reduced the roadside channels, as a follow-on to CBCC's NOAA project work, as recommended by CBCC stormwater engineers. EPA CARE project funds, CBCC purchased \$5,000 of Geoweb (a 6" deep flexible plastic cellular



web that comes in 9 X 25 foot length sections). If this action extends the time between required re-grading, it will reduce the potential sediment runoff created by the road, as well as providing a better, long-lasting roadway. In both installed locations, it is a big success.

CLEANUPS: Thanks to all the volunteers and the Coral Bay Yacht Club members who always come out for the shoreline and roadside cleanups!

“ADOPT A....” CBCC wants to start an “Adopt a stormwater culvert” cleanup and “Adopt a beach or roadside” litter collection program.

Development Issues, Communications and CBCC Financials

DEVELOPMENT ISSUES: CBCC provided comments to several DPNR initiatives to improve their regulations during the year, including the Coastal Zone Management Regulations and Zoning laws. Other issues were cell towers, Rezoning Requests for the Voyages site (withdrawn) and Roller site (pending), and the ongoing potential for major shoreline development.

COMMUNICATIONS: CBCC members

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.

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 whom we can contact and include in public issues and activities. [Like us on Facebook: Coral Bay Community Bulletin Board](#)

FINANCIALS: CBCC's annual detailed financial reports are available at: <http://www.coralbaycommunitycouncil.org/Board-of-Directors.htm>