
US Virgin Islands Comprehensive Land & Water Use Plan (CLWUP)

Working Group Meeting St. John

Kickoff

May 3, 2023

Horsley Witten Group



Agenda

01 Welcome

02 Introductions

03 Role of the Working Groups

04 Expected Schedule and Time
Commitment

05 Working Group Structure

06 Recap: What we heard from the Town
Hall meetings

07 Draft Formative Issues

01 Welcome

Greetings from the USVI
Department of Planning and
Natural Resources (DPNR).



02 Introductions

Let's get to know each other!

- Your name
- Where you live
- One reason you're interested in serving on the Working Group

03 Role of the Working Groups



Role of the Working Groups

- ***Oral and written feedback*** on draft materials that will be used in the development of the CLWUP.
- ***Advice and guidance*** regarding upcoming public engagement activities. For example, what are the best materials to present? What are the best questions to ask?
- Help ***promote public activities and events*** through local networks to increase public participation and input.
- ***Provide access to materials*** that may assist with the plan development (e.g., photos).
- ***Guidance on key issues*** that are important on a particular island.
- ***Knowledge and experience*** on the topics covered in the plan.

04 Expected Schedule & Time Commitment



- Working Groups are expected to meet virtually (via Zoom or other such platform) several times during the course of the project.
- There will be one kick-off meeting (today!)
- Then one meeting leading up to each major round of public engagement or release of major plan materials.
- This will likely amount to at least six meetings held approximately once every other month.
- Members will often be given “homework” between meetings to help support development of the CLWUP.

Draft Near Term Timeline

This timeframe may evolve over the project, but this represents our current expectations . . .

Late May/Early June: Online public survey on Formative Issues

Week of June 26: **Second Working Group meeting** – Focus on public engagement for Guiding Principles and Policies

Week of July 17: Public engagement for Guiding Principles and Policies

August: **Third Working Group meeting** – Focus on Visioning Charrette

August/September: Visioning Charrette



Draft Long Term Timeline – *Subject to change!*

Specific dates have not been set yet, but the other major expected milestones include . . .

Fourth Working Group meeting – Focus on reviewing policy framework and online public survey before they are released

Fifth Working Group meeting – Focus on reviewing draft goals, policies, and strategies, and content and format for in-person public engagement

Sixth Working Group meeting – Focus on reviewing draft CLWUP, and content and format for in-person public engagement



05 Working Group Structure



What would you prefer?

The structure largely depend on you!

Meetings & Communication

- Aim for 60 minutes each to respect your time, can go to 90 minutes if needed
- Focus on things that would benefit from group discussion
- Use “homework” assignments to provide individual feedback, with deadlines
- We can e-mail each other between meetings with documents to review and to share ideas.
- We could also develop a Google Drive page or a password protected page at www.planusvi.com.
- HW will be responsible for “version control”

06 Recap: What We Heard from the Town Hall Meetings



What is Important to Protect?

Culture & Heritage

- St. John culture and island way of life
- Protecting private property ownership
- Cultural structures and historic places

Coastal and Upland Natural Resources

- Coastal and nearshore resources, such as salt ponds, wetlands, mangroves, and coral reefs
- Access to beaches/shoreline
- Native and endangered species
- Smaller ecosystems, like guts

What Needs to be Strengthened?

Development, Redevelopment & Conservation

- Improve development regulations and approval process
- Better enforcement of environmental rules and regulations
- Protect important natural resources and quality of life





What Needs to be Strengthened? cont. Mobility & Connectivity

- Walkability
- Cross-island connections
- Transportation costs for St Johnians

Quality of Life

Improve . . .

- Public education
- Government services
- Access to health care and other social needs

What should be Transformed?

Development, Redevelopment & Conservation

- Stop inappropriate rezoning
- Increase regulation enforcement
- Promote better designed development

Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship

- How waste is collected and managed
- Public education recycling, composting

Mobility & Connectivity

- Increase walking and biking opportunities
- Address parking issues in Cruz Bay
- Improve ferry options





What should be Transformed? cont.

Government Responsibility & Capacity

- Make sure St. John has better representation in government
- Increase the capacity of the GVI to provide services on St. John

Quality of Life

Transform services such as . . .

- Civic and Social resources
- Health services
- Public safety and emergency services

07 Draft Formative Issues

The CLWUP process has reached an important stage where the insights from research, interviews, and public engagement can be organized into a series of draft formative issues . . .

Governing Effectively

Decisions related to land and water use should be based on sound planning and enforced by agencies with adequate resources.

Celebrating Our History and Culture

Restoring, preserving, and cultivating awareness of cultural resources in land and water use policy is critical to the economic success of the USVI and cultural experience of future generations.

Providing Homes for Everyone

A diverse and abundant supply of safe and healthy homes is fundamental to economic, social, and environmental prosperity of the USVI.





Connecting People, Commerce, and Places

The transportation system in the USVI should connect land and water uses in a way that is safe, efficient, and provides choices for different ways to get around.

Protecting Natural Resources

Land and water use policies must reflect that USVI's natural resources are central to local cultural identity, public health, ecological systems, and economic well-being.

Improving and Maintaining Quality of Life

Land and water use policies should establish sustainable funding sources, foster opportunities for collaboration, and build a system of amenities that fosters civic responsibility and community pride.

Addressing Climate Change

The USVI must adopt land and water use policies that anticipate the impacts of our changing climate and strengthen our ability to meet these challenges.

Economic Opportunity & Resilience

Land and water use policies will look to diversify the USVI economy and build on the strengths and opportunities specific to its different islands.

Sustainability and Stewardship

The approach to building infrastructure and providing everyday services to residents and business should be done in a manner that is environmentally sustainable and healthy for future generations.

Development, Redevelopment, and Conservation

The CLWUP will provide a clear framework for where development should occur and where it should not occur.

Other Questions and Discussion

See more materials at ...

www.planusvi.com