



## Community Needs Assessment Environment Sector

April 26, 2011

4:30-6:30pm, Orcas Fire Hall

Attending: Shona Aitken, Sharon Abreu, Lincoln Borman, Stephanie Buffum, Rusty Diggs, Dean Dougherty, Ruthie Dougherty, John Evans, Terri Gilleland, Paul Kamin, Chris Kenady, Dana Kinsey, Kinnan Murray, Fiona Norris, Jim Schuh, Kari Schuh, Leslie Seaman, Tim Seifert, Marcia Spees, Tina Whitman, Johathan White

Rachel Adams, Craig Anderson, Helen Bee, Diane Berreth, and Adina Cunningham, and Kate Long attended from OICF.

### What is working? (All respond)

- See nothing but trees
- Moran State Park √√√
- Willingness to adopt technology
- Big blocks of open space: i.e. Turtleback and Moran
- All/so many opportunities outdoors
- Large and strength in area of support
- People on Orcas are great; Orcas is the volunteer core
- Organizational relationships with teachers & school board
- 1998 Comprehensive Plan→created Madrona Point and other open spaces
- Turtleback √√
- Direction of environment in our own backyard
- San Juan Preservation Trust—a voluntary program
- Protecting common habitats
- *So many* passionate and dedicated people about preservation
- Volume of farmers and participants in FEAST
- Students, volunteers, open community that steps-up
- Number of volunteer opportunities available
- Support for Orcas children in environment education
- OICF
- Energy audit at home residences
- Community comes together to work on problems; desire to work together
- Maintained our rural character; very little change over 30-40 years
- Incredible rich pool of expert knowledge and willingness to share

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- Volunteers—so many people interested in environment; how well they work with organizations (preserves)
- The spirit that informs the environmental work
- Wonderful advocates of environment

### **Question #:1 What Community Needs Are Not Being Met?**

#### Group 1 (Rachel's group)

- Few saltwater access points
- Lack of useful data on terrestrial biodiversity
- Connecting organizations
- Lack of spatially explicit (site specific) i.e. maps, to inform decisions
- Lack of data on how humans are impacting near-shore marine waters
- Lack of consistent funding for specialized programs √√
- Lack of an accessible hub/physical space for all people doing work for the environment to use
- Computer friendly program to access information = lack of funding
- Inadequate multi-use county roads
- Weak water quality monitoring
- Lack of practical data that is accessible and usable
- Lack of laws/policies/framework
- Lack of enforcement of local environmental laws
- Lack of science equipment in elementary schools
- Lack of kid-friendly transportation methods, i.e. bike lanes, bus, trails, walking paths
- Lack of communication among ourselves and connecting organizations to information sharing
- Lack of getting community experts with greater environmental understanding into schools
- Lack of ADA accessibility
- Lack of funding
- Lack of integration and representation of second home owners
- Lack of perspective regarding broader community; with a focus on one it is difficult to have a broad view √√
- Institutional barriers
- Lack of gratitude
- Lack of awareness of what other organizations are doing

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- Lack of accessible greenhouse or an alternative learning center/demo site to see positive experiences
- Lack of enviro-tourism visiting Orcas to see all the great things we are doing and education (like at a center or hub)
- Lack of expanded education for adults—those who may have the greatest impact
- Conflicting codes/mandates—difficult for especially businesses in Eastsound; institutional barriers—need to make it easier to do low-impact-development, not harder
- Lack of sustaining access to healthy cafeteria program at the public school
- Lack of trails; need to make progress
- Inability for us to keep our money on island (i.e. too expensive to shop at farmer's market so we shop at Costco)
- Lack of understanding of GMA law ; lack of neighborhood knowledge

### **Group 1—Prioritized Listing of Unmet Needs (in no particular order):**

- Lack of transportation alternatives including trails, ADA, kid-friendly modes of transportation
- Lack of environmental education for
  - experts in schools
  - seasonal populations
  - resident adults
- Lack of scientific information and monitoring data, as well as lack of interpretation and application of existing data
- Lack of consistent funding for specialized programs, including science equipment in schools, facilities, etc.
- Lack of coordination and information-sharing among organizations and experts
- Lack of coordination and consistent policies and enforcement
- Very few areas public access areas to salt water
- Lack of gratitude

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### Question #:1 What Community Needs are Not Being Met?

#### Group 2 (Craig's group)

- Lack of connected bike and walking paths
- Insufficient accurate information on land use regulations
- Recycling systems inadequate and insufficient
- Role of resources in growth planning
- Losing grassland to forest
- Lack of information on wildlife species and habitats
- Lack of public access beaches
- Lack of planning for sea level rises; rising-roads
- Lack of public docks for boating
- Lack of support from, collaboration and communication with county
- Lack of county administrative support for orcas governance i.e. EPRC
- Lack of energy efficiency information and tools, education
- Lack of integration between sustainable use of resources and the community. i.e. Log clearings off island (referring toto logs taken off the island rather than being used here)
- Lack of publically produced locally relevant stewardship (?) opportunities for home owners. i.e. a written guide about how to be a good steward of your home and the environment and the island
- Lack of awareness of environmental problems (looks nicer than it is)
- Lack of alternative transportation modes
- Lack of technology geo-spatial knowledge in the county—no GIS training that is accurate and up to date
- Lack of wildlife awareness
- Lack of shared information among environmental organizations [many organizations have booklets to describe their work and their knowledge but do not share among themselves],
- Lack of use of captive audience on ferry (i.e. we don't take advantage of the ferry travel time to 'talk to' visitors and islanders in various ways)
- Solid waste policies and management do not support environmental stewardship
- Lack of integration of GIS information for all county departments
- Lack of incentives to donate tidelands
- Too much "mining" of environment resources, i.e. farm land (referring to the soil, mostly; lack of re-enriching the soil of farm land)
- Lack of access to Madrona Point
- Lack of information on green building

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- Lack of funding opportunities for “cross boundary” collaboration
- Lack of attention to humans too
- Lack of code enforcement—need for a central information source for all environment organizations
- Loss of habitat corridors
- Opportunities for local green power generation

### **Group 2—Prioritized Listing of Unmet Needs (in no particular order):**

- Lack of transportation: paths, trails, public transportation
- Lack of public access to the shoreline, dock use and Madrona Point (public policy)
- Lack of awareness and information sharing:
  - within environmental groups and external to community and courts (enviro groups, public, county)
  - GIS, habitat maps, wildlife species
  - Lack homeowner information, ferry
- Building environments, energy efficient tools, green power
- Habitat loss to soil fertility, to forest, to subdivision, to water diversion
- Codes , policies, regulations, recycling, solid waste, incentives
- Funding
- Balance between human and non-human needs
- Recycling facilities

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### Core Learnings from Today (All)

- Innovations we need are coming from us.
- Learned about new organizations and new people = new energy
- Wealth of knowledge with in group and community and need more abilities to share
- Importance of recreating (recreation) –exciting to see other appreciations of environment
- Stuff I grew up with is gone—but great appreciation of new (Turtleback)
- Learned about new passions and organizations
- Comforted by all the people here today working on environmental issues
- Intra-relatedness of this group = theme
- Drive for integration; strong realization of interconnectedness
- Smart, thoughtful people here today; but we should remember people-needs, too
- Better way to work together with all of these people
- Deep desires, yet we do not meet them regularly; excited about collaboration
- Excited about core learnings and OICF process
- Impressed with the need for integration and lack of integration—How to overcome?
- Idea of environment can be very focused (legal) or very broad
- Trails community is much stronger on other islands compared to Orcas
- Efforts here are admirable
- Need to integrate
- Learned how grateful I am for the people here
- Camaraderie is inspiring
- Greatly encouraged by similarities in the two groups prioritized lists
- We all do different things, but our camaraderie is strong