



The Coral Bay Watershed Management Project: Being a Partner & Building Partnerships

Presented by
Sharon L. Coldren, President,
Coral Bay Community Council

What is a Partner?

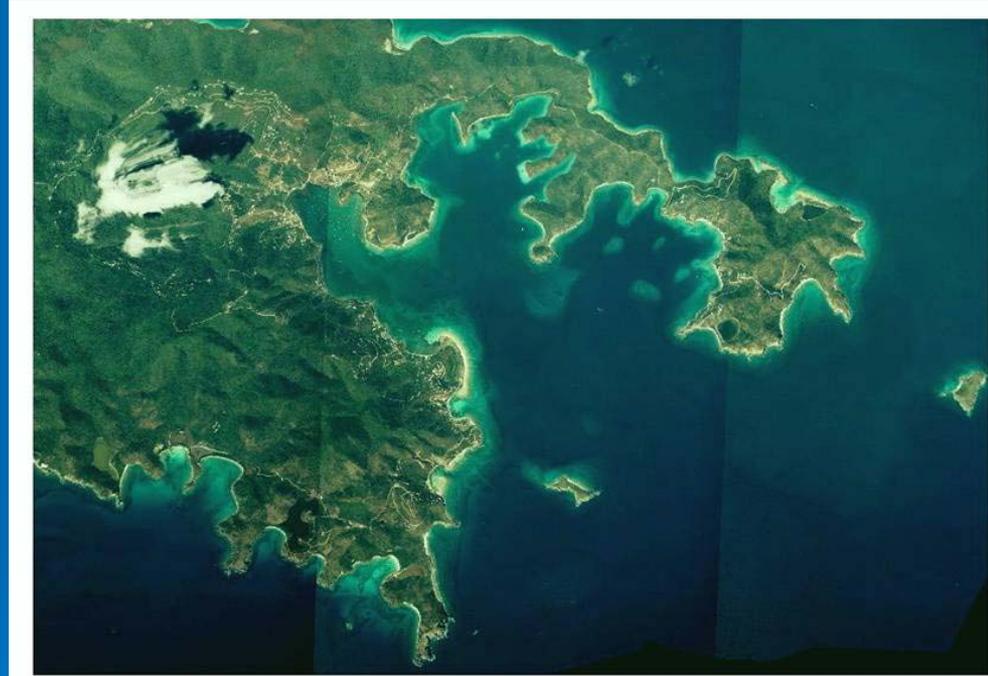
- A person you naturally collaborate with...
 - A person/relationship you cultivate because you can learn and do more with that person than on your own
 - Shares, Respects, Facilitates...
- 

For a small nonprofit org--

- a colleague to talk to / learn from
- informal alliances
- a way to pool resources/skills for a goal

Coral Bay Community Council, Inc.

- Nongovernmental Organization – NGO --501(c)3
- 6 years old, 200+ members provide financial support, volunteer
- Remote 3,000-acre steep hills watershed
- Background: Lack of govt. knowledge, under the radar, little regulatory protection
- NO Local Govt.
- Need for local resource with voice



Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument & National Park Boundaries



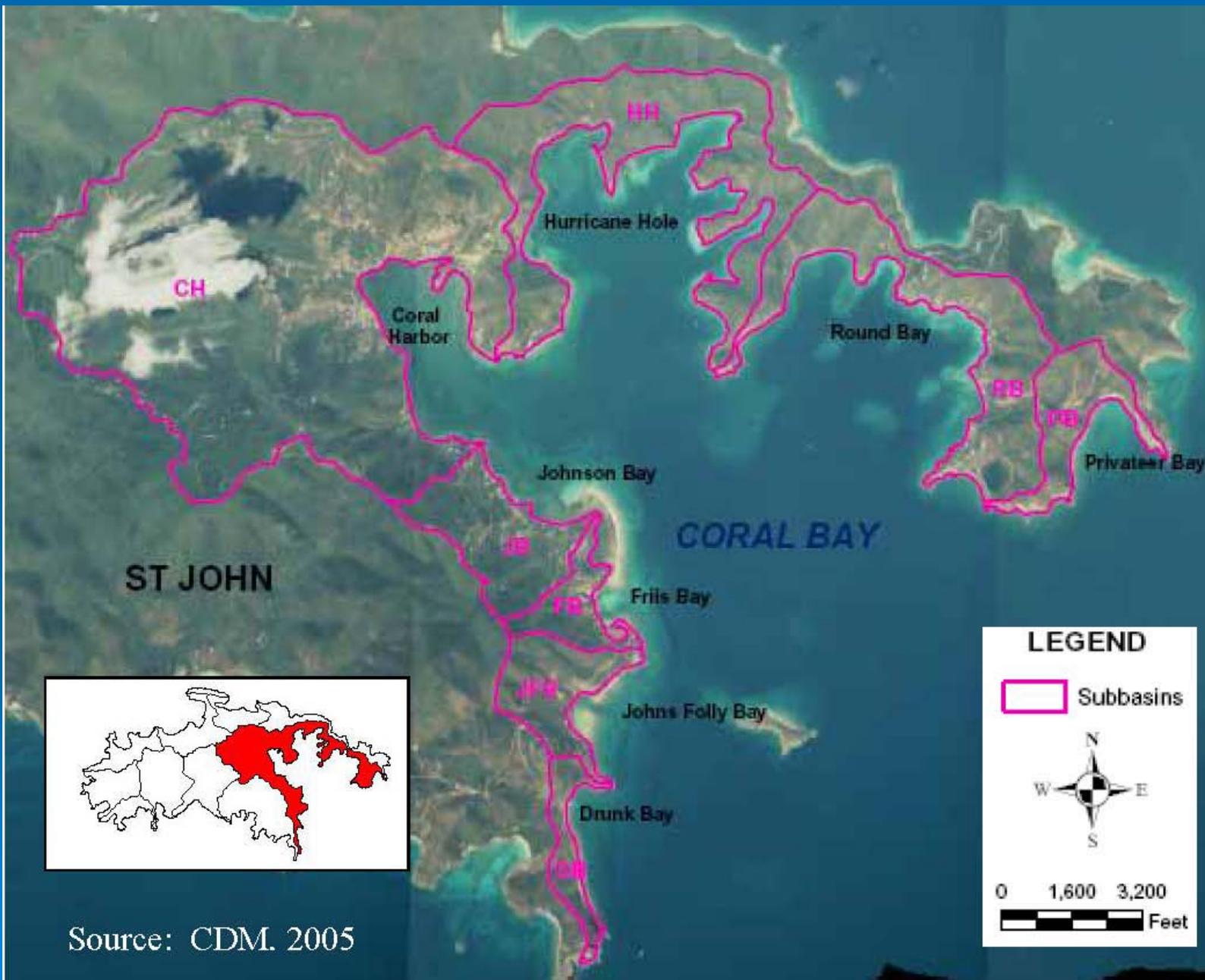
-  Virgin Islands National Park
-  Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument

1000 0 1000 2000 Meters

1 0 1 2 Miles

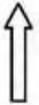
Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument Boundary

Arriel Photo Source:
1999 NOAA/NOS/NOAA/
Biogeography Program
NOAA Aerial Photos
Map Developed at
Virgin Islands
Biosphere Reserve Center
7/6/2004
Christy Loomis

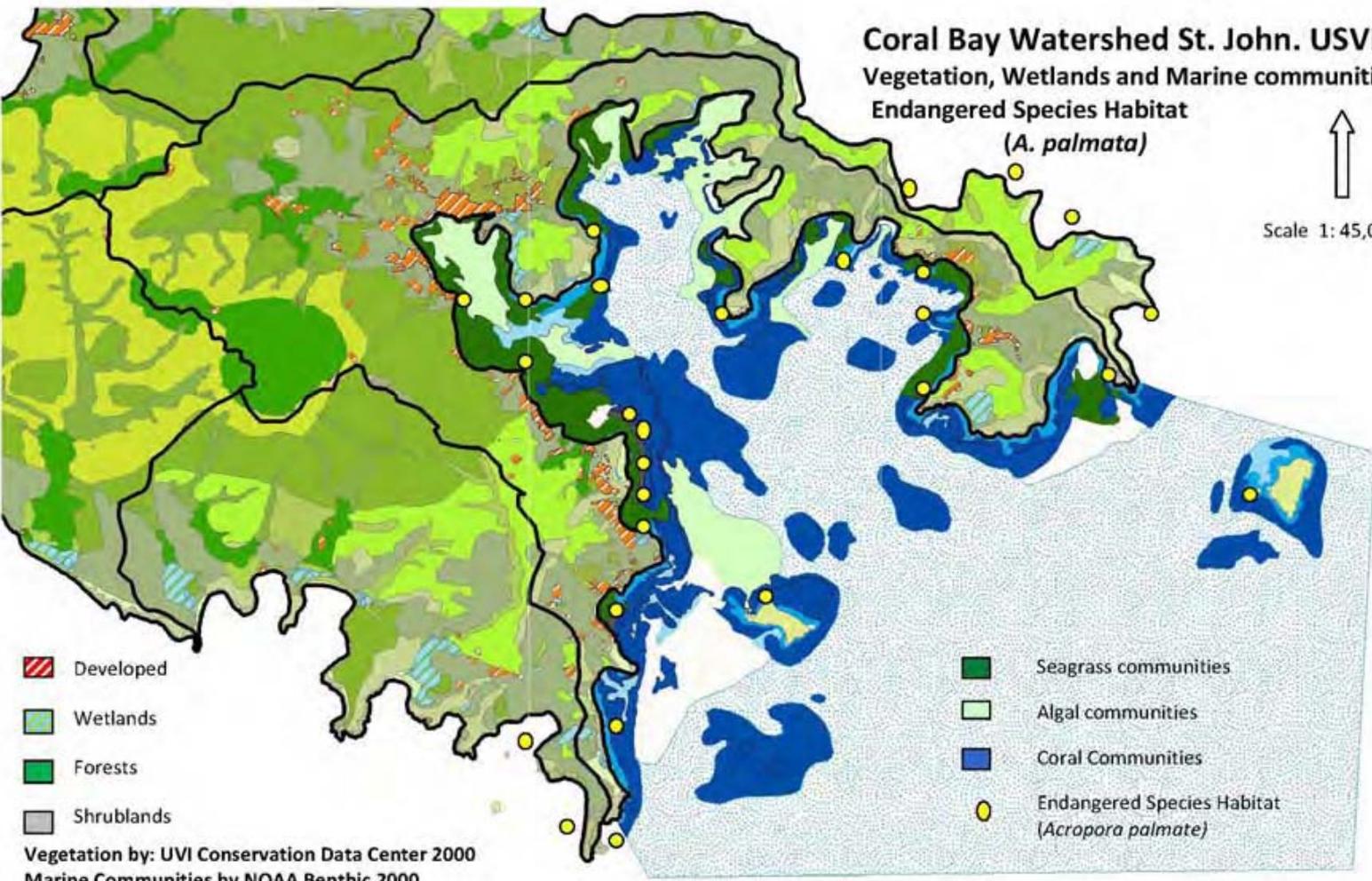


Source: CDM. 2005

Coral Bay Watershed St. John. USVI
Vegetation, Wetlands and Marine communities
Endangered Species Habitat
(A. palmata)



Scale 1: 45,000



- Developed
- Wetlands
- Forests
- Shrublands

- Seagrass communities
- Algal communities
- Coral Communities
- Endangered Species Habitat
(Acropora palmata)

Vegetation by: UVI Conservation Data Center 2000
Marine Communities by NOAA Benthic 2000
Map by: B. Devine for Coral Bay Community Council

Planning Concerns

- Natural beauty
- Stormwater sediment control
- Wastewater management
- Potable water (RO)
- Solid waste management
- Transportation and other infrastructure
- Social/community development
- Appropriate economic development



Water-Related Environmental Concerns Raised by Development Activity

- Sedimentation Runoff into Ocean
- Potable water – Reverse osmosis
- Waste Water Mgt
- Dredging for marina, boats
- Flooding due to earth change
- Endangered species



Early Partners

- NOAA
- Members, Residents, Landowners
- Surveyors, Architects, builders



Activities 2003-2006

- CBCC as Watershed org
- Education, Outreach
- Vocal at Public Hearings
- Best Practices
 - Road Construction
 - Lot Clearing
 - Sediment control
- Cooperate with govt. on regulations, enforcement, research
- Seek Information/Research



Encourage Stewardship

- By Citizens
- By local & federal governments
- Use public meetings, press, and direct contacts
- Informative website
- Clean-ups
- Monitoring and photos



Research Assistance

- Ideas
- Juvenile Shark research, Sea temperature data collection, Sedimentation
- Accommodations, boat, gas, office, “matching funds”
- Grant hosting



Community Partners

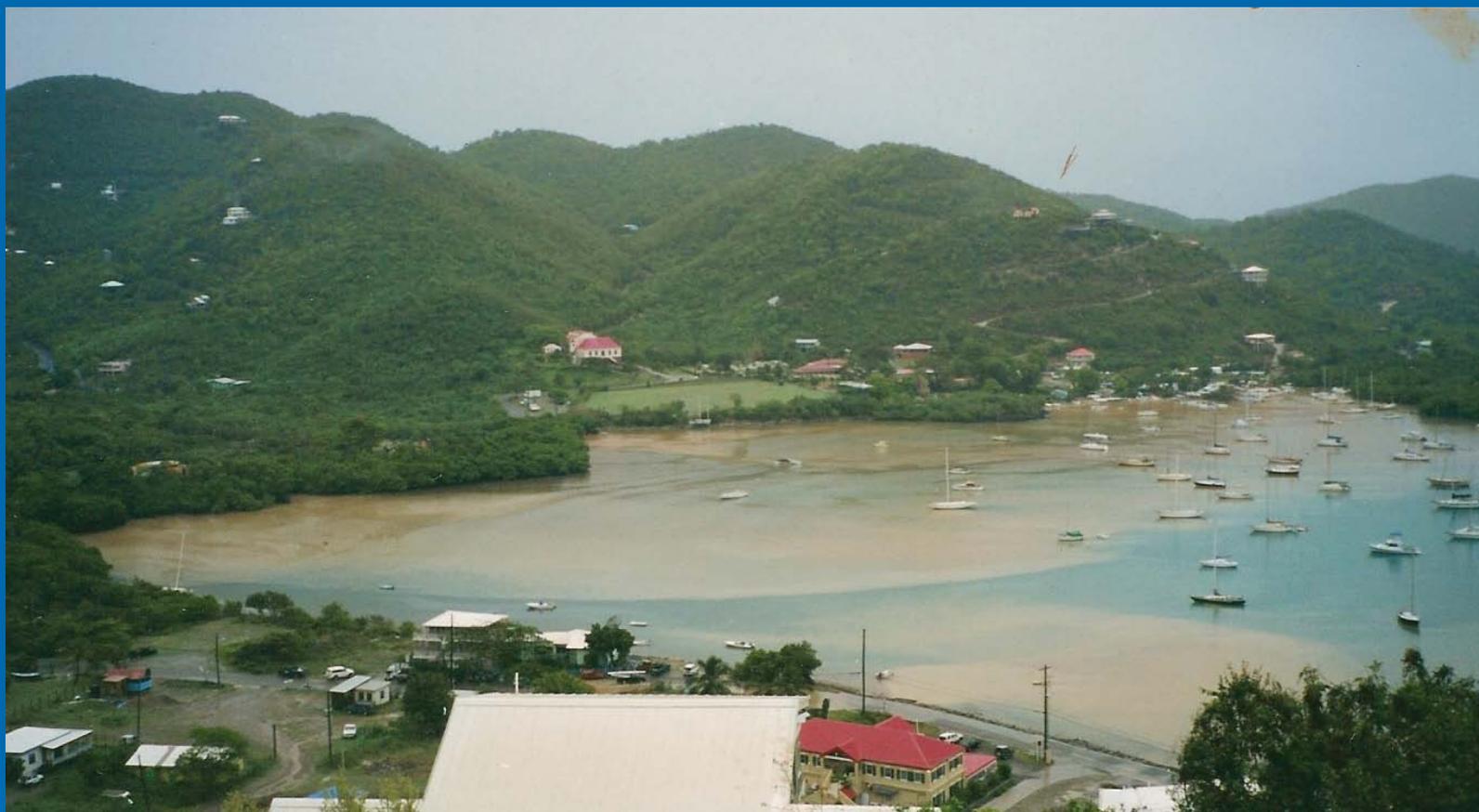
- CBCC Members
 - Other “nonjoiner” community members
 - CB small businesses – 50+
 - Local building industry, contractors
 - Island Green Building Assn
 - Island Administrator
 - National Park
- 

Assistance/Expertise/Partners

- Virgin Islands Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.
- Departments at UVI
- Water Resources Institute
- Nature Conservancy
- St. Croix Environmental Assn
- Federal Agencies – NOAA EPA FWS DOI
- Numerous college and university research partners

Local Govt. Partners

- VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources
 - VI Waste Management Authority
 - VI Department of Public Works
 - Governor's Office
 - ...more
- 



- Picture worth 1,000,000 words
- Hand-delivered picture to EPA – “Help!”

2007 -2008

- Through NOAA & VI DPNR got selected for Pilot Watershed Plan for the VI
- Submitted application for EPA –CARE grant - with NOAA & other “partner” backing

SUCCESS: \$300K Grant!



CBCC's Coral Bay Watershed Mgt Project:

EPA –CARE funded Planning and Design, and Partnership Relations:
Minimizing Environmental Toxins

NOAA-ARRA funds to implement construction of BMPS to *minimize main toxin:*
Sedimentation into Shoreline and Marine ecosystems.

Numerous small grants to implement projects, and local govt. participation

Volunteers and HOA funding and donations

Also Investigating : Air Quality, Drinking Water, Solid Waste, Waste Water, and Land Use Planning parameters

Stormwater Engineering

- Best Management Practices being implemented at 6 sub watersheds, and other individual sites.

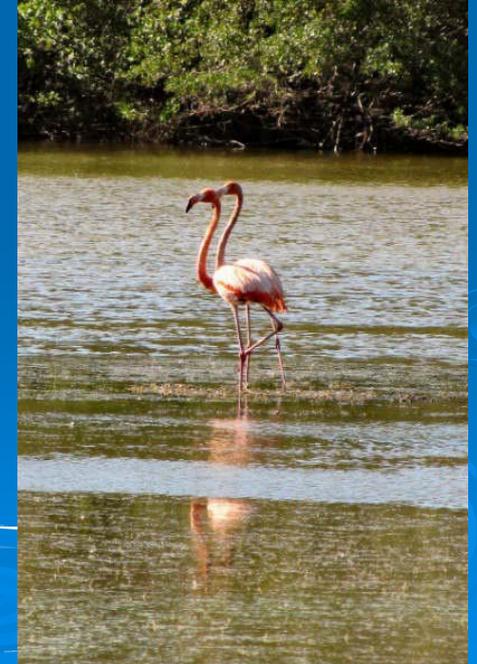
- Workshops, site visits, advice



- Sediment detention basins – improve absorption into ground water resources?

Environmental Toxics?

- What do we have in Coral Bay?
- How do they impact water quality?
 - Sea water – marine habitat
 - Fresh water habitats
 - Potable water



Air Quality



- Airborne pollutants reaching roofs, cisterns
 - Dump smoke Tortola trash burning
 - Saharan dust
 - Other?

Solid Waste

- Dumpsters in the mangroves on shoreline
- Hazardous household substances
- Litter problem of gallon water jugs



NOAA-ARRA Funds

- Land based sources of pollution
 - Reduce sediment plumes
 - Ambitious program for guts in 6 subwatersheds involving partners (multiple landowners, PW, DPNR)
 - \$1.4 Mil
- 

Keys to Successful Partnerships

- Common Goal
 - Resources
 - Activities to show progress
 - Timelines/Commitments
- 

The *Real* Keys to Successful Partnerships

- The right structure: Lead partner must be the prime stakeholder
 - Mutual respect
 - Good communications, consensus style
 - Transparency
 - Team attitude: Work leadership shifts with expertise/stake
 - Momentum...
- 

Community Building...

- Momentum – building and fulfilling expectations!
 - Publicity at the right times
 - Volunteerism and Variety
 - Sustaining partnerships for future work..
- 

Thank you!

- www.coralbaycommunitycouncil.org
- coralbaycommunitycouncil@hotmail.com
- Office – 340-776-2099 phone/fax
- Sharon Coldren, President, 340-513-4298