

Questionnaire to HHE Property Owners from the Greenbank Beach and Boat Club Board (June 2019)

Dear Holmes Harbor Estates (HHE) Property Owners,

Please use this questionnaire to let us know your thoughts about a proposed OPEN CHANNEL PROJECT for the Greenbank Marsh. Responses to HHE community questionnaires in 2015 and 2017 guided development of this OPEN CHANNEL PROJECT. This option received the most support and has the capacity to accomplish the most community priorities. [See reverse side of this form for a brief timeline of project development from 2013 through today.](#)

The GBBC OPEN CHANNEL PROJECT will:

- retain private ownership of the boat ramp, road and parking area
- minimize costs for HHE members by supporting grant-funded state priorities for salmon, salmon-eating orca and shoreline recovery
- restore shoreline and marsh habitat important for salmon and orca recovery by removing the failing tide gate and its infrastructure and opening the marsh to salt-water tidal exchange
- increase shoreline resilience and reduce vulnerability to high tides and storms by enhancing dikes
- for the latest project site plan see <https://www.whidbeycd.org/greenbank-marsh-restoration.html>

If responses to this 2019 questionnaire support proceeding with the OPEN CHANNEL PROJECT, your responses will be used to apply for grants to construct the OPEN CHANNEL PROJECT and to meet required matches.

If responses to this questionnaire do NOT support the OPEN CHANNEL PROJECT, the GBBC Board will begin work to replace the tide gate and its infrastructure. This will NOT address salmon or orca recovery, shoreline restoration or shoreline resilience. The cost to replace the tide gate and its infrastructure is estimated to be approximately \$750,000 to \$1,000,000. Costs for this work may be 100% the responsibility of HHE property owners. Presently, GBBC is not aware of any grants that would pay for tide gate replacement alone.

Every opinion counts. Here's all you need to do:

- **Write your name below.** Anonymous questionnaires will not be considered.
- **Note the opinions of everyone in your household.** If individuals in your household have different opinions, please note differing opinions on one form using a different color ink or letters or numbers for different people
- **Return your completed form by June 15: Hand it in** at the JUNE 1 community meeting, or **mail your completed form** to: GBBC, PO Box 75, Greenbank, WA 98253, or **scan and email your form** GreenbankBBC@gmail.com

Household name(s): _____

Question #1: Do you support GBBC pursuing the OPEN CHANNEL PROJECT, including grants to fund construction?

Circle One Response: YES NO NOT SURE

Comments:

Question #2: If the OPEN CHANNEL PROJECT IS NOT PURSUED, are you willing to be assessed for the full cost to replace the tide gate and its infrastructure?

Circle One Response: YES NO NOT SURE

Comments:

CONTINUE SURVEY ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE.....

Question #3: Are you interested in volunteering to work on outreach and/or technical problem solving related to this process?

Circle One Response: **YES** **NO** **NOT SURE**

Please state your area(s) of interest:

Question #4: What do you like about the OPEN CHANNEL PROJECT, and if you have any, what are your concerns, questions, suggestions, or other comments about it?

Comments:

Thank you for your response

GBBC Board

TIMELINE (SINCE 2013) FOR GBBC TO OBTAIN COMMUNITY INPUT ABOUT THE AGING TIDEGATE

2013 GBBC reached out to Island Co Public Works and Whidbey Island Conservation District for assistance; WICD drafted a preliminary alternatives report

2014 GBBC discussed the WICD report, established the Outfall Committee and designed the first community survey

2015 First Community Survey identified goals and strategies preferred by community members:

GOALS –

Highest priorities: retain private ownership of road, boat ramp and parking; reduce maintenance costs and leverage funding from other sources.

Medium priorities: improve ecological conditions; maintain storm water capacity, beach access and boat launch/parking

STRATEGIES –

Short Term strategies: do annual maintenance and research legal responsibilities

Long Term strategies: explore and pursue grants and partnerships to determine feasibility of restoring tidal exchange to GBBC lagoon

2016 1st Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant 2016-2017 researched and developed restoration concepts

2017 Second Community Survey confirmed community support to continue pursuing open channel option

SUPPORT: 75% support to continue developing open channel design concept

CONCERNS: maintenance to keep channel open, beach access for walking and NO to public access

2018 2nd Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant 2018-2019 continued technical research, documented necessary permits, and refined site plan for open channel design

2019 Third Community Survey will seek input from community regarding pursuit of FINAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION GRANTS for OPEN CHANNEL PROJECT

For all project background and reports, see: <https://www.whidbeycd.org/greenbank-marsh-overview.html>