

## GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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## DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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## Office of the Commissioner

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## DPNR TO HOST GREAT POND RESTORATION ACTION PLAN CHARRETTE

Commissioner Jean-Pierre L. Oriol of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources invites the St Croix community to participate in the **Great Pond Restoration Action Plan Charrette** to be held on Thursday, March  $21^{\rm st}$  from 3:30-8:30pm and again on Friday, March  $22^{\rm nd}$  at 10am-3pm at the UVI Medical Simulation Center - Dining Room on St Croix.

The 5-hour workshop hosted by DPNR's Coastal Zone Management division and Tysam Tech, LLC will offer interactive discussions over several designs for small, medium, and large-scale projects with a goal to restore Great Pond lagoon.

"The Department recognizes the habitat degradation that has occurred at Great Pond lagoon over the past several years, limiting its function and health as a fishery. Join us at the **Great Pond Restoration Action Plan Charette** where we will deliberate on the future of Great Pond. Your voice matters! We will discuss restoration options, weigh their benefits and costs, and envision a thriving Great Pond lagoon. Together, we can safeguard this precious ecosystem and create a sustainable legacy for generations to come," commented Commissioner Oriol.

A recording of the recent kickoff meeting is available to view for project background on DPNR's Facebook page at <u>Great Pond Informational Meeting</u>. Project and design information will be available to the public for additional review and comment after the events on March 21st and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

For further information or questions, contact Hilary Lohmann, Coastal Resilience Coordinator at <a href="mailto:hilary.lohmann@dpnr.vi.gov">hilary.lohmann@dpnr.vi.gov</a>.