

# The Virgin Islands Consortium

## Town Halls to Discuss Impact of Stormwater Runoff on Local Communities Set for Wednesday and Thursday

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Watershed Consulting is inviting the community to participate in a series of virtual town hall meetings being held territory-wide to provide individuals and businesses an opportunity to weigh in on discussions regarding the impact of stormwater runoff and flooding on local communities.

Town hall schedule:

**St. Croix - Wednesday, April 7, 2021 11am-12pm**

Business community, register [here](#).

Residential Community, register [here](#).

**St. Thomas - Thursday, April 8, 2021 11am -12pm**

Business community, register [here](#).

Residential community, register [here](#).

The V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) has obtained funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to assess eight high priority watersheds of concern. On St. Thomas, the specific watersheds that we will be looking at include the Bolongo, Charlotte Amalie and the Airport watersheds, according to the release. On St. Croix, these include the Salt River Bay, Hovensa, Bethlehem, Diamond and Long Point Bay watersheds.

The watersheds of focus encompass areas with critical infrastructure including the airport and major roadways; commercial, government and residential investments; and agricultural activity.

The insight and recommendations obtained from these discussions will be used to identify watershed-specific issues, identify attainable solutions to reduce water quality degradation, improve flood resiliency, and develop comprehensive watershed management plans, stated the release. These plans will be used to inform local agencies and institutions regarding site-specific options for flood reduction and water quality improvement.

According to the release, watersheds were selected as high priority based on their importance to Virgin Islanders as places where structural and natural assets have been affected by changes to land cover and associated flooding risks. DPNR has engaged the services of the Watershed Consulting Associates, LLC in the assessment and creation of the Watershed Management Plans.

The meetings are open to the public and will be held electronically via Zoom. To request access to this electronic meeting, register at the links above prior to the meeting and connection information will be provided to you by email. If you would like to watch the proceedings, but not participate, you can connect to our Facebook.com/stormwaterUSVI page. The livestream of the meetings will begin a few minutes prior to scheduled times.