Shoreline Master Program Update: Visioning

What is Visioning?
Why is it important?
What is the current vision?
How will we develop a vision?
What’s included in vision statements?
What’s next?
What is visioning?

- In the simplest terms, a vision is a consensus image of what a community seeks to become.
- As a formal policy statement, a vision serves as both a blueprint for future direction and a yardstick against which to measure current decisions and actions.
- How should San Juan County’s shorelines look and function over the long-term?
- How should we balance the development of water-oriented uses, private property rights, environmental protection, and public access?
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Why is it important?

- For the SMP Update it describes what the community wants for its shorelines, and it serves as the foundation for any new policies or regulations.
- Any new regulations or policies should be connected to the vision where possible; the vision is what you want and the regulations and policies are how you achieve the vision.
Neighborhoods, hamlets, villages and towns are clearly defined so as to conserve agricultural, forest, mineral resource and environmentally sensitive lands. These areas provide for commerce and community activities without losing their small scale and attractive island ambiance. There is housing for people of all incomes. The unique character of our shorelines is protected by encouraging uses which maintain or enhance the quality of the shoreline environment. Through innovative land use strategies, our citizens and institutions balance and protect private property rights, public rights, and our natural environment.
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How will we develop a vision?

Group discussions

- Go to the table that matches your agenda number
- What do you want the shoreline to look like in 25 years?
- On your own: Write down affirmative statements that describe your vision
- With your group: Share and discuss your statements (appoint a group scribe)
- Straw poll: place dots on top 5 statements
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What’s included in vision statements?

- Relatively short, positive, present tense statements that address desired future conditions
- Consider statements that address water-oriented uses, private property rights, environmental protection and restoration, public access

Example statements

- There is more public access to shorelines
- Incentives are provided to property owners for restoration
- Forage fish spawning beaches are preserved
- Setbacks are based on actual property conditions
- Property owners enjoy, maintain, and enhance their land
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Break to small groups
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