



Vashon-Maury Community Council
Many Voices. Collective Action. Stronger Together.

Vashon-Maury Community Council President's Report (10-2-2025) JC Graham, PhD (Beginning of Month 7)

An Invitation

With the U.S. federal government in shutdown as I write this, I am especially glad to tell you that our local direct democracy remains up and running. That said (as described in this month's *Council Invitation Letter*), V-MCC won't be truly stable until we have a core group of 25–30 Council members who commit to attending *every monthly meeting*. That number lets us reliably meet our quorum of 25 voting members so we can conduct business without interruption. Otherwise—if some months we don't have a quorum (as in September)—our progress will be halting at best. I hope you'll help.

If you're willing to be part of this core, here's all it takes:

- Become a voting member if you aren't yet: v-mcc.org/contact
- Attend Council meetings consistently: *third Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m.*, usually at the Land Trust Building (check v-mcc.org/event each month for location/Zoom details)

This committed core will keep our local democracy moving forward. For me, it's a sanity-preserving way to engage in politics that's immediately empowering, connecting, and meaningful. I hope you'll join us.

Your steady presence is the most valuable contribution you can make right now.

If you'd like to talk, share your story, offer feedback, or learn more about what's happening at [V-MCC](https://v-mcc.org), you can reach me at President.v-mcc@proton.me. Or send general inquiries to info@v-mcc.org.

Next Council Meeting

Our next V-MCC Council meeting is Thursday, November 20, 2025, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
(See v-mcc.org/event) Meetings are hybrid; Zoom details are posted with each agenda.

V-MCC Key Accomplishments (September 2025):

- Your new Board of Directors hosted our first *Special Meeting of Council Members* on September 3.
- As a result, we were able, in a timely manner, to send King County Councilwoman Mosqueda our proposed amendments to the *King County Strategic Climate Action Plan*.
- At the September 18 Council meeting, we were joined by five guests from King County—Sergeant Theresa Schrimpsner and Major Koby Hammil (Sheriff's Office), Director Leon Richardson and Bong StoDomingo (Department of Local Services), and John Vander Sluis (Roads)—who gave an update on safety on Vashon roads and answered questions. The video recording of it is here: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=SvmjNYo7l1g&pp=0gcJCRsBo7VqN5tD>.

- That recording was made possible by V-MCC's acquisition of a new camera and tripod, thanks to an anonymous contributor and to our capable web administrator and video lead Nicole Erin Áine.
- The *Communications Committee of the Board*, under the leadership of Jen Hrachovec, has continued to make great progress in optimizing the membership-joining process, V-MCC website, and email mailing list. This included turning on *comments* for all articles on the website.
- We have begun to post public service announcements on social media, thanks primarily to stellar volunteer Debby Jackson. The V-MCC social media sites are:
 - Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/VashonMauryCommunityCouncil/>
 - Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/v-mcc.bsky.social>
- President JC Graham has continued keeping office hours (on most second, fourth, and fifth Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m.). *See below*.
- Also, JC has continued publishing commentaries in the *Vashon-Maury Island Beachcomber*. You can read the first commentary here: [Strengthening Democracy in an Age of Disruption](#), the second one here: [A Call to Local Democracy](#), the third one here: [Building Abundance Together](#), and a fourth—*The Everyday Power of Solidarity*—is published in the October 2, 2025 edition.

Vashon-Maury Island Infrastructure

If you would be interested in joining a discussion of island infrastructure (*see list below*), and how our island's independence, resilience, and adaptation can be promoted through strengthening it, please contact JC Graham at President.v-mcc@proton.me.

Looking Forward

Our *Annual Meeting* will be held the night of November 20, at which we will approve the 2026 V-MCC Budget, and vote on members of the Board of Directors. Details will be forthcoming. If you can make it, we will appreciate your participation.

We are continuing to explore additional forms of community engagement—including more roundtables, listening sessions, open houses, and issues briefings. Some events are in the works. If you have ideas for how we can better reach, involve, inform, and mobilize the community to address our most pressing needs, we'd love to hear from you! General input and requests can be sent to info@v-mcc.org.

Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive, more resilient Vashon-Maury Island.

Yours in service, JC Graham

President's Office Hours (for the remainder of 2025), the following Thursday nights through the end of the year, 7:00-9:00 p.m.:

- October 9th
- October 30th
- November 13th
- December 11th

In-Person in the Heron Room of the Land Trust Building (10014 SW Bank Rd., Vashon, Washington)
On Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86190763305?pwd=sq0NL91QocoJCtdr59ojSVc57VNjOp.1> (*new link*).

My V-MCC Stabilization and Transition Plan (As approved by the Board, 5-1-2025)

Note: *These steps are presented sequentially, but may to some extent be engaged in concurrently:*

1. Emergency stabilization (30-60 days) - *Completed*
 2. Documentation of critical functions, procedures, and knowledge - *Largely completed*
 3. Targeted recruitment for essential roles (Directors and other Volunteers) - *Ramping up*
 4. Development of a collaborative transition plan - *In progress*
 5. Gradual restoration and expansion of community engagement functions - *In progress*
 6. Organizational streamlining, strengthening, and structural development - *Ongoing*
 7. Return to regular operations - primarily Community Council meetings - with increased trust and support from the community - *Monthly Council meetings are underway as of July 2025.*
- As described above, ongoing support by a core group of Council members regularly attending Council meetings is a critical organizational need at this time.*

My Long-Term Objectives as V-MCC President:

To support a strong V-MCC, I am committed to prioritizing the following:

- **Full and Effective Board:** A complete 12-member Board of Directors that is welcoming, transparent, accountable, and responsive.
- **Orderly Procedures:** Adherence to V-MCC Bylaws, Standing Rules, State Laws, and Democratic Rules of Order.
- **Community Engagement:** Active liaisons with all community sectors and energized participation by islanders from diverse backgrounds.
- **Regular Meetings:** Civil, amicable, smoothly-run meetings providing a forum for islanders to engage in democratic participation and voice their concerns.
- **Addressing Concerns:** Effectively addressing islanders' concerns and advocating for our interests at local, county, and state levels.



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V-MCC Vashon-Maury Island Infrastructure Categories

1. Energy Systems and Independence

How Vashon-Maury generates, delivers, stores, and manages energy to support daily life and resilience.

2. Water Management

Ensuring safe, reliable, and sustainable water supply, wastewater treatment, and conservation for the island community.

3. Transportation and Mobility

Moving people and goods efficiently and safely, connecting the island internally and to the mainland.

4. Communication Networks

Providing reliable digital and voice connectivity for households, businesses, and emergency response.

5. Waste Management

Managing solid, recyclable, and hazardous waste to protect public health and the environment.

6. Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Services

Building community readiness and coordinated response for natural and human-caused emergencies.

7. Housing and Sustainable Development

Expanding access to affordable, resilient, and environmentally responsible housing for all residents.

8. Public Facilities

Maintaining essential spaces for education, health, community gathering, and civic engagement.

9. Environmental Conservation and Climate Resilience

Protecting natural resources and adapting to environmental changes to ensure long-term island vitality.

10. Food Security and Local Agriculture

Supporting local food production, distribution, and access to ensure a healthy, resilient food system.

11. Public Safety Infrastructure

Providing facilities and improvements to protect residents from crime, fire, and other hazards.

12. Recreational and Cultural Infrastructure

Offering spaces and venues for recreation, arts, culture, and community well-being.

13. Technology and Smart Infrastructure

Leveraging technology to monitor, manage, and improve infrastructure performance and public safety.

14. Participatory Governance and Community Engagement

Ensuring transparent, inclusive, and accountable decision-making through active community involvement.