

Island Plan – Natural Environment – Minimum Viable Areas Group  
October 24, 2007 noon, MVC offices

Present: Tom Chase, Matt Pelikan, Debra Swanson, Mark London, Chris Seidel, Jo-Ann Taylor, Dick Johnson

Perspective with Island Plan Mark London began by putting the Minimum Viable Areas into the perspective of the Island Plan, noting that the purpose of the MVA's is to set up areas to protect and to coordinate with the development group to pick out where development should go; to make sure to protect what's important as we decide where to develop; to better articulate what needs to be protected or undeveloped; Minimum Viable Areas is a foundation that needs to be in place, along with the neighborhoods scenario, as a basis for figuring out where development should go; hopefully by spring the development group will be preparing results, so it would be good to have preliminary results for MVA's in January

Availability of participants There was discussion of availability and desired pace of working on this. Most preferred to get working sooner rather than later, with various estimates of availability from several hours to several days per week, at least for the near future. Chris estimated that the GIS work could be done in December, so if the group can refine its needs in November, that would work out.

Response to proposed approach of calculating MVA's based on a number of numeric assumptions and using the needs of the most area-demanding species to estimate the number for each ecosystem

- Advantages were cited for the calculation approach as identified in the draft; the approach emphasizes restoration over protection.
- Advantages of a map-based approach were also noted; the focus could be on identifying important connections and other practical on-the-ground facets such as feasibility.
- It was reiterated that the basic premise for defining MVA's is that the ecosystem in question must remain functional, so that must be the basis of whatever methods are used to define the areas. It was also noted that the MVA's do not define areas of development vs. no development but rather they would be multi-use areas targeted for native landscaping and other techniques to maintain the functionality of the ecosystem in question.
- All favored using Biophysical Land Units (BLU's) in the process.

### Approach selected

- It was determined to use a 2-prong approach that would estimate the MVA's by calculation and simultaneously use a map-based approach to estimate the MVA's.
- The first mapping trial will look at mesic woodlands. Each of the participants will take home a map to separately work on, being sure to write down what criteria were used (e.g. housing density, etc.), so that the criteria can then be used to make map layers. The maps will be compared and reviewed at the next meeting.

### Other

Matt Pelikan agreed to chair the group.

### Next Meeting

- Wednesday, October 31, 2007, 12 – 1:30 at MVC

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40.

Notes prepared by Jo-Ann Taylor