

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Kiawah Island Municipal Center**  
**Council Chambers**  
**January 6, 2013; 3:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

- I. **Call to Order:** *Mr. Labriola called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.*
- II. **FOIA:** Notice of this meeting has been published, and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Kiawah Island.

III. **Roll Call:**

Present:                    John D. Labriola, Chairman  
                                 David Elliott  
                                 Jim Chitwood  
                                 John Wright  
                                 Dave Achey, KICA  
                                 Liz King, KIGR  
                                 Justin Core  
                                 Jim Jordan, TOKI  
                                 Aaron Given, TOKI  
                                 Tumiko Rucker, TOKI Administrator

Absent:                    William Stewart  
                                 Marilyn Olson  
                                 Amanda Mole  
                                 Liz King, KIGR  
                                 Leila Gable, KICA  
                                 Jack Kotz, KINHC

Also Present                Mayor Charles R. Lipuma  
                                 Trey Hair, Coastal Science and Engineering  
                                 Steven Traynum, Coastal Science and Engineering

IV. **Approval of Minutes:**

- A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2013

*Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2013 and September 23, 2013 Environmental Committee meetings. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stewart and was unanimously approved as amended.*

**V. Old Business**

**A. Tallow Tree Control Program Update**

Mr. Jordan updated the Committee on the Tallow Tree Control Program by stating that the Town had received the Kiawah Partners contribution to the project and that he was still pleased with the outcome of the project. Mr. Achey, with the Community Association agreed that he too was pleased with the work that the contractor did for him.

**VI. New Business**

**A. Review East End Beach Erosion Report from Coastal Science and Engineering**

Steven Traynum with Coastal Science and Engineering (CSE) stated that he had been the project manager for monitoring the Town's beaches for many years and introduced Mr. Hair the CAD specialist for CSE.

Mr. Traynum stated that CSE was asked to review the beach condition along the Ocean Course and lagoon to evaluate impacts of the lagoon flushing channel. He explained to Committee the history of the inlet after the 2006 project and the dynamic movement of the channel. Mr. Traynum stated that he was asked to provide a recommendation of alternatives to deal with the erosion problems of the dry beach.

Mr. Traynum discussed the three alternatives for mitigation and recommendations.

***Alternative 1 — Do Nothing***

The Do-Nothing alternative allows the channel to evolve naturally without additional consideration. (The Town continues annual monitoring efforts each monitoring report will discuss changes in channel morphology and potential impacts to the beach and Ocean Course) There are no projected costs to this alternative and continued annual monitoring of the beach with a similar scope to the present monitoring efforts should be considered.

***Alternative 2 – Small-Scale Inlet Realignment***

This alternative involves applying for a permit to relocate the channel in the near future with minimal equipment and material. The project would be similar to the 2006 project in nature, however, due to the remaining nourishment berm and overall health of the beach fronting the Ocean Course, the volume of material moved would be limited to that necessary to open a new channel and close the existing channel (eliminating the "restoration" component of the earlier project). This alternative would likely involve moving 25,000-50,000 cubic yards of material (not all of which would be hauled; some would simply be pushed by bulldozers) and would require ten to fourteen days to complete. A potential advantage of this alternative is that it minimizes

the impacts to the beach and critical habitat by reducing the amount of equipment needed and sand moved. A potential disadvantage is that minimizing the amount of sand leaves the opportunity for a breach of the closure dike (or existing berm), which may place the channel closer to its current position than desired. The natural tendency of the channel is to migrate to the west, so there is potential for another project in the future. CSE anticipates that a project in line with Alternative 2 would last a minimum of 3-4 years. A rough cost estimate for permitting, construction, and construction administration of a project under Alternative 1 is (-) \$150,000 ± \$50,000.

### ***Alternative 3 – Large-scale Project when Erosion Reaches Critical Point***

This alternative involves waiting until the channel migrates landward to the point where erosion begins to threaten infrastructure (including the Ocean Course) and then performing a restoration project similar in nature and scope to the 2006 project. This alternative would require mobilization of several pieces of heavy equipment and movement of -100,000-300,000 cubic yards of sand, depending on the nature of the erosion affecting the area. This type of project would create a greater impact to the existing habitat, and the created channel would be susceptible to the same migration as Alternative 2, though there would be less of a chance for a breach to develop at the current channel location due to a higher constructed berm. Construction would likely require two months to complete a project of this scope. A rough cost estimate for permitting, construction, and construction administration of a project under Alternative 3 is (-) \$2,000,000 ± \$500,000.

Mr. Traynum stated that while a sufficient buffer remains in front of the Ocean Course, if erosion continues and becomes a threat to infrastructure, Alternative 1 would likely delay project implementation due to the lag time in submitting a permit application and obtaining a permit which would be good for five years. He stated that the application would be submitted with a set of parameters and environmental restrictions in place within a certain area. The Town should anticipate a minimum of one year to obtain a permit for a project in line with Alternative 2. CSE recommended the Town set up an informal meeting with environmental agencies to discuss the current situation, expected future changes, and alternatives. He noted that in their experience, coordinating with environmental agencies early in the design and permitting stages expedites review and reduces push - back during permitting.

Committee members engaged in an in-depth discussion of the progressive photos of the effect area and alternatives Mr. Traynum and Mr. Hair presented. Members agreed to make the a recommendation to Town Council to move forward with the submittal of permits in consideration that they may take nine to eighteen months to obtain. The permits would be good for five years, and do not require that the works is done. Mr. Traynum stated that the area could be monitored during that time. Committee member discussed the cost of approximately \$25,000 for the permit and the possibility of the additional expenditure of additional monitoring of the bird habitat. Mrs. Rucker advised members that potential beach projects had been included in

this year's Capital Budget.

The Environmental Committee agreed by vote to recommend to Town Council Alternative 2 and to proceed with preliminary discussion with representative of the required agencies for the permitting process.

#### **B. Island Wide Grand Tree Survey**

Mrs. Rucker stated that the Island Wide Grand Tree Survey was a product of the Comprehensive Emergency Preparedness Sub-committee. She stated that in the event of a disaster and recovery, the question was raised if the Town had a map that identified of all the grand trees on the Island. Mrs. Rucker stated that she contacted Ms. Mole with the ARB and they have agreed to identify any grand trees if they are known to be on a lot as it is being developed. She noted that the ARB does have all the data on the location of some of the trees but not all of them. Mrs. Rucker stated that the ARB agreed that it would be a great project if there was an intern or group to take it on due to the amount of hours that would be required to complete it.

Mrs. Rucker stated that the concept was brought forward to the Environmental Committee as a recommendation from the sub-committee to discuss if the members would support the project and fund the procurement of a group to complete it in a joint project with the ARB.

Committee members discussed the requirements for a tree to be considered a grand tree, protection of these trees and the need for the survey project. Mr. Chitwood noted that converting the information that the ARB had would be a good start and suggested obtaining the possible cost of the additional expenses that would be incurred. Committee members further discussed the need for a mapping of the trees and alternatives available. Members agreed that locating the grand trees would provide for the historic preservation, prevent their destruction in the event of disaster recovery work and also provide a way to monitor them for the future preservation and self-keeping.

#### **C. CITES Endangered Classification, Special Achievement Award - Terrapin Nesting Project**

Mrs. Rucker stated that through the Town's participation with the Terrapin preservation projects with school groups and the By Catch Reduction devices the Town received a Special Achievement Award to acknowledge the Committee's support in in all those efforts

### **VII. Reports:**

#### **A. Town of Kiawah Island Wildlife Department – Jim Jordan/Aaron Given**

Mr. Jordan and Mr. Given discussed their report for the January meeting:

##### **2013 Predator GPS Project**

- Currently monitoring 1bobcat (450)

- Collar 300 and 750's collar was dropped off and recovered
- Collar 700's collar was dropped off, not recovered yet
- Collar 850's collar has stopped working, trying to locate
- Collar 900's collar has stopped working, trying to locate
- Coyote Collar 100 has stopped working, trying to locate
- Sent 7 collars back for refurbishment
- Plan to start trapping in mid-January, 6 bobcat collars and 2 coyote collars to deploy

Mr. Labriola noted that coyotes were big news lately by the story that was published in the Post and Courier about Sullivan's Island and asked Mr. Jordan if the story was an overreaction. Mr. Jordan responded by stating the he did not know how many coyotes where located on the Island but did feel that they were overreacting.

#### **Aerial Photography**

- Will be flown by Kucera International during January-February 2014
- Replication of 2010 photography

#### **Sea Island Christmas Bird Count**

- Conducted January 3, 2014
- 2nd official year
- 49 volunteers participated
- Counted birds within a 15-mile diameter circle including Johns, Wadmalaw, Seabrook, Kiawah Islands
- Notable birds: White Pelican, American Wigeon, Vesper Sparrow, Painted Bunting

#### **B. Kiawah Island Community Association Land & Lakes Management – Norm Shea**

Mr. Achey stated that they were getting started with a new year and new budget. Mr. Labriola commented that he felt the Island looked beautiful.

#### **C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort – Liz King**

Ms. King noted that having been busy with the holidays and a wonderfully successful marathon, she was beginning the new year.

#### **D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board – Amanda Mole**

No report

#### **E. Environmental Science Committee – Jack Kotz**

Mr. Core stated that the main objective of the Environmental Science Committee last year was to review the 1975 Environmental Report of the Island. He stated that all the summaries of all the sections had been completed in a rough draft form. Mr. Core stated that he hoped the final draft would be completed after the Committee meets later in the month. He indicated that draft would give the Committee an idea of areas that they would like to explore as future research

projects.

**VIII. Correspondence:**

None

**IX. Citizen Comments:**

None

**X. Committee Member Comments:**

Mr. Elliott stated that after visiting Little St. Simmons Island who has a very intense nature conservation program, he passed along to people on Kiawah involved conservation, the invitation to participate in an exchange program of sorts. He stated that we visit Little St. Simmons Island and they visit Kiawah for the exchange of information and encouraged interested individuals to participate.

Mr. Elliott commented on the coyote story on Sullivan's Island and noted that he had been working to get an article published on the overall conservation efforts on Kiawah. He stated that a secondary article had been written about Kiawah that was positive, but not what he was hoping for.

Mr. Elliott updated the Committee stating that all speakers that attended the Catesby event sponsored by ATAX funding last year wrote chapters in a book that will be published by the University of GA press hopefully later this year and the Town of Kiawah Island will be listed as an encourager.

**XI. Adjournment:**

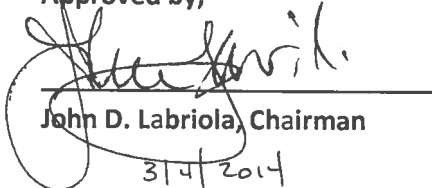
*The meeting adjourned at 4:14 pm.*

Submitted by,



Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,



3/4/2014

John D. Labriola, Chairman