

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Kiawah Island Municipal Center**  
**Council Chambers**  
**February 17, 2015 2:00 PM**

**Minutes**

- I. **Call to Order:** *Mrs. Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:00 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:	Mary Johnson
	David Elliott
	Jim Chitwood
	Joe Pezzullo
	Jim Sullivan
	Robert Simmons
	Jane Ellis
	Lynette Schroeder
	Sandra Williams
	John Leffler
	Robert Simmons
ARB:	Amanda Mole
KICA:	Matt Hill
KIGR:	Liz King
KINHC:	Jack Kotz
	Justin Core
TOKI:	Jim Jordan
	Aaron Given
	Tumiko Rucker
Absent:	Marilyn Olson
	Dave Achey

IV. **Approval of Minutes:**

- A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2014

*Mr. Kotz made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2014 Environmental Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jordan and was unanimously approved*

*as amended.*

Mr. Robert Simmons indicated that he made a request to be a member of the Committee but did not see his name of the membership list and not called on the roll. Both Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Reynolds apologized for the oversight and would make the correction.

**V. Old Business**

None

**VI. New Business**

**A. Review Environmental Committee Charter/Membership List**

Mrs. Johnson called attention to the Environmental Committee Charter. She indicated that the charter had been revised by raising the number of members from fifteen to eighteen to accommodate the new members. She also noted that there had been discussion as to whether the Town's Biologists should be considered members since they are employees. The decision was made to leave them as Committee members. Mrs. Johnson requested that members review the document at home and to contact her if there were any questions.

**B. Coastal Science & Engineering Presentation**

1) Dr. Timothy W. Kana, PhD, PG Biography

Mr. Steven Traynum with Coastal Science & Engineering (CSE), made a presentation to explain the East End Beach Renourishment Project. He started with a brief background of CSE and the work they do in many of the local coastal communities and the previous work done on the Island in 2006. He noted that CSE has been monitoring the beach on Kiawah since that time.

Mr. Traynum began the presentation with a description of *Inlet Shoal Bypassing* as the episodic release of sand bars from ebb tidal deltas and subsequent onshore migration and attachment to the down coast shoreline. He indicated that *Shoal Bypassing* is the source of the sand that that has been building Kiawah beaches for several thousands of years.

Mr. Traynum gave a background of the events of channel migration and erosion near the Ocean Course Clubhouse that contributed to the rebuilding and re-nourishment project having to be done in 2006. He then continued an in-depth discussion of the events that followed leading to the current erosion issue near the Ocean Course Clubhouse. Mr. Traynum explained the process that will have to follow in obtaining the required permits and the monitoring, surveys, and impact studies that the Town will have to do during and after the re-nourishment project is completed.

Mr. Traynum responded to Committee Members/Public questions and concerns. Ms. King, with the Kiawah Island Golf Resort, requested that with the rate of erosion, the Town initiate their prerogative to issue Emergency Orders to allow for the sandbagging to protect portions of the Ocean Course. Mayor Lipuma indicated that Emergency Orders

were issued in 2006 and the Town would look into requirement for such an order is issued.

2) Benthic Communities Macro-Invertebrate Study

**VII. Reports:**

**A. Town of Kiawah Island Wildlife Department**

Mr. Jordan reviewed his report;

**2015 Predator GPS Project**

- Trapping to begin February 23
- 6 Bobcat collars to deploy
- 2 Coyote collars to deploy

**Bobcat Articles and Video**

- SC Wildlife Magazine – Sept/Oct Issue
- National Geographic “Urban Jungle” – “Suburbia” episode
- National Geographic “United States of Animals” – Spring 2015

**Deer Spotlight Surveys**

- Will be conducted February 17-18

**East End Beach Erosion Timeline**

- Permit application submitted on May 30, 2014
- Comments received July 23, 2014
- Responded to comments on August 14, 2014
- Additional comments received from NMFS on September 2, 2014
- Responded on September 3, 2014
- State Permit Received December 10, 2014
- Requested one-time construction window change to May 15 on January 19, 2015
- Revised monitoring plan submitted on February 9, 2015
- All agencies agree to construction window date change on February 12, 2015

**Sea Islands Christmas Bird Count**

- 3rd year count conducted
- Conducted January 5, 2015
- 45 participants
- 41,096 birds counted
- 159 different bird species (highest species count to date)

**Fall Migration Bird Banding (Captain Sam’s spit)**

- August 15 - November 30 (Daily)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	TOTAL
NEW BIRDS	549	910	2,263	4,719	4,529	5,086	18,056
RECAPTURES	83	131	288	879	1,139	1,313	3,833
# OF SPECIES	41	54	66	89	82	80	112 (+ RTHU & BDOW)
# OF NETS	8	10	14	17	20	23	8-23
EFFORT (net-hours)	537.0	1,000.7	2,409.8	7,220.6	9,566.6	11,565.6	32,300.3
CAPTURE RATE (birds/100 net-hours)	117.7	104.0	105.6	77.6	59.2	55.4	67.8
# OF DAYS BANDED	14	27	57	98	98	103	397

**Marsh Sparrow Banding**

- December - April
- Daytime high tides >6.0 ft. (~6 days per month)
  - 2 days in December
  - 4 days in January

- 81 new birds (54 recaptures)
  - Seaside Sparrow 35 (41)
  - Saltmarsh Sparrow 18 (8)
  - Nelson's Sparrow 22 (5)
  - Non-targets: Clapper Rail, Marsh Wren, House Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Palm Warbler, and Savannah Sparrow

**Winter Songbird Banding**

- December – mid-March (2-3 times month)
  - 1 day in January
  - 1 day in February
- 120 new birds (30 recaptures)
  - Mostly Yellow-Rumped Warblers

Mr. Jordan stated that following last year's turtle season, a meeting was held with three representatives from SCDNR (South Carolina Department of Natural Resources) to discuss several issues. The meeting took place on February 11, 2015 and was also attended by Ms. Rucker and Mr. Pezzullo of the Town's Turtle Patrol. He presented a meeting summary and discussed the accompanying attachments; Mammalian Turtle Nest Depredation Rates, Historical Turtle Nest Depredation on Kiawah and a Kiawah Coyote and Turtle Research Summary.

Mr. Jordan's report is attached as part of the minutes.

**B. Kiawah Island Community Association Land & Lakes Management**

Mr. Hill indicated that Mr. Achey, who takes care of Lands and could not attend the meeting, asked that if there were questions or concerns regarding the pruning going on along Flyway Drive, to write them down and he would respond to them.

Mr. Hill reported that Lakes is in the process of doing some pond edge pruning and trimming overgrown vines. He indicated that work was beginning along Flyway Drive, clearing alligator weed and duck weed infestation in some of the ponds along with maintenance pruning.

**C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort**

Ms. King reported that National Geographic has put out a request to collect bobcat video from residents and visitors on the Island. She asked that any responses be forwarded to her.

Ms. King also reported that the Nature Center has added a new alligator enclosure for hatchlings.

**D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board**

No report

## **E. Environmental Science Committee**

Mr. Kotz reported that the Conservancy is sponsoring six studies/ projects ongoing on the Island that include Mr. Jordan's bobcat studies, Mr. Given's bird banding and Marsh Sparrow study, Diamondback Terrapin study and a new alligator study. He stated that the alligator study would be over five years and will study the effects of pollutants on alligator reproduction and water quality in Kiawah's lakes and lagoons.

Mr. Kotz indicated that the Conservancy is always trying to build relationships with local universities, and has been in contact with an oceanographer/geologist who is interested in having a student group work on long term beach profile study on Kiawah.

### **VIII. Correspondence:** None

### **IX. Citizen Comments:**

#### **Mr. Art Zackrison - 537 Oyster Rake**

Mr. Zackrison asked if there had been any additions or changes to the white paper of deterrent recommendations that was written last year for this year's turtle season. Mr. Jordan stated that the Town is working with DNR to develop the best strategies. He indicated that it has been determined that mass deterrents do not work and active deterrents have the potential to work but need further study. He indicated that there have been no changes to come out of the Environmental Committee and they are operating under the same directives and recommendations set forth by the Committee and Town Council.

Mr. Zackrison questioned if it would be up for discussion at the next meeting. Mrs. Johnson indicated she would take it under advisement in preparing agenda items for future meetings.

### **X. Committee Member Comments:**

**David Elliott** stated that the previous chairman, Mr. John Labriola, and the Chairman of the Seabrook Wildlife Subcommittee, Mr. Charlie Moore, discussed that it would be good idea if the two Islands have an interchange of members to alternatively attending both meetings so as to have a free flow of information. Ms. Johnson was in agreement.

### **XI. Adjournment:**

*The meeting adjourned at 3:31 pm.*

Submitted by,



Petra S. Reynolds

Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,



Mary Q. Johnson

Mary Q. Johnson, Chairman

5/5/15

Date