

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Kiawah Island Municipal Center  
Council Chambers  
November 14, 2017; 3:00 PM

**Minutes**

I. **Call to Order:** Mr. Jordan called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

II. **Roll Call:**

**Present:** Jim Jordan, Chairman  
David Elliott  
Jim Chitwood  
Marilyn Olson  
Lynne Sager  
Lynette Schroeder  
John Leffler  
**ARB:** Amanda Mole  
**KICA:** Matt Hill  
**KIGR:** Liz King  
**KINHC:** Justin Core  
**TOKI:** Aaron Given

**Absent:** Jim Sullivan  
Jane Ellis  
Sandra Williams  
Robert Simmons  
**KINHC:** Jack Kotz

**Also Present:** Diana Mezzanotte, Council Liaison

III. **Approval of Minutes:**

A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2017

Approval of the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes was deferred to the next meeting.

IV. **Reports:**

A. Town of Kiawah Island

Mr. Jordan reviewed his report:

- ✚ **Alligator Research**
  - 27 alligators captured – 5 fitted with GPS
    - 13 females (2 GPS)
    - 14 males (3 GPS)
  - 3 GPS tags currently working
  
- ✚ **Bobcat GPS Study**
  - 1 working collar
  - 2018 work to begin in January/February

Mr. Given reviewed his report of fall bird banding:

- ✦ **Fall Migration**
  - August 15 – November 30
  - 6 technicians

Mr. Given reported work on the fall migration at Little Bear was completed with 15 days left at Captain Sam's Spit. At Little Bear a total of 3595 birds were captured, of which 634 were recaptures, representing 75 different species. At Captain Sam's Spit, so far, a total of 4549 birds were caught, of which 965 were recaptures, representing 81 different species. The amount of birds captured in both stations is above average for the year.

Mr. Given stated the Marsh Sparrow banding project will begin the first week in December.

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

Mr. Hill stated last week fish tissue sample were sent to GEL Laboratories to annually monitor the levels of heavy metals and pesticides in the fish caught out of the Island ponds. Mr. Jordan stated that there has never been an issue with samples being over DHEC (Department of Health and Environmental Control) levels and all fish are safe for human consumption.

Mr. Hill stated that, after a year, the ARB (Architectural Review Board) finally approved the new alligator signage and should be installed in the next month. Mr. Jordan added the need for more "do not feed alligators" signage. Conversation included that signage is still being discussed at the ARB level, the majority of the issues were with visitors, the need to have the signage displayed and visible at a number of locations to include the railing on docks, rental villas, docks and porches that overlook water, and bridges that go across ponds.

Members discussed the current protocol for answering alligator calls. All alligator calls, to include the weekends, KICA security will be called with CCSO (Charleston County Sheriff's Office) deputies to assess and control the situation until a biologist or other authorized personnel arrives. Mr. Jordan added that in the revised protocol a feeding call, where there is a possibility of a ticket being written, will be answered first by Town Code Enforcement Officers with CCSO deputies and followed up by call to the Town Biologists.

#### C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort

Ms. King indicated that with the closing of the Straw Market, the Nature Center has had to make room to incorporate their Fitness Room and Art Studio. She stated that some temporary rearranging was done so that no display space or environmental education was lost. She also noted the addition of a new alligator enclosure.

Ms. King gave an update on the grant given by the Committee for the OWLS program. She reported that final session for the semester would be held at St. Johns High School with the students in the program receiving dual credits for the course. She noted the program had great feedback and there is a blog where students, as a part of their assignment, comment on what they enjoyed and are getting out of the program.

Ms. King stated the Discovery Series, which received SATAX funding from the Town, has allowed for the visit from Native American dancers from the Crete Tribe to speak about their culture dances at Night Heron Park.

**D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board**

None

**E. Kiawah Conservancy**

Mr. Core reported the Conservancy was very busy with the annual fundraising ball, which would be taking place at the Sanctuary. He stated that funding had been raised for the purchase of three additional GPS monitors for alligator trapping next year.

Mr. Core stated that along with the work on the conservation of properties from Kiawah Partners there were an additional five properties, two of which were closed on today.

Mr. Core reported on a meeting for the project to obtain two wildlife cameras setup on the Island, one at a fixed location and the other to move to different parts of the Island.

**F. Turtle Patrol**

Ms. Sager indicated that the end of the year dinner had taken place and all of the Turtle Patrol equipment had been moved to the new Town Hall garage. She noted that in March or April a work detail would be scheduled to take inventory and replace any items missing.

Ms. Sager indicated the Committee recommended funding of the dolphin education program beyond the summer months into the fall. She stated that NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) has noted a tremendous drop in the number of dolphins and the amount of feedings that are taking place since the end of the summer. NOAA is studying if this is a normal fall occurrence or if Hurricane Irma did something to change the salinity of the water.

**V. Old Business**

**A. Sea Level Rise**

Mr. Leffler indicated focus of the November and December meetings was the infrastructure of the Island speaking with Will Conner, an Engineer with the Community Association, on the Island's drainage system and road elevations, along with Becky Dennis with the Kiawah Island Utility who spoke on the effect of heavy rain events on the Island's sewerage and water supply. He stated that the December meeting would focus on consolidating and organizing all the information which has been gathered.

**B. Beach Erosion and Projects**

Mr. Jordan reported the work being done by the Town's beach consultant, Coastal Science and Engineering for their annual report had been completed with the final report expected in February of 2018.

Mr. Jordan indicated the first phase of the beach scraping, under the emergency permit, in front of the Ocean Course and Turtle Point Golf Courses, was completed on October 31<sup>st</sup>. A modification to the existing 2015 permit was applied for to complete additional work in the area along Eugenia, Sanctuary and Beach Club. Once the permit is received, the work can be scheduled to be completed between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

### C. Beach Walkover Ordinance

Mr. Jordan stated the Beach Walkover Ordinance, approved by Town Council, has had some modifications since being presented to the Committee. He reviewed the major modification in Section C, which separated boardwalks in disrepair from those that extended onto the beach more than 10 feet allowing a shorter time frame to 30 days for the repair of unsafe boardwalks. He noted the only other change was with boardwalks that terminate landward of the dune, adding the phrases “more than 20 feet landward of the active beach,” “walking in the dunes and causing dune destruction,” and the time frame to complete the work was changed from 120 days to 180 days.

## VI. **New Business**

### A. OCRM Beach Jurisdictional Lines

Mr. Jordan reviewed the process for setting the two lines, the Base lines and Setback lines. They are set by the State every eight to ten years, DHEC-OCRM (Department of Health and Environmental Control-Ocean and Coastal Resource Management) reviews and revises the line where the primary dune is and the setback line is set landward at 40 times the annual erosion rate. These jurisdictional lines were last redrawn in 2009 and redrawn this year with many changes. Due to the many concerns on the changes, the public comment date was extended to April 2018 with the implementation date changed to December 2018.

Committee members reviewed the proposed 2017 setback lines and discussed if any properties on the Island would be effected by the changes, which are reported as developed and undeveloped property that lies seaward of either of these lines becomes subject to regulations and restrictions regarding new construction and reconstruction of existing structures, including pools and decks, on the portion of the property that extends seaward of either line. Mr. Jordan recommended viewing the OCRM page which has a video delineating what can and cannot be done in the setback zone as well as anything seaward of the baseline. He noted the Town is reviewing the OCRM’s proposal in detail and evaluating the methodology and data used to construct the proposed new Base and Setback lines. Once the review is completed, it is anticipated that the Town will prepare and submit a formal response to OCRM regarding the lines established for the Island.

## VII. **Citizen Comments:**

None

## VIII. **Chairman’s Comments:**

None

**IX. Committee Member Comments:**

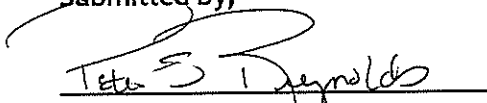
Mrs. Mezzanotte reported on attending a plastics solutions talk sponsored by the SC Aquarium and focused on the Circular Economy Concept, an industrial system that aims for the developing business models in which businesses recycled any waste, mainly plastics, they generate.

Mrs. Mezzanotte reported there will be documentary airing on SCETV on how other communities are addressing Sea Level Rise.

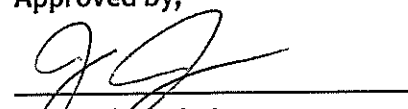
**X. Adjournment:**

*A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting at 4:10pm.*

Submitted by,

  
Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,

  
Jim Jordan, Chairman

1-19-18  
Date