

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
Sea Level Rise Subcommittee
Kiawah Island Municipal Center
Council Chambers
June 16, 2017: 2:00 PM

Meeting Summary

Meeting called to order @ 2:00 p.m.

Attendees: Jim Chitwood
Jack Kotz
John Leffler
Bob Cheney
Dave Elliott
Diana Mezzanotte
Bruce Spicher

Absent: Jim Jordan
Tony Elder
Will Connor
Matt Hill
Lyn Schroeder

Jim Chitwood reviewed highlights of the 2017 City of Folly Beach SLR Adaptation Report. Committee discussed learnings from City of Charleston Planning, Preservation and Sustainability visit and agreed that we would rely on much of the data and assumptions they presented. Like Charleston, Kiawah assumptions & recommendations will need to be reviewed @ set intervals.

John Leffler presented a format for the Committee to use when preparing our SLR Adaptation Recommendation Report. (See attached) The Committee agreed that we would use this format going forward and make revisions when/if needed. We hope to have a report by January 2018.

Bruce Spicher, Floodplain Manager for TOKI, gave a brief explanation of the new FEMA flood maps and regulations. These maps will go into effect in 2018.

Committee agreed that we will need to partner closely with various Kiawah Island entities – KICA, Kiawah Utility, Resort, Conservancy, Partners, ARB, etc. to complete our analysis. Going forward, these partners will be needed to implement recommendations, such as new landscaping/building suggestions or requirements from ARB, revised training for island service providers, etc.

Our World and Naturally Kiawah may be addressing SLR through speakers and articles this fall and next spring. These are separate groups and their timing is not tied to our work progress or necessarily what we plan to address and report.

We wish to take a positive & proactive approach to SLR and realize we may not be able to address all concerns.

Jim Chitwood agreed to write the Introduction to our report. This section will include the purpose of our Committee. Bob Cheney recommended that the Background section include Sea Level Rise basics and what that means globally, regionally and locally. This section will be written by Bob Cheney and John Leffler. Introduction and Background sections will be presented for discussion at our July meeting.

The Committee agreed to ask some of our Kiawah partners to speak at one of our future meetings to help us understand how they are addressing SLR. Two groups mentioned were KICA (Will Conner and Matt Hill) to report on Stormwater and Nuisance Flooding Management and Kiawah Island Utility (Becky Dennis, General Manager) to report on how the utility plans to address SLR.

Diana Mezzanotte agreed to speak with Rusty Lameo to determine town infrastructure responsibilities.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.