

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2011 3:00 P.M.
KIAWAH ISLAND MUNICIPAL CENTER
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

MINUTES

I. Call to Order: Dr. VanDerwerker called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

II. FOIA: Notice of this meeting has been published and posed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Kiawah Island.

III. Roll Call:

Present: **Greg VanDerwerker, Chair**
 David Elliott
 Dale Anderson
 Norm Shea, KICA Lakes
 Dave Achey, KICA Lands
 Jim Jordan, TOKI

Absent: **Jim Chitwood**
 Liz King, KIGR
 Lois Bryant, ARB
 Charles Davis
 Aaron Given, TOKI

Also Present: **Jean DeCiantis, ARB**

IV. Minutes:

A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of August 1, 2011
The minutes of the August 1, 2011 Environmental Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

V. Old Business:

A. Update on Invasive Plant Survey

Dr. VanDerwerker reported that Town Council approved the Invasive Plant Survey up to \$25,000, and Dr. Gramling will begin work once the contract is executed.

B. Wildlife Booklet

Mr. Jordan presented a copy of the draft Wildlife Booklet and commented that the book will be finalized and submitted for printing.

VI. New Business:

A. Reports from TOKI Wildlife Staff

Mr. Jordan provided an update of the bobcat GPS research and stated that 6 bobcats are currently being tracked. He noted that bobcat #650 has not been located in two months. There are currently 2 female bobcats denning, with 3 kittens in each den.

Mr. Jordan provided an update of the bird banding research. He stated that Mr. Given is currently working on a backyard banding project, and has visited 14 houses and completed 14 banding sessions. Mr. Given is also monitoring the bluebird boxes at Night Heron. Fall bird banding will take place from mid-August through October. Mr. Jordan stated that volunteers are needed to assist with the fall bird banding sessions which will be done 4-5 times per week.

Mr. Jordan stated that the College of Charleston's Reptile/Amphibian Study is ongoing. Data is currently being collected and no report is available as of yet.

Mr. Jordan reported that the Town's Wildlife Website received the MASC Municipal Achievement Award on June 18th. He stated that website receives about 4,500 visits per month.

Mr. Jordan stated that alligator surveys were completed on July 25th and 28th. There were 157 alligators sighted on the first night and 149 on the second night. There is an estimated 462 alligators on the Island, and the survey numbers have been relatively stable over the past eight years.

Mr. Jordan reported on recent deer-vehicle collisions on the Island. He stated that there were 2 deer hit, one on July 15th and another on July 28th.

VII. Correspondences

None

VIII. Citizen Comments

None

IX. Committee Member Comments

Turtle Report

Mr. Anderson reported on the beach turtle nesting. He stated that there are currently 246 turtle nests. The hatching rate is around 90% and the emerged rate is around 80%. Mr. Anderson stated that the increased number of ghost crabs on the beach this year have caused some disturbances.

Dr. VanDerwerker noted that the September meeting date is on Labor Day and suggested that the next committee meeting be held in October.

Mr. Jordan stated that the placards have been received for the Native Plant Demonstration Area.

- X. Adjournment:**
The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Submitted by,

Lakesha Y. Shannon, Town Clerk

Approved by,

Greg A. VanDerwerker, Chairman

Date