

**Environmental Committee Meeting
May 4, 2009; 3:00 PM
Kiawah Island Municipal Center
Upstairs Conference Room**

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order:** Mr. McHugh called the meeting to order at 3:00PM.
- 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: Harry McHugh, Chair
Aaron Given, TOKI
David Elliott
Jim Jordan, TOKI
Dave Achey, KICA
Liz King, KIGR
Dale Anderson
Norm Shea, KICA

Also Present: Scott Fister, KIGR
Catherine Wilson, Town Clerk
Tumiko Rucker, Town Administrator

Absent: Jim Chitwood
Lois Bryant, ARB
- IV. Minutes:**
A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2009
Mr. Jordan motioned to approve the minutes of April 6, 2009. Mr. Shea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- V. Old Business:**
A. Green Initiatives
Scott Fister, KIGR
The Greenville was held on April 13, 2009 with great vendor turnout. The race went well and next year the event will be advertised earlier in the year. The vendors will be listed on KIGR's website with links to their businesses. KIGR won a recycling award from DHEC for the SC Smart Business Recycling Program for outstanding performance

and dedication in reducing waste and promoting recycling. This is the second recycling award for KIGR this year.

Liz King, KIGR

Mrs. King stated that she hopes next year's Earth Day festival will be more of a community event. KIGR would like everyone, including the ARB, to get together to provide residents and community better options for sustainability. Next year's event will be the first Saturday after Earth Day.

Mr. McHugh stated that the Beach Club and KDP are not currently recycling and asked if anyone knew of other organizations. Mrs. King stated that she believes that everyone would like to but so far, it has not been feasible. She also suggested tackling one section at a time as to not overwhelm everyone at once. Mr. McHugh asked what the costs were to recycle versus no recycling at the Ocean Course. Mrs. King states that garbage needs to be managed more as recycling increases because garbage pickups can be reduced if more items are being recycled.

David Elliott

Mr. Elliott asked if the weekly yard debris pickup could be used on island rather than hauling it off to the landfill. He suggested exploring alternatives to reuse the yard debris. Mrs. King stated that 90% of KIGR's yard waste does not leave the island. Mr. Elliott stated that he is specifically talking about residential yard debris. Mr. Elliott suggested finding out the tonnage of yard debris that is hauled off. Mr. Achey stated that he will speak to Mr. Lameo about the tonnage of debris.

OCRM 40-Baseline

Mr. McHugh stated that there was an OCRM meeting in April and Tim Kana, on behalf of the Town, made a presentation on different methods to establish baselines. When the meeting began, they were prepared to institute the baselines the next day. As a result of the meeting, they postponed implementation of the lines to allow time for further review. OCRM used data from over 100 years back to establish erosion rates and Dr. Kana argued that there is better data that establishes a more accurate erosion rate for the island. As it stands, OCRM's recommendations went into affect on Sullivan's, Dewees, and Isle of Palms. Mr. McHugh stated that he suspects that OCRM will be involved in a lot of litigation if the baselines do not change.

Mr. Elliott asked how the OCRM proposed lines would affect Captain Sams. Mrs. King stated that she inspected the lines and they did not appear change in that area. Mr. McHugh stated that KDP is proceeding with the installation of the 270' of revetment that OCRM approved. Mrs. Rucker stated that KDP is also appealing the denial of the remainder that was denied. Mrs. King asked if they will be using concrete block. Mr. McHugh stated that they have not presented anything from the Town. Mr. Elliott asked if OCRM was attempting to protect the County Park. Mr. Jordan stated that he is of the opinion that KDP will not build a 270' revetment.

VI. New Business:

None

VII. Committee Member Comments:

David Elliott,

Mr. Elliott asked about the Red Bay Laurel problem and if it has affected any trees on Kiawah Island and if there is a treatment. Mr. Achey stated that there is nothing developed to prevent the destruction and they are predicted it will affect all Red Bays on the east coast. Currently, seed banks of Red Bay Laurels are being created. The Curious Mr. Catesby Film aired several times by ETV and has now aired on over 50% of TV market in the US. ETV would like to make educational product out of the film and distribute to middle and high schools across the county. Federal appropriations have been requested for over \$630,000 to produce the film for every school in the country.

Norm Shea, KICA Lakes Management

Mr. Shea stated that KICA is currently looking for osprey nests on the island and asked members to contact them if any nests are spotted. There are currently 17 documented osprey nests on the island. The Lakes Department applied an herbicide application on Bufflehead pond to reduce the volume of widgeongrass. The Lakes Department staff assisted the Sea Island Habitat for Humanity Wetland Planting Project that involved the planting of a wetland buffer around a portion of a retention pond. They continue to work on the pool discharge ordinance. There were no fish kills to report. The month of April was 88% above normal. The year to date rainfall is 20% below normal.

Dale Anderson,

Turtle season has started and there have been no nests identified to date. There was a stranding reported this morning and reported to Art Zachrison, more information to follow. Mr. Anderson stated that he is not trained by DNR to handle turtle strandings and that Mr. Joe Pezzullo and Mr. Art Zachrison are both trained for stranding response.

Dave Achey, KICA Landscape

Reforestation projects for 2009 are working with the Maverick Group that is looking for an opportunity to set a project up at Rhetts Bluff for plantings. They are also working in Glossy Ibis Park and a turf area has been reestablished to prevent children from playing in the street. Eagle Point Landing wildflower plant is doing very well. The land and lakes mgmt committee is reviewing increasing plantings atto decrease the amount of people parking on the right of way. The Tallow Tree patrol will begin again near the end of the month. Plant rescue projects are currently slow because of lack of development. The last rescue was at 527 Bufflehead and they were able to remove several saw palms for replanting. They are participating in a Stewards Training Program with the National Wildlife Federation to obtain points and keep the membership. Attending southeast exotic plant symposium in Georgetown where they will learn plant alternatives and ways to remove non-native and invasive species on the island. Mr. Anderson asked if KICA will receive points by the Town obtaining a corporate membership with NWF.

Jim Jordan,

Mr. Jordan presented the Wildlife Report for April 6-May 4. The Town received a call on May 2 that a bobcat kitten was picked up at Surfsong and dropped off at the security gate. Mr. Fister, KIGR, returned the animal to the original location. Piping Plover surveys have been completed for this season and will resume August 1, 2009. There were 10 total surveys completed in March and April. These surveys will continue through 2012 and hopefully beyond that as they provide very valuable data to the Island. There have been 10 bobcats placed on bobcats. Two dens have been found with a total of 5 kittens. All kittens and adults captured have been pit tagged for future data. Signage has been placed around the east end beach bird nesting area. The primary nesters in this area are Wilson's Plovers, Oystercatchers, and Least Terns. Wilson Plover surveys will be conducted in May as part of a statewide survey. Dr. Chris Hill from Coastal Carolina visited the island on April 30 to conduct a feasibility of a Least Tern Chick telemetry study. This study, if conducted, will be used to monitor chick survival rates between beach nesting and gravel rooftops. Bird monitoring program equipment has been received and there are currently 220 point count locations being surveyed as preparation.

Mr. McHugh asked if the traps for bobcat trapping would continue to be the leg traps. Mr. Jordan stated that there have been increased signage in the areas with the traps and the foothold traps are more effective.

Mr. Elliott asked if the Piping Plover count of 72 birds has had any recognized banded birds. Mr. Jordan stated that the big number counts were not banded and they rarely are during the spring. They have seen a number of Great Lakes birds. Mr. Elliott asked if they are currently on the endangered list. Mr. Jordan replied that they remain on the endangered list.

Mrs. King asked the estimated annual number of bobcat dens on the island. Mr. Jordan stated that there are 7-8 adult females and each one will den. He estimated 5-7 dens per year. They have found 4-5 dens per year. The female bobcats den early in April and the latest seasonal denning occurred July 4. Mr. Jordan stated that bobcats have not reused the previous dens.

Liz King,

KIGR created a new wildlife page called "Wildlife as We See It." This list is a chronological list of sightings on the Island; both KIGR and resident sightings. Mrs. King asked for pictures for use on the sight as they occur during the year. She asked if residents should be educated about snake guards on bluebird boxes. Mr. Anderson stated that Mrs. King should let Bill and Marylin Blizard involved because they have boxes with snake guards attached. Mr. Given stated that the boxes are more attractive to birds than a natural cavity and that can produce a negative population affect because they are not guarded as well as natural. Mrs. King stated that this month's Conservancy Matters, Karl Olan from Spring Island, will give a talk on native vegetation landscaping. This summer, the Turtle Talk and Weekly Summer Series will be combined as one. Dr. Mike Dorcas from Davidson College will return to sample diamondback terrapins in the salt

marsh. He will also give a talk on the terrapins and his concern on the decline in population on the west end of the island. Mr. Fister stated that he noticed a diamondback turtle nesting sign on the east end.

Tumiko Rucker,

Mrs. Rucker requested volunteers from the committee that would review the brochures and help circulate information to the committee. The first round will go out early next week for editing. The Town will host a public information meeting Wednesday May 20 and June 17 from 1-3 in the afternoon. The Town is in the homestretch for the island wide recycling initiative and is currently working with regimes. Mrs. Rucker stated that the residents are incredibly interested in the recycling and have requested that the Town take over the garbage pickup.

Mrs. Rucker will notify Mr. Achey before the clearing of the Parkway takes place so plant rescue can begin. Mrs. Rucker stated that the estimated completion date for the project is before Labor Day.

Mrs. King stated that the Resort can provide clear bags for recycling. Mrs. King asked about a recycling container in council chambers.

IX. Citizen Comments:

None

X. Adjournment:

Mr. Elliott motioned to adjourn at 4:15pm. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All approved.

Submitted by,

Catherine C. Wilson, Town Clerk

Approved by,

Harry M. McHugh, Chairman

Date