

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2008; 3:00PM
KIAWAH ISLAND MUNICIPAL CENTER
2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
MINUTES**

- I. Call to Order: Mr. Lipuma 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: Charles Lipuma, Chair
Dale Anderson
David Elliott
Jim Chitwood
Liz King, KIGR
Nancy Jackson, ARB
Aaron Given, TOKI

Also Present: Catherine Wilson, Town Clerk
Scott Fister, KIGR
Jillian Cain
Barbara Winslow
Wendy Kulick
Carl Voelker

Absent: Sarah Latshaw, KIGR
Jim Jordan, TOKI
Norm Shea, KICA
Dave Achey, KICA

IV. Environmental Committee Minutes of September 2, 2008

The motion to pass the minutes was not recorded and therefore the information is not available. Mr. Lipuma provided the suggested edits to the minutes. After the changes were made, the minutes were posted as approved and are available in the Town Clerk's office for review.

V. Old Business:

A. Kiawah River Revetment, Dr. Kana's Assessment

Mr. Lipuma stated that he met with Mr. Armand Glassman, Mr. Paul Roberts, Mr. Jim Jordan, Mayor Wert and Mr. Fred Peterson for an onsite inspection of the Kiawah River Erosion. Mr. Lipuma explained that the erosion is very clear and severe. On September 17, 2008 Mr. Lipuma met with Mr. Orban, Mr. Peterson,

Mr. Jordan, and Dr. Tim Kana to discuss Dr. Kana's assessment of the potential impact of the proposed revetment. Dr. Kana advised that the revetment would do no harm to Seabrook or to Captain Sam's Spit. On October 2, 2008 Mr. Lipuma met with Mr. Orban, KDP, and Thomas and Hutton Engineering to review and discuss the bulkhead design. The revetment will be constructed with open blocks. The openings will eventually fill-in with sediment and natural vegetation will grow. Bulkhead material has not been selected at this time. Revetment construction will begin once all permits are in place.

Mrs. King asked if KDP or the Town had any plans to conduct an environmental study on the potential impact the revetment may have on Diamondback Terrapin Nesting areas. Mr. Lipuma stated that no Town study is currently planned. It would not hurt to suggest a study to KDP. Mrs. King stated that as of now, there is not enough information to make an educated guess on the impact and that a baseline study is needed. Mrs. King stated that at this point, the only known fact is that Diamondback Terrapins nest in the area. Mrs. King stated that Mr. Leonard Long had made statements that the terrapins can nest on the hummock islands but Dr. Dorcas believes the hummocks may be too heavily vegetated for nesting. Mrs. King stated that the nesting environment can be modified even if the revetment can not.

Mr. Elliott stated that he is very pleased that the group met with Dr. Kana and asked if the event of a major hurricane was discussed. Mr. Lipuma stated that the potential impacts of a natural disaster can not be predicted and outcomes would be speculative.

Mr. Elliott also suggested that Mr. Jordan examine the potential impact to the Piping Plover habitat.

Mrs. King asked if once KICA is the owner of the revetment project, will they be responsible for any damage sustained in a natural disaster. Mr. Lipuma and Mr. Chitwood stated that KICA is responsible for any KDP project turned over under the covenants.

B. September 10th, 2008 Town Clean Up Results

Mr. Lipuma stated that the Town hosted their quarterly Parkway/Beachwalker Drive Clean-Up day on September 12 from 9am-12pm. Volunteers did a great job and were served lunch.

C. Beach Parking Update

Mr. Lipuma stated that on October 1, 2008 he met with Mr. Orban, Mr. Jordan, two representatives from DNR and a representative from SC Fish and Wildlife to discuss the proposed beach parking lot location. Mr. Lipuma stated that both agencies expressed concerns against the location and expected impact on Least Turn nesting habitat. The Least Turn is on the South Carolina threatened species list. While the final permitting decision rests with OCRM both agencies stated

that they would recommend against permitting the project. Mr. Lipuma stated that the original permit application in March 2000 was denied by OCRM and that the likelihood of the Town receiving approval for the permit is extremely low. In light of this information, Mr. Lipuma instructed Thomas and Hutton to put a hold on the project until further information on alternatives is gathered. Mr. Lipuma recommended working with KIGR on locating 30 spaces at or near the Ocean Course Clubhouse. Mr. Orban and Mr. Lipuma will continue conversations with KIGR and KDP.

VI. New Business:

A. Habitat for Humanity Deconstruction Program-Jillian Cain

Ms. Cain presented the Committee with information on Sea Island Habitat for Humanity's Deconstruction Program. The program allows Habitat to salvage construction materials for resale at the ReStore. The service is offered at no cost and is eligible for tax deductions. Mr. Lipuma asked Ms. Cain to write an article for publishing in Town Notes concerning the deconstruction program. Ms. Cain invited Committee members to share the information with residents and distributed her contact information for further discussion.

B. Environmental Inventory, Kiawah Island-Nancy Jackson

Mrs. Jackson presented the Committee with information on a 1975 Environmental Inventory of flora and fauna on the Island. Mrs. Jackson specifically noted the information on Captain Sam's Spit and how the area has changed over time. Mrs. King explained that this document is compiled of research that was paid for by the Kuwaitis.

VIII. Committee Member Reports:

David Elliott

Mr. Elliott stated that the *Curious Mister Catesby* film continues to gain conservation recognition and will be shown at the Charleston Museum, the Cincinnati Zoo, and the University of South Carolina.

Jim Chitwood

Mr. Chitwood stated that the Bobcat study has been in place for over ten years and that it has been a highlight to see the research unfold into a land management document. Mr. Chitwood stated that the guidelines break the Island into five geographic sections and summarizes bobcat habitat qualities; both positive and negative qualities are detailed. This document will be used to save bobcat habitat into the future.

Dale Anderson

Mr. Anderson stated the year was a banner year for the turtles and that the overall hatch rate was 86.7%. There were 232 nests. The 25% of Turtle Patrol members

were new volunteers and did a great job. The Island had its first leatherback turtle and first recorded two-headed turtle.

Liz King, KIGR

Mrs. King stated that the Resort is preparing for the marathon in December and that it has been certified as a “green” race and featured in the October issue of Runners World Magazine.

Scott Fister, KIGR

Mr. Fister stated that the Resort will begin to recycle shoes; salvaging shoes that can be worn for Soles for Souls, a worldwide organization that redistributes the shoes to poor communities across the world. Mr. Fister also stated that the Resort will attempt to compost all fruits during the marathon. The marathon has adopted a “bring your own bag/bottle” in order to reduce the amount of garbage produced during the event.

Aaron Given, TOKI

Mr. Given reported that there was only one wildlife call and it was for a deceased neonatal dolphin. The Jewels in the Crown series has been finalized and 2600 will be mailed to all R-1 property owners within the month. Copies will also be furnished to other entities on the Island and available for pickup at Town Hall. The Piping Plover surveys averaged 18.7 birds in the month of September. An additional ten Bobcat tracking GPS collars have been ordered at no cost for the Town due to malfunctions on collars received in the previous shipment. Mr. Given stated that he and Mr. Jordan are working on an action plan section for the Bobcat Land Management Guidelines document which will be used by the Nature Conservancy.

Mr. Lipuma

Mr. Lipuma stated that the Committee should be very proud of the Jewels in the Crown booklet. Mr. Lipuma asked that Mr. Given put the document online, if possible.

IX. Citizen Comments:

Carl Voelker- Seabrook Island Resident and member of the newly formed County Green Ribbon Committee. The Green Ribbon Committee will make recommendation to the County Council on recycling and solid waste issues. Mr. Voelker will represent areas West of the Ashley River, including Kiawah Island. Mr. Voelker discussed various Seabrook recycling initiatives and stressed the importance of education for both the hauler and citizens. Mr. Voelker stated that they are trying to expand their recycling to all villas on the Island and that Seabrook Island recycles all of their own yard debris as mulch. Mr. Voelker recommends that Charleston County provide an incentive for residents to increase their recycling. Mr. Voelker left his contact information and invited all members to submit further suggestions.

Wendy Kulick 38 Marsh Edge Lane,

Mrs. Kulick stated that she had seen a fox crossing near the entrance to Cassique. Mrs. Kulick asked if Dr. Kana's representation of both Kiawah and Seabrook Island presented a conflict of interest?

Mr. Lipuma explained that Dr. Kana is the Town's consultant and advises on the Beach Renourishment project and sees no conflict of interest. Mr. Lipuma also stated that Dr. Kana had turned down an offer to work for KDP in order to avoid a conflict of interest.

Mrs. Kulick asked if Dr. Kana's report covered flora and fauna as well as waterflow. Mr. Lipuma stated the report is strictly waterflow information.

Mrs. Kulick stated she had attended several planning commission meetings concerning annexation issues and that a property owner wishing to become part of the Town must hire consultants to provide information to the Town before being annexed. Mrs. Kulick stated that because KDP acknowledged that they did not follow the rules for the revetment and the land is already a part of Kiawah she believes the Town should require KDP to conduct environmental studies before the revetment is constructed. Mrs. Kulick also stated that KICA can also exert pressure on KDP, just as they did with the Settlement development, in order to get the environmental research.

Barbara Winslow, Kiawah Island Talk Editor,

Mrs. Winslow asked Mr. Lipuma if he had spoken with Dr. Kana about the time it will take for the holes in the articulated concrete block revetment to fill in with vegetation.

Mr. Lipuma stated that he got the impression from Dr. Kana that he was not aware of what specific materials would be used to construct the revetment. Mr. Lipuma stated that he and Mr. Orban suggested that KDP fill in the articulated block during construction.

X. Adjournment:

Mr. Chitwood motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:05PM. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by: _____
Catherine Wilson

Approved by: _____
Charles R. Lipuma

Date: _____

CC: William Wert, Mayor
Tumiko Rucker
Town Council