

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 7, 2011 3:00 P.M.  
KIAWAH ISLAND MUNICIPAL CENTER  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**MINUTES**

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

**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:** Greg VanDerwerker, Chair  
David Elliott  
Dale Anderson  
Jim Chitwood  
Liz King, KIGR  
Jim Jordan, TOKI  
Aaron Given, TOKI

**Absent:** Dave Achey, KICA Lands  
Lois Bryant, ARB  
Norm Shea, KICA Lakes  
Charles Davis

**Also Present:** Scott Fister, KIGR  
Justin Core, KINHC  
Leila Gable, KICA

**IV. Minutes:**

**A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2011**  
The minutes of the October 3, 2011 Environmental Committee meeting were approved unanimously as amended.

**V. Old Business**

**A. Kiawah Island Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan Update**

Dr. VanDerwerker will provide Mr. Jordan with suggestions for the Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan update as a follow up from last month's discussion.

**VI. New Business:**

**A. Beach Access/Dune Walkovers**

Dr. VanDerwerker commented that many of the dune walkovers are short. He stated that some reach the beach; however, they were originally built at a much lower grade than the current grade. He stated that the issue has come up that the dune walkovers need to be evaluated and possibly replaced, and he and he suggests that the Environmental Committee address the issue and make a recommendation to Town Council. The Committee viewed pictures taken at the boardwalks and flyover photos. Mr. Jordan stated that he counted 70 extremely short boardwalks in the flyover photos, with some being up to 80 yards away from the beach. He stated that the worst areas are those located on Surfsong and Flyway Drive due to accretion.

Dr. VanDerwerker stated that the owner of the boardwalk is responsible for repairs. He suggests that the Committee raise awareness of the issue.

Mr. Jordan stated that the short boardwalks are in violation of the OCRM regulations which are adopted by the Town. He stated that there needs to be a zone of acceptability for the boardwalks due to shifts in the dune lines. Mr. Jordan stated that beach profile data from the past 5 years could be used to determine a setback for boardwalks by location. OCRM requires that a boardwalk be 2 feet (24 inches) above the existing dune line.

Mrs. King stated that the Resort's Bike Maps refer to the boardwalks as handicap accessible; however, the newer boardwalks are not ADA compliant. The Resort plans to change the maps to read bike accessible instead of handicap accessible. Mrs. King asked if the Town should require that there be a certain amount of the ADA compliant boardwalks on the Island. Dr. VanDerwerker stated that the Town does not own any of the boardwalks. They are all privately owned, mainly by KICA.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to look at ways to address the issue and discuss further next month.

Mr. Elliot requested that the Committee discuss pine straw/recycling of organic material at next month's agenda.

**VII. Correspondences**

None

**VIII. Citizen Comments**

None

**IX. Committee Member Comments**

**Wildlife Report-TOKI**

Mr. Jordan reported on the Bobcat Research Study and stated that four bobcats are being tracked, two females and two males. He stated that they are still unable to locate bobcat # 650. The collar on bobcat #700 was dropped

due to a low battery. Mr. Jordan stated that two of the tracked bobcats were killed this year. Six new GSM collars were ordered and two were sent back for refurbishment. A total of eight collars will be deployed in 2012 which will all have cellphone tracking capability.

Mr. Jordan reported on the Bird Banding Research and stated that a total of 4,781 birds have been banded and 683 recaptured since the research began. There have been 43 sessions of Fall Migration Banding so far, with 3-4 sessions per week and a total of 2,008 birds banded and 208 recaptured. Mr. Given stated that 64 different species of birds have been banded this fall, and a total 89 species since the research began. The top five species banded this fall were: Common Yellowthroat – 601, Gray Catbird – 293, Yellow-rumped Warbler – 276, Red-eyed Vireo – 101, and the American Redstart – 96. Mr. Given commented that it takes several years to gain valuable bird banding data. Kiawah's banding data is sent to the bird banding lab once it is collected and made available in a bird banding database.

Mr. Jordan reported that the Reptile/Amphibian Study is ongoing.

Data collection has begun for the Vegetation Study and field work will continue for one year.

Mr. Jordan stated that there has been an average of 4,800 visits to the Wildlife Website over the past four months.

Mr. Jordan stated that the Wildlife Booklet is complete. He provided a proof for review by the Committee.

Mr. Jordan reported that there were two deer-vehicle incidents, October 17<sup>th</sup> and October 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **KIGR**

Mr. Fister stated that since June 10<sup>th</sup>, 39 tons of food waste from the Sanctuary has been composted at the Bee's Ferry Landfill, and they are expecting to reach 50 tons by the end of the year. He noted that some of the compost is used for landfill cover. There has been a 40.7% reduction in food waste at the Sanctuary since 2007.

Mr. Fister stated that the Villa Resort Program has reached a milestone in collecting 1,000 pounds of used bar soap for the Global Soap Project.

Mr. Fister stated that composting will be the big initiative for the upcoming Marathon with a goal of zero food waste.

### **Kiawah Island Conservancy**

Mr. Core reported on the Stewardship Annual Property Monitoring and stated that the Conservancy is working with Dave Achey to document and treat tallow trees on properties. He stated that out of the 15 home sites monitored, about 12 had some type of tallow tree infestation. He noted that several tallow trees were found on the newest conservation easement, Otter Island. Mr. Core

stated that the Habitat Improvement Committee has taken on a project to analyze every developed lot on Kiawah to document tallow trees.

The Committee discussed the difficulty in addressing the issue of tallow trees on golf courses.

**Turtles**

Mr. Anderson stated that he emailed the Committee members a copy of the 2011 turtle nesting report. He noted that there were 81 turtles that laid up to 6 nests this season. Nests were laid from the northern border of North Carolina to Florida.

**X. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

**Submitted by,**

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**Lakesha Y. Shannon, Town Clerk**

**Approved by,**

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**Greg A. VanDerwerker, Chairman**

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**Date**