

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

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order: Dr. VanDerwerker called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm.**

**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**  
                              **Jim Chitwood**  
                              **Norm Shea, KICA Lakes**  
                              **Liz King, KIGR**  
                              **Jim Jordan, TOKI**  
                              **Aaron Given, TOKI**

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

**Also Present:**       **Justin Core, KINHC**

**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 Wildlife Booklets**  
Mr. Jordan stated that the wildlife booklet is complete and ready for bid. The total cost of the publication is \$6,000. There will be 5,000 copies of the book printed and made available at Town Hall and the Nature Center for distribution.

**VI. New Business:**

**A. Beach Management Plan Review**  
Mr. Jordan commented on the Kiawah Island Local Comprehensive Beach Management Plan and stated that OCRM requires that the document be reviewed every five years and completely revised every ten years. The last

revision was done in December 2006, and changes have been made to the beach setbacks and baselines since that time. The document is required by OCRM to apply for state and federal funding for beach projects; however, the Town is not eligible for this type funding because it is a gated community. The beach management plan was originally adopted in 1999 and is a requirement for beachfront properties. Mr. Jordan stated that the document coincides with the Town's ordinance and a number of ordinance changes were made based on changes to the beach management plan.

The Committee agreed to review the beach management plan and offer suggestions for updates.

**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 five bobcats are being tracked, two females and three males. Mr. Jordan stated that they are unable to locate bobcat # 650, and two of the eight original bobcats have been killed by vehicle collision.

Mr. Jordan reported on the Painted Bunting Backyard Banding Project and stated that 122 painted buntings were banded and 22 recaptured. He also reported on the Night Heron Park Bluebird Banding and stated that 29 bluebird chicks were banded. Fall Migration Banding began in mid-August and will continue through November, with 3- 4 sessions per week. There were 1,042 birds banded so far this fall and 130 recaptured. The total number of birds banded since the research began in 2009 is 3,815 and a total of 605 were recaptured. Mr. Given stated that about 50 different species of birds have been banded this fall. He stated that some rare birds such as the bell's vireo, scarlet tanager and golden winged warbler were banded. Mr. Given noted that the bell's vireo was the first ever banded in SC, as they are not found on the east coast.

Mr. Jordan reported that the Reptile/Amphibian Study is ongoing. He stated that several coachwhips have been sighted during the study.

Mr. Jordan reported on the Wildlife Website and stated that substantial updates have been made to the bird research pages. The various bird research projects are now located on separate pages for easier navigation.

Mr. Jordan reported on the Deer Spotlight Survey which was conducted on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. There were a total of 124 deer spotted, with a density of 72 deer per square mile. He noted that this is the highest late summer/fall density seen since 2001.

There were two deer-vehicle collisions reported over the last two months.

Mr. Jordan stated that the Piping Plover Research will be complete in April 2012; however, the Town will continue to complete less detailed surveys.

The Town has not received an update from Audubon SC regarding the proposed Important Bird Designation (IBA). Mr. Given stated that there is currently no one in charge of the IBA Program due to cutbacks within the agency. Mr. Chitwood suggested that the Town continue to discuss the IBA designation.

Professor Joel Gramling, with the College of Charleston, will provide a public presentation on the Invasive Plant Study on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

### **Kiawah Island Conservancy**

Mr. Core stated that the Conservancy is expecting \$15,000 in funding for 2012 to complete bird research. Mr. Jordan stated that a Red Knot Bird Project was designed which would supplement current red knot research being done by the DNR and Fish and Wildlife Services. The current research is a 1 year project; however, the Town will continue its research for an additional 2-3 years to obtain more data. Mr. Jordan stated that the Town may have to purchase geolocators and fund an additional banding trip for the research. The Town is also considering the hiring of a temporary technician during the late winter and spring to monitor bird bands and collect data.

Mr. Jordan stated that beach signage is being considered to protect the important bird areas.

### **Turtles**

Mr. Anderson reported that this has been the second best year for turtle nesting. He stated that some nests were lost due to Hurricane Irene, and data will be reviewed to determine if the 6-8 inches of rainfall had any effect on the hatching success. The DNR suggested that fewer nests be relocated and screened to maintain the natural habitat. Mr. Anderson commented that they will continue to apply the DNR guidelines as the nests are monitored.

Mr. Elliott stated that the "Our World" program will feature the Kiawah Photo Club film "Johns Island: A Moment in Time" on October 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm at the Sandcastle.

### **KICA Lakes**

Mr. Shea reported that six dead alligators were located within a four month period. He stated that they were all over 6ft. long with no apparent cause of death. Mr. Shea stated that Dr. Guillette, with MUSC, is interested in completing alligator research on the Island. Dr. Guillette would capture and draw blood samples from alligators to test for toxins. The DNR is also interested in obtaining alligator blood samples to perform tests. Mr. Shea reported on the alligator nests and stated that there was a low success rate. The nests will continue to be monitored and data will be reviewed to determine if

there is any correlation with the temperature. Mr. Shea stated that an alligator was relocated off Turtle Beach and from the Sora Rail maintenance area.

Mr. Shea stated that there was a low turnout for the recent fishing tournament. The largest catch was a 21 ½ inch red drum and the most fish caught was 13.

Mr. Shea reported that there were a few fish kills due to the recent cloudy weather. He stated that there have also been issues with harmful algae species.

Mr. Core reported on upcoming events hosted by the Conservancy. The Legacy of Kiawah DVD premier will take place on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at Cassique. A fundraiser dinner with Rudy Mancke will be held on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Sandcastle. The first Little Bear Walk will be held in November and a second will be held in February 2012. The Conservancy will also ask volunteers to help tag tallow trees.

**X. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 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**