

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
January 13, 2021; 2:00 PM

Minutes

I. **Call to Order:** Mr. Jordan called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Present: Jim Jordan, Chairman
Jim Chitwood
John Leffler
Lynne Sager
Jane Ellis
Pam Wilson
Scott Nelson
David Pumphrey
Jack Kotz
KINHC: Lee Bundrick
KICA: Lucas Hernandez
KICA: Matt Hill
ARB: Sara Senst
KIGR: Liz King
TOKI: Aaron Given

Absent: Jim Sullivan

Also Attending: Dr. Scott Parker, *Council Liaison*
Mike Weyman, *Department of Pest Regulation*
Ryan Okey, *Department of Pest Regulation*

II. **Approval of Minutes:**

A. Minutes of the November 2020 Environmental Committee Meeting

Ms. Sager made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2021 Environmental Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pumphrey and was unanimously approved.

III. **New Business**

A. None

IV. **Old Business**

A. Kiawah Landscaping Workgroup (Grow Native)

- No Update

B. Shorebird Stewardship Program

Mr. Jordan stated that due to the COVID virus, the stewardship program is not run this year as it had in the past, but plans are to begin the program again in March of 2021. Mr. Given will conduct training for shorebird stewards in February 2021 via Zoom.

C. Flood Mitigation and Sea Level Rise

Mr. Hernandez gave an update on the Sea Level Rise Adaptive Management Task Force. At the end of last year, the task force completed its final report on the surveys and interviews conducted as part of the community engagement effort. The recommended next steps included further defining threshold areas to create threshold values. Mr. Hernandez reviewed outcomes hoped to be achieved as part of an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) and provided a detailed review of his 2021 objectives:

1. Review threshold areas and consolidate current management plans/monitoring initiatives
2. Collect additional information on threshold areas as needed
3. Completion of threshold definitions
4. Recommendation for the ongoing monitoring program

Committee members provided their comments and questioned Mr. Hernandez on the inclusion of community engagement when thresholds have been defined and the institution of an annual report.

D. Grow Native/Parkway Landscaping

Mr. Jordan stated delays in completing the Parkway Landscaping project have been due to major issues with the repair of the irrigation system. Palm trees have been planted, and the remainder of the trees are expected to be planted in the coming week. Once the irrigation system's rebuilding is complete, the rest of the plantings, shrubs, perennials, and grasses will be installed to complete the project expected by March 1st.

E. Rodenticides/Wildlife

Mr. Jordan stated that since the last meeting, four additional animals had been tested; a Bobcat, a Raccoon, an Opossum, and a Cooper's Hawk. All showed exposure to two SGAs (Second Generation Anticoagulants), some having very high levels. To date, eighteen animals have been tested, with seventeen showing exposure to SGAs.

Mr. Jordan gave an update on the joint endeavor of the DPR (Department of Pesticide Regulation) and DNR (Department of Natural Resources) to conduct field sampling of a variety of animals to test for SGAs. After the first visit had limited success, the potential of a second sampling effort was discussed for January, but no confirmation has been received.

Mr. Jordan talked about his idea for a long-term research study to look at the SGA issue. He stated that discussions were underway with Clemson University to develop a three-to-four-year Ph.D. study. Working with three different professors, the study's objectives and budget have been prepared, and discussions have begun on obtaining funding.

Mr. Jordan reviewed the draft objectives of the research study:

1. Monitor SGA rodenticide concentrations in bobcats and patterns in bobcat behavior and survival over the next three years.
2. Assess historical patterns in bobcat behavior and demography on the island over time:
 - a. Estimate demography and density,
 - b. Estimate space use and assess changes to space use patterns over time,
 - c. Estimate minimum viable population of bobcats.
3. Assess patterns in the bobcat diet.
4. Continue monitoring of SGA concentrations in small carnivores other than bobcats over the next three years:
 - a. SGA concentrations based on species and location on the island.
5. Quantify rodent species distribution/density by habitat type:

- a. SGA concentrations based on species and location on the island,
- b. Assess how invasive rodents are impacting native rodents,
- c. How bobcat prey items are impacted (objective 3).

Committee members provided comments that included cases of domesticated animals having been exposed to the more lethal SGAs, the potential cost and funding of the research study, a potential parallel study being conducted at the Yawkey Center, and if other communities were interested in the study.

F. Deer Management

Mr. Jordan stated the deer harvest is scheduled to occur in February with the removal of 100 deer.

G. Kiawah Conservancy Projects

Mr. Bundrick stated that Phase One of the Conservancy projects had been completed, and an update of Phase Two will be provided in the New Business discussion.

V. New Business

A. Discussion of Clemson Department of Pesticide Regulation Task Force Findings

Mr. Okey gave a review of the report submitted by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) rodenticide task force to assess and monitor the legal uses of SGAs by Pest Management Professionals (PMPs) on Kiawah Island.

Mr. Okey stated that in Phase One, the Task Force worked from a list of 73 pest control companies licensed on Kiawah, which was narrowed to 53 target companies, all of which were commercial applicators. A survey was created based on the types of information requested. Anonymous participation offered each target company a confidential path to answer several questions regarding their rodent control activities on Kiawah. The results of the survey included within the report were reviewed.

Mr. Okey also indicated that Phase Two was integrating targeted inspections into the scope of the State's full compliance inspections, and those efforts began on January 1st.

Committee members discussed and asked for clarification on the results reported in the survey, the availability of SGAs on the open market, the definition of a rodent infestation, and pest control companies that are now hesitant to perform rodent control services on the island.

VI. Reports:

A. Town of Kiawah Island

- Alligator Research
 - Collaborative research project with Clemson/Nemours
 - Fieldwork complete, data analysis underway
 - Final report dissertation expected in the next year
- Bobcat GPS Study
 - 3 out of 5 2020 bobcats have died.
 - Bobcat 550 – February 16th - Adult Male, Parkside, 17lbs 10oz.
 - Anticoagulant poisoning 5/19/20
 - Bobcat 600 – February 17th – Adult Female, Preserve, 17lbs 6oz.
 - Anticoagulant poisoning 6/10/20

- Bobcat 500 – March 10th – Adult Female, Willet Island, 13lbs 0oz. - New cat.
 - Bobcat 250 – March 10th – Adult Female, Preserve, 15lbs 10z.
 - Hit by car 8/11/20 and sent to the lab.
 - Bobcat 450 – October 18th – Adult Female, Captain Sams, 13lbs 3 oz. Originally captured in April 2008. Blood sample negative for anticoagulants
- Will have five collars to deploy January-March 2021
 - Will take blood samples to test for anticoagulants
- Marsh Sparrow Banding
 - The program is usually conducted from December – April
 - Canceled for this year
- Christmas Bird Count
 - Conducted on Monday, January 4th
 - 157 species – slightly above average
 - 44,054 individual birds
 - 67 participants
- Fall Migration Banding
 - August 15th to November 30th
 - Six banding assistants employed this year

BANDING STATISTICS	CAPTAIN SAM'S	LITTLE BEAR	TOTAL
# of Birds Banded	4,566	2,633	7,199
# of Recaptures	1,166	508	1,674
# of Species	80	71	92
Effort (net-hours)	13,734.6	7,839.8	21,571.5
Capture Rate (birds/100 net-hours)	41.7	40.1	41.1
# of Nets	30	23	53
# of Days Operated	104	79	-
Dates of Operation	8/15-11/30	8/24-11/17	-

Dr. Parker, the Council Liaison to the Environmental Committee, stated he was excited to be a participant and hopefully be a strong advocate for all the things around the island as it relates to the environment.

B. Kiawah Island Community Association Land & Lakes Management

No additional report.

C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort

Ms. King reported on the two new alligator hatchings coming to the Nature Center replacing the alligators that became too large for the naturalists to use in educational programs.

D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board

No report.

E. Kiawah Conservancy

Mr. Bundrick gave an update on Phase Two of the projects the Conservancy and Town are working together on. He stated in December the proposals for Phase Two of the Groundwater and Marsh Project were presented to Town Council and unanimously approved. Since that time, he has been

working with the College of Charleston to get the works plans and agreements in place and is now close to getting the work started. He gave a brief description of each of the projects and provided detailed answers to Committee Members' questions.

Mr. Bundrick also reported that the Conservancy is going through an update of its strategic plan in which there will be a change in the organization.

F. Turtle Patrol

Ms. Sager indicated she had nothing new to report but pointed out that she was receiving requests to participate in the next season. She noted that it would probably be March before she knows what the restrictions will be for the upcoming season.

VII. Citizen Comments:

None

VIII. Chairman's Comments:

None

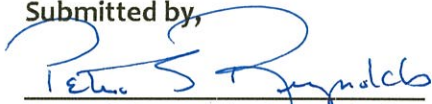
IX. Committee Member Comments:

None

X. Adjournment:

Mr. Pumphrey motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:06 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and carried unanimously.

Submitted by,



Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,



Jim Jordan, Chairman

3-18-21

Date