

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Kiawah Island Municipal Center**  
**Council Chambers**  
**January 14, 2020; 2:00 PM**

**Minutes**

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

II. **Roll Call:**

**PRESENT:** Jim Jordan, Chairman  
Jim Chitwood  
Jim Sullivan  
Jane Ellis  
David Pumphrey  
Pam Wilson  
John Leffler  
**KINHC:** Lee Bundrick  
**KICA:** Matt Hill

**ARB:** Sara Senst  
**KIGR:** Liz King  
**TOKI:** Aaron Given

**ABSENT:** Lynne Sager  
Scott Nelson  
Jack Kotz  
Doug Walter

III. **Approval of Minutes:**

A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of November 12th, 2019

*Mr. Chitwood made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12th, 2019 Environmental Committee meetings. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.*

IV. **New Business**

A. None

V. **Old Business**

A. ***Kiawah Landscaping Workgroup (Grow Native)***

- Still waiting on mulch for Grow Native Trail
- Drip irrigation and plantings installed on December 4<sup>th</sup> and included 250 trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennials.
- 6-month reports on plant trials have been requested from participants
- Plan to add 20 additional plants to Grow Native database

B. ***Shorebird Stewardship Program***

- No update

C. ***Flood Mitigation and Sea Level Rise***

- Installation of a Tide Monitoring Station at Kiawah River Bridge for approximately \$30,000.00 will go to Ways and Means this month for recommendation to Town

Council for approval.

- ❖ Will continuously run - sending data periodically via a cellular network with a satellite backup in the event the cell system goes down in a storm.
- ❖ System will archive long term data on water levels and tides
- Marsh and Groundwater studies
  - ❖ Town funded two studies to be done by the Conservancy;
    - Marsh Study - looking at movement and structure of the marsh providing information for a marsh management plan
    - Groundwater Study – looking at locations and salinity levels
      - The planned installation of wells to be completed by April for data collection to begin
- Rain Gardens
  - ❖ Consideration by the Community Association
  - ❖ Discussions with ARB (Architectural Review Board) for the potential requirement of rain gardens on new construction
    - ARB receptive and looking into it
      - A choice between rain garden or permeable pavement
      - Water tolerant grasses
      - More native not manicured
      - Conservation of freshwater
      - Reduction of water runoff flowing into the storm water system
- Living Shorelines
  - ❖ Establishing oyster beds to allow the marsh to adapt better
  - ❖ A possible project at Rhett's Bluff
  - ❖ Future implementation on the island

#### **D. Grow Native/Parkway Landscaping**

- Outdoor Spatial Design (OSD) presented a conceptual plan which was approved by Town Council on January 7<sup>th</sup>
  - ❖ OSD working on full plan/construction documents for Council approval
  - ❖ Work to be done from roundabout to the main gate under the purview of the Town
  - ❖ Considered number of factors:
    - sun vs. shade,
    - wildlife corridors,
    - areas prone to flooding
  - ❖ Talked about opening view windows of marshes and forests, rutting alongside Parkway, and the homeowner survey
- Conceptual presentation;
  - ❖ Less sod in the roundabout and along the Parkway with more native plants and perennials
  - ❖ Create swale along the Parkway in between roadway and bike path with grasses and other vegetation to trap and filter water

#### **E. Rodenticides/Wildlife**

- On the agenda for discussion by Town Council at Council Retreat on January 29<sup>th</sup>
  - ❖ Ordinance
  - ❖ Other actions

#### **F. Deer Management**

- Winter deer surveys scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>
- Town Council will discuss findings at Council Retreat on January 29<sup>th</sup>

## VI. Reports:

### A. Town of Kiawah Island

Mr. Jordan discussed his report for the Town;

#### 📌 Alligator Research

- Collaborative research project with Clemson/Nemours
  - **February:** Behavior surveys immediately before negative conditioning at two golf courses.
  - **March:** Conduct alligator captures at one golf course. The other will be used as a reference.
  - **April:** Behavior surveys immediately after negative conditioning at two golf courses.
  - **June:** Behavior surveys three months after conditioning trial.
  - **October:** Behavior surveys seven months after conditioning trial.

#### 📌 Bobcat GPS Study

- Six collars have been ordered for 2020
- Trapping to begin in February
- Still working on a protocol for potential blood collection to assess Second-Generation Anticoagulant rodenticides (SGAs) exposure

Mr. Given reviewed the data collected in the banding surveys;

#### 📌 Fall Migration

- Captain Sams (97 days) – the average number of birds banded
  - 4,586 new birds banded representing 86 species
  - 1,207 recaptures
- Little Bear (75 days) – significantly fewer number of birds banded
  - 2,560 new birds banded representing 78 species
  - 463 recaptures
- Top 5 species banded – a record total of 104 different species
  - Common Yellowthroat (1,846)
  - Gray Catbird (1,242)
  - Yellow-Rumped Warbler (761)
  - Palm Warbler (427)
  - American Redstart (307)

#### 📌 Marsh Sparrows

- Capture days
  - Started on January 10<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> with the capture of 130 to 140 sparrow in the four days.
  - February 8<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>
  - March 8<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>
  - April 6<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>

### B. Kiawah Island Community Association Land & Lakes Management

No Report

Mr. Hernandez reported that he is finishing his work with the Community Association water management task force. He also stated that the rain garden that was mentioned earlier is to be established with a demonstration garden at the Community Association Admin Office in the future.

### C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort

Ms. King reported that because of the rodenticide issue, the regime at Seascape Villas no longer allows birdfeeders. A call from a part-time resident who decided to sell his home prompted her

to suggest looking at alternatives that attract birds and not rodents, which may be acceptable to the regime. She asked the Town also to publish birdfeeder alternatives for resident information.

D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board  
No Report

E. Kiawah Conservancy

Mr. Bundrick reported that the Conservancy is bringing back Doug Tallamy to lecture about the benefits of native plant gardening on May 8<sup>th</sup> along with a series of garden tours the day prior. He also noted on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Earth Day, the Conservancy will be hosting a number of events at their Demonstration Garden in Night Heron Park. The Conservation Matters presentation for February is the *Beekeeper and the March* presentation will be on *Shorebirds*.

F. Turtle Patrol  
No Report

VII. **Citizen Comments:**  
None


VIII. **Chairman's Comments:**  
None

IX. **Chairman's Comments:**  
None

X. **Committee Member Comments:**  
Mr. Given reported on the Christmas bird count on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. He noted there were fifty to sixty residents who helped with the count this year. While all the numbers have not been calculated, Mr. Given did note that 156 different species were counted.

XI. **Adjournment:**  
*The meeting was adjourned at 3:11.*

**Submitted by,**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

**Approved by,**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Jordan, Chairman

3-11-20  
Date