

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Kiawah Island Municipal Center**  
**Council Chambers**  
**March 12, 2019; 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  
Pam Wilson  
Scott Nelson  
Jack Kotz  
**KINHC:** Lee Bundrick  
**KICA:** James Wilson  
**ARB:** Sara Senst  
Daphne Wertz  
**KIGR:** Liz King  
**TOKI:** Aaron Given

**ABSENT:** Lynne Sager  
David Pumphrey

**Also Attending:** Mayor Weaver

III. **Approval of Minutes:**

A. Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2019

*Ms. Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2019, Environmental Committee meetings. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ellis and was unanimously approved.*

IV. **Reports:**

A. Town of Kiawah Island

Mr. Jordan reviewed his Environmental Department Update for March:

✦ **Alligator Research**

- Collaborative research project with Clemson/Nemours
  - ❖ Six tags deployed, data now online
    - Two tags offline
      - One missing
      - One tag in Ladson - Mr. Jordan reviewed the online tracking of the alligator on the website to reveal the path of the tag from; near Ibis pond, to the Community Association Maintenance parking lot, and finally to a Ladson Landfill.
  - ❖ Flight distance surveys routes have been established – the surveys will

catalog how close you can get before the alligator is scared and will be done throughout the year.

- ❖ Surveys are beginning this month.

#### ✚ **Bobcat GPS Study**

- Trapping is done in February thru March 1<sup>st</sup> with six adult bobcats captured
- Three males and three females fitted with GPS collars
  - ❖ Bobcat 300 - 14-pound adult female, caught in early February, near Beachwalker County Park
  - ❖ Bobcat 200 - Adult male, caught in The Preserve
  - ❖ Bobcat 250 - Adult female, near Beachwalker County Park originally captured in 2017
  - ❖ Bobcat 350 - Adult female, caught in The Preserve, first captured in 2018 as a juvenile
  - ❖ Bobcat 400 – Adult male, 26 lbs. Three ozs, caught in February on Willet Island, first captured on 2018 but not collared
  - ❖ Bobcat 350 – Adult Male, 26 lbs. 30zs, caught in March near The Sanctuary, Collared in 2016 near the V-Gate and in 2017 near Beachwalker County Park
- Female 250 died in late February
- Trapping to resume next week to replace Female 250

Mr. Jordan reviewed the bobcat tracking map on the Wildlife website.

Mr. Given reviewed his Environmental Department Update for March:

#### ✚ **Marsh Sparrow Banding**

- Banding taking place January thru April; weather factor in sampling all sites
- Nine sites sampled
- 139 new, 107 recaptures
- 16 volunteers
- Next banding sessions taking place March 18-22 and April 17-20

#### ✚ **Painted Bunting Smithsonian Study**

- Deployed 25 geolocators in 2017. Recovered 8 of those in 2018.
- Deployed 17 geolocators in 2018 — recovery efforts in summer of 2019.
- One geo was recovered in Cuba this winter. The bird was trapped for the caged bird trade.
- Recovered tags are currently in the UK at the manufacturer to extract the data from the tags. The data will then have to be analyzed to determine the bird's location. We should have some preliminary info hopefully by the summer.

#### ✚ **Fall Migration Banding**

- An interesting note of a recaptured Tree Swallow.
  - ❖ Captured on Captain Sam's on 11/12/2018.
  - ❖ Banded on 9/21/2018 at Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge which is a small island off the southern tip of Massachusetts.

Mr. Jordan reported on the deployment of an ARB approved, black, buoy at the critical habitat area on the west end indicating no dogs allowed beyond that point. He also reported that the bird cam was up and running at the Municipal Center and can be viewed on the Wildlife website.

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

Mr. Wilson reported that pond pruning was coming to an end with approximately ten percent left to be completed. He also reported that there had been some algae blooms in a few of the ponds between the main gate and Sora Rail which have been treated and the mosquito population will be monitored, spraying will begin when necessary.

Mr. Wilson stated that the Bonefish and Tarpon Trust is providing funding for Mr. Matt Kimball to study the large Tarpon in the Kiawah ponds in The Preserve. The study will look at the migration patterns of tarpon, which are now believed to be found from Florida to Virginia, overwintering abilities, and growth rates of confined vs marsh Tarpon.

**C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort**

Ms. King reported on the renovations taking place inside the Nature Center with new enclosures being completed in the next few weeks. She also noted that there would be different school groups coming in throughout the Spring along with visitors to the Island.

**D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board**

No report.

**E. Kiawah Conservancy**

Mr. Lee Bundrick was introduced as the new Land Preservation Coordinator for the Kiawah Conservancy. He gave a brief review of his background as a graduate student at the College of Charleston and his work with the South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium. He has experience with a variety of environmental issues.

A review of the Conservancy sponsored activities:

- March 26<sup>th</sup> - Bobcat symposium with programs 11:00 am and 3:00 pm
- April 16<sup>th</sup> - Conservation Matters at 3:00 pm
- April 18<sup>th</sup> - Earth Day Celebration from 4:00 to 6:00 pm
- May 17<sup>th</sup> – Conservation Matter Kayak trip form 9:00 to 11:00 am
- July 1<sup>st</sup> – Conservation Matters on Sea Turtles
- Summer Kids program - two-week workshop and theater – the first and second week in July.

**F. Turtle Patrol**

Turtle Patrol is gearing up for the season with the volunteer nesting patrols filled and should be kicking off their season around May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**V. Old Business**

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

Mr. Jordan reported that the Grow Native web database was completed and delivered; it did not have the search capability that was requested and did not perform as anticipated. The

training meeting was held yesterday, March 11th.

**B. Grow Native Interpretive Trail**

Mr. Jordan presented conceptual renderings of the Grow Native Interpretive Trail which would provide a place to showcase native plants and to educate the public, property owners, landscapers, landscape architects, and visitors on the value of native plants and to encourage their use on the Island.

Mr. Jordan explained that the project would be done in phases and would require the approval of the Town Council. The first phase would include:

- Clearing path - perhaps could just be a bush hog on front of a small skid steer to cut in the path snaking around any significant vegetation, minimal pruning, the overall path length is approximately 1,320 linear feet
- View pruning along the marsh and other pruning as needed
- Benches along marsh
- Entrance Sign (cypress or natural wood type materials)
- Approximate Cost \$8,000 there is approximately \$10,000 left in Environmental Programs budget

The Committee Members discussed the importance of the proposed project.

**VII. Citizen Comments:**

None

**VIII. Chairman's Comments:**

None

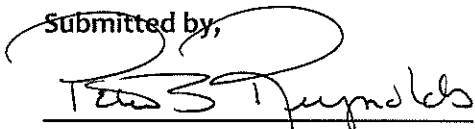
**IX. Committee Member Comments:**

None

**X. Adjournment:**

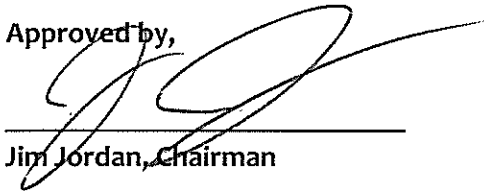
*Mr. Chitwood made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson and was unanimously passed.*

Submitted by,



Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,



Jim Jordan, Chairman

7-10-19

Date