

**Landscaping Work Group (LWG) Kick-off Meeting
Kiawah Island Municipal Center
April 30, 2018; 9:00 AM
Minutes**

Present:

Denise Graybill-Donohoe
Jim Jordan
Diana Mezzanotte
Dave Achey
Leila Gable
Matt Stanis
Jennifer Hayes
Mark Elingburg
Justin Core

Discussion Items:

- I. Kiawah landscape concerns and successes (group discussion)
 - a. Aging landscapes – Tend to have little understory and low habitat value
 - b. Plant selections (natives/exotics/invasives; biodiversity) – Definition of native. What should we consider to be invasive. Goal is to increase biodiversity and wildlife value.
 - c. Plant availability (growers, wholesalers, retailers, etc.) – Native plants are difficult to find. Local nurseries may grow specific plants on contract. Superior trees in Florida is a good source of natives
 - d. Stormwater management

- II. Mission statement and goals feedback (Denise and group discussion)

Mission Statement

Improve the wildlife habitat of existing and future developed properties on Kiawah Island

Goals

1. Develop a Kiawah native plant database using cross-referenced plant lists from:
 - a. Gramling's 2012 "A Vegetation Survey of Kiawah";
 - b. Environmental Research Center's 1975 Environmental Inventory of Kiawah;
 - c. SC Native Plant Society;
 - d. SC Physiographic Provinces Lower Coastal Plain map.

2. Educate property owners and landscape professionals about Kiawah's native plants:
 - a. Promote/maintain new database and make accessible to everyone. Database will include introductory language about natives, invasives, and exotic non-invasives and other important information as needed.
 - b. Utilize existing and develop as needed educational materials (e.g., biodiversity, benefits of natives, hazards and costs associated with invasives and their removal).
 3. Develop strategy for improved access to native plants:
 - a. Encourage growers/wholesalers/retailers to carry more natives.
 - b. Expand existing and/or supplement Kiawah plant sales.
 4. Explore existing landscape review and approval process. Determine if and how the ARB process would need to be modified to support LWG's mission.
 5. Determine the best process for ensuring property owners understand, adopt, and adhere to the mission through education and enforcement.
- III. ARB landscape submission and approval process and impact by LWG mission (Jen and group discussion) – Requires further study. ARB is open to changing process, requirements, etc. Will be discussed at a future meeting in greater detail
- IV. Native Plants (group discussion)
- a. Discussion revolved around what should be considered a native plant. Most members favored defining it as any plant native to the Lowcountry of South Carolina. May be necessary to expand to other parts of state if additional plant species are needed.