

Minutes of the April 9, 2025 Town of Kiawah Island Environmental Committee Meeting

Attendees: Madeleine Kaye, Jim Jordan, Aaron Given, Matt Hill, Lynne Sager, Liz King, Lynda Leffler, Jennifer Hayes, Cindy Perry, Pam Wilson.

Citizens Comments

- Concerns raised regarding unauthorized walking in the dunes
- Highlighted ongoing issues with temporary signage
- Discussed areas of frequent dune trespassing: Captain Sam's, sanctuary areas
- Stephanie outlined a comprehensive master sign package review
- Agreed to develop E-blast communications explaining dune protection importance

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from December and January meetings were approved, with minor spelling errors noted.

Red Knot Research Update

- 80 birds trapped on March 31
- 24 birds fitted with satellite transmitters
- Tracking migration patterns across multiple states
- Identified critical roosting areas and feeding locations
- Emphasized importance of minimizing bird disturbance
- Expected migration to Arctic regions in mid-May

Coyote and Bobcat Research

- Six new bobcats tracked in 2025
- One juvenile female lost (necropsy pending)
- 80 samples collected for anti-coagulant surveillance

Beach Management Ordinance

- Simplified and clarified existing regulations
- Refined definitions of beach and dune system
- Updated vehicle and pedestrian restrictions
- Modified wildlife protection guidelines
- Addressed lighting and walkover regulations

Education Initiatives

- Discussed creating targeted educational programs
- Considered co-sponsoring events with Our World
- Explored potential topics: Sea turtle conservation, Local wildlife research, Ecosystem preservation
- Emphasized importance of live presentations over podcasts

Earth Day

- Confirmed volunteer assignments
- Reviewed event logistics

Additional Strategic Discussions

- Waterfront standards ordinance review
- Potential drone display regulations
- Long-term environmental management strategies
- Future ordinance revision methodologies

Adjournment