

**MAYOR:**  
Bradley D. Belt

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:**  
Stephanie Tillerson

**TOWN ATTORNEY:**  
Stafford J. McQuillin III



**MAYOR PRO TEMPORE:**  
Russell A. Berner

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**  
E. Luke Farrell  
Madeleine Kaye  
Lance Spencer

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Council Conference Room and via Zoom  
August 13, 2025; 1:00 PM

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order:**
- II. Approval of Minutes:**
  - A. Minutes of the June 11, 2025 meeting
- III. Citizen's Comments:**
- IV. Program Updates**
  - A. Shorebird Stewardship Program
  - B. Kiawah Conservancy Projects
  - C. Resiliency Committee
- V. Old Business**
  - A. Article 15, Chapter 5 Fish and Wildlife Regulations Discussion
- VI. New Business**
  - A. Second-generation anticoagulant update and discussion
- VII. Reports:**
  - A. Town of Kiawah Island
  - B. Kiawah Island Community Association Land & Lakes Management
  - C. Kiawah Island Golf Resort
  - D. Kiawah Island Architectural Review Board
  - E. Kiawah Conservancy
  - F. Turtle Patrol
- VIII. Citizen Comments:**
- IX. Chairman's Comments:**
- X. Committee Member Comments:**
- XI. Adjournment:**

FOIA: Notice of this meeting has been published and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Kiawah Island.

## **Minutes of the June 11, 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.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes from May 14 meeting approved. No edits.

### **Shorebird Stewardship Program (Memorial Day Weekend)**

- 19 volunteers participated, mainly from Johns Island and local residents.
- Coverage on both ends of the island.
- 4 instances of dogs in critical habitat/dunes.
- 2 off-leash dog incidents.
- 2 instances of people disturbing birds in the dunes.
- 175 public interactions (educational or informational).
- Red knots have left; focus is now on nesting birds (Wilson's plovers and American oyster catchers).
- No successful oyster catcher nests this year; some Wilson's plover chicks have hatched.
- Ongoing challenges from tides and storms.

### **Dog Management and Enforcement Discussion**

- Reports of dogs in restricted areas and owners' lack of awareness or disregard for rules.
- Discussion on the value of a dog licensing/registration system to distinguish property owners from visitors.
- Consideration of colored collars, online registration, and QR code signage.
- Emphasis on education and enforcement, including issuing tickets rather than warnings.
- Suggestion to require all dogs on the island to be registered, with proof available on smartphones.
- Consensus to continue exploring these options in a smaller working group.

### **Resiliency Committee Update**

- Restarting the Go Green Initiative.
- Planning a series of educational talks on resiliency, to be held twice a month starting in October.

- Considering integrating these talks into existing committee meetings for efficiency and transparency.
- Developing standards for bulkheads and erosion control devices.
- Emphasis on educational outreach and leveraging existing events (e.g., native plant symposium).

### **Beach Management Ordinance Update**

- Second reading of the ordinance passed; new compromise language adopted.
- Dogs may be unleashed year-round between dawn and dusk in designated areas.
- The mayor can designate suitable nesting habitat areas for restrictions during nesting season (April 1–July 1), based on recommendations from the environmental department.
- Designations must be posted on the town website and are limited in time and area.
- The ordinance aims to balance environmental protection with community needs.

### **Environmental Monitoring and SGA Exposure Report**

- Presentation of new data on SGA (Second-generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides) exposure in wildlife: \* 24 raccoons tested, 79% positive for SGA exposure (highest rate recorded). \* Opossum exposure rate at 43% (35 animals tested). \* Bobcat sample size too small for statistical significance, but high exposure levels noted in past years. \* Alligator exposure rates also tracked, with a decline in nuisance alligator removals due to proactive monitoring.
- Discussion of sampling methods (including euthanizing raccoons and opossums for scientific study).
- Concerns raised about the ethics of animal removal for research.
- SGA use is now restricted in South Carolina to licensed applicators, but enforcement and compliance remain challenges.
- Ongoing efforts to encourage voluntary pledges from residents and pest control companies to avoid SGA use.

### **Conservancy Projects and Other Updates**

- Announcement of the “Seed to Shoreline” program: Spartina grass planting at Mingo Point on June 21, seeking volunteers.
- Discussion of efforts to establish a no-wake zone by the bridge for safety, especially for kayakers and paddle boarders.

- Plans to organize a united campaign involving multiple organizations to advocate for the no-wake zone.

#### **Action Items and Next Steps**

- Continue developing a dog registration/licensing proposal.
- Expand educational outreach and resiliency programming.
- Maintain and enhance environmental monitoring efforts.
- Pursue further research and advocacy on SGA use and enforcement.
- Continue efforts to establish a no-wake zone and support related safety initiatives.

#### **Adjournment**