

Town of Kiawah Island

Town Council Retreat

Agenda & Materials



February 3, 2023



TOWN OF KIAWAH ISLAND
2022 Council Strategic Planning Retreat
Kiawah Town Hall
Room: Meeting Room
February 3, 2023
8:00 am – 5:00 pm

AGENDA

Friday, February 3

Continental Breakfast provided **8:00 am**

Call to Order: **8:00 am**

Opening Comments:

Mayor Labriola

Communication Department Priorities (2023): Vacant, Communication Manager
Priorities:

- New website completion and launch
- How to best use LHG for the remaining 5 months (presentation by LHG)
- Discussion on communication strategies

Arts Council Specific Priorities:

- Arts and Cultural Center Feasibility Study – Webb Management

Lunch and Discussion on a Historic Preservation Committee/Historic Preservation Workplan – Presentation by Nora Riesenberg **11:00 – Noon**

Public Safety Department Priorities (2023): Craig Harris, Public Safety Director
Priorities:

- Improve trust and relationships to provide the highest level of professional service to our community.
- Optimize the public safety operational capacity, resiliency, and readiness.
- Invest in the public safety workforce.

Public Works Department Priorities (2023): Brian Gottshalk, Public Works Manager
Priorities:

- Further Explore and Implement Electric Vehicles to the Town Fleet
- Reinstate Kiawah Go Green Initiative 2.0
- Install public EV Charging Stations island wide
- Build a Public Works Building as part of Go Green Initiative
- Implement a solution for Hazardous Waste disposal

Wildlife and Environmental Department Priorities (2023): Jim Jordan, Conservation Manager

Priorities:

- Return bobcat numbers to historic levels
- Maintain deer population at historic, acceptable densities (60-80 deer/square mile)
- Increase use of native plants in landscaping (80% native)
- Eliminate invasive, non-native plants
- Protect natural habitat from impacts of flooding and sea-level rise (beach, marsh)

Closing Remarks: Mayor and Council Members

5:00 pm



Town of Kiawah Island

Town Council Retreat – February 2023



Analysis + Overview

2022 Overview + Recommendations

In 2022, Lou Hammond Group performed a communications audit for the Town of Kiawah Island. Our primary takeaway from this audit was that the Town was stuck in a reactive cycle of communicating with its residents and stakeholders, which contributed to an increased lack of trust from its constituents.

In response to this, LHG recommended and created a strategic communications plan prioritizing communication between departments to allow for proactive message and campaign development, in addition to the development resource page that was already in the works. **As a result, the Town adopted the creation of an annual content calendar for 2023 and plans to hold inter-department meetings with the Town's Communications Staff, Town Administrator and Town Planning Manager to build and regularly update the calendar. These tools allow for advanced planning on rulings, events, proposals and projects from both a monthly and annual standpoint.**



Work To Date

The following efforts and deliverables have been created for the Town of Kiawah Island on behalf of Lou Hammond Group:

1. Strategic Communications to Promote Positive News and Copywriting for Weekly Eblasts
2. Development Resource Page
3. Content Calendar
4. Internal Communications Channels Guide



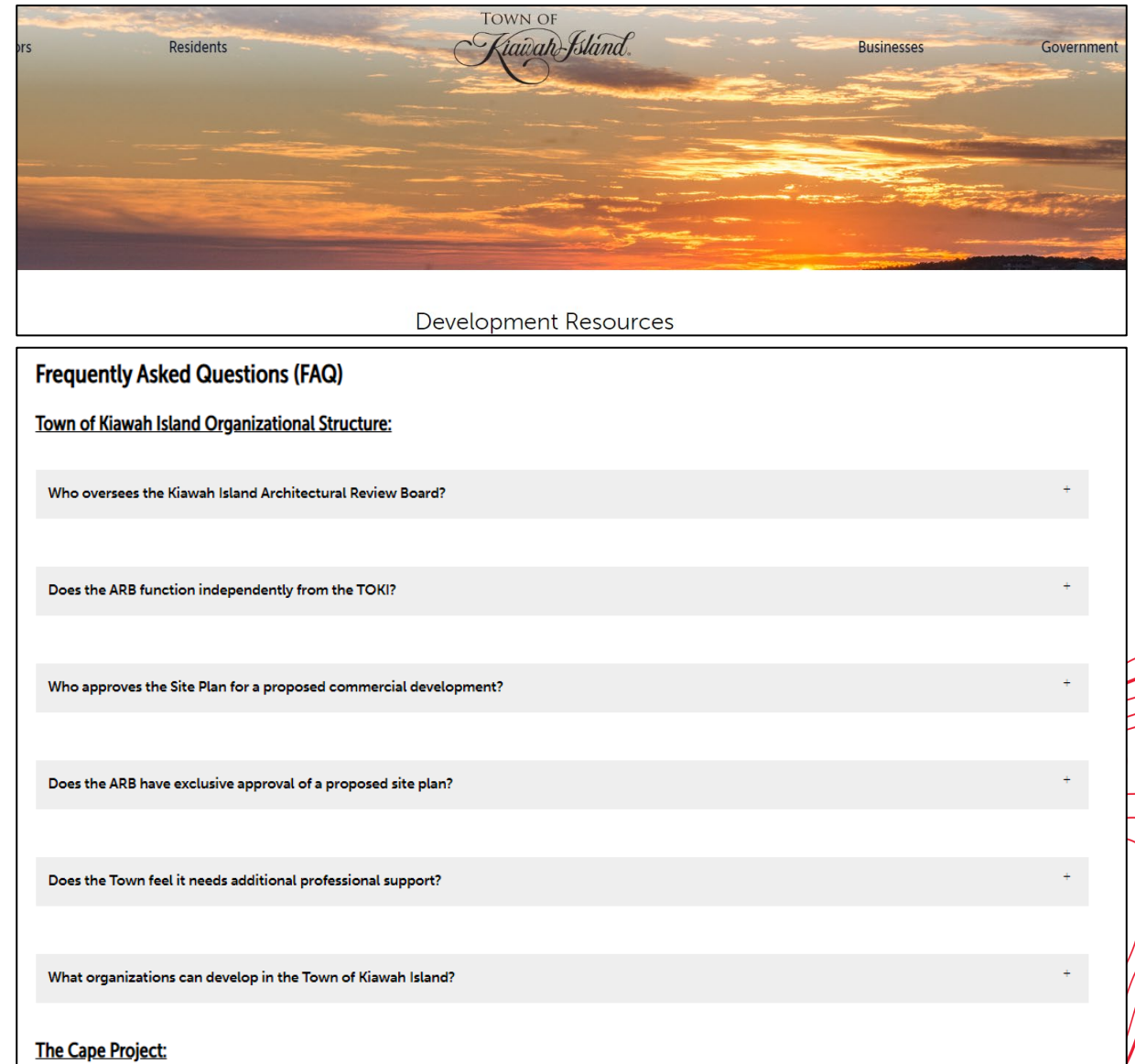
1. Strategic Communications and Copywriting



- Through weekly meetings, Lou Hammond Group connects with the Town's communications team on a number of topics related to resident and stakeholder outreach. This includes navigating hot-button topics proactively, transparently and in a way that is easily understood.
- On an ongoing basis, LHG drafts copy for the Town's weekly e-blasts, Town Notes and the Development Resource webpage.
- In 2022, LHG recommended a proactive public relations campaign targeting local media to promote positive news crediting the Town, i.e. record-setting sea turtle year, bobcat recovery + conservation, resiliency + marsh management plan, visitor/travel statistics, upgrades to public spaces, etc. to further build confidence in Town's elected officials. In 2023, LHG plans to implement this campaign once we receive relevant information.

2. Development Resource Page

- In 2022, LHG recommended the Town create a new webpage to specifically address and answer FAQs related to potential development and infrastructure on the island.
- LHG collected, organized and drafted copy answering top questions structured by topic (i.e. The Cape, traffic concerns, organizational structure) to build out the webpage.
- LHG continues to monitor future development plans and questions posed by residents online to add Q&As to the development resource page.
- According to website analytics, this webpage is consistently the top-visited page on the Town's website



3. Internal Communication Channels Guide

- In 2022, LHG provided both internal + external communications recommendations and plans for the Town.
- This chart addresses communications with residents and stakeholders and further defines aspects such as audiences, tone and spokespersons.
- LHG also analyzed + provided recommendations for each communications channel, including all social media accounts, weekly e-blast, website, podcast and Town Notes.

Internal Communication Channels Guide					
The Town of Kiawah Island’s communications staff manages or monitors multiple channels of communication across various platforms. The lists below categorizes the channels, defines the Town’s role and outlines how it should best utilize each communication method.					
NAME	CHANNEL TYPE(S)	FREQUENCY	TARGET AUDIENCE	OBJECTIVE	HOW TO UTILIZE (recommendations)
E-Newsletters	Email	Weekly	Town of Kiawah Island constituents; all property owners	Provide constituents with regular updates on a variety of topics that affect their home and community, including maintenance, Town rulings/decisions, safety, events, reminders, notices for service and major projects.	Content should be relevant to majority of residents
KiawahIsland.org	Website	N/A	Town of Kiawah Island constituents; all property owners; visitors; business owners	Aggregates all relevant Town resources for residents, visitors and businesses	Should be reviewed and updated quarterly
Sharing With The Community: A Podcast from the Town of Kiawah Island	Podcast	12/year	Town of Kiawah Island constituents; all property owners	Provide more in-depth information with important context on selected topics	Can be used to proactively address community ahead of a major action or ruling
Town Notes	Newsletter	Quarterly	Town of Kiawah Island constituents	Keep property owners informed of current events, activities, and Town Council actions	

4. Communications Content Calendar

- LHG created and updates the 2023 Communications Content Calendar regularly to plan content for the year and takes into consideration upcoming project/initiatives, planned communications and Town events.
- Currently, the only updates to the calendar are made using information from the Town Administrator during weekly LHG calls. However, LHG wants to encourage department heads to use this calendar to share news and happenings with the communications team in real time to allow for more proactive planning.

TOKI Content Calendar

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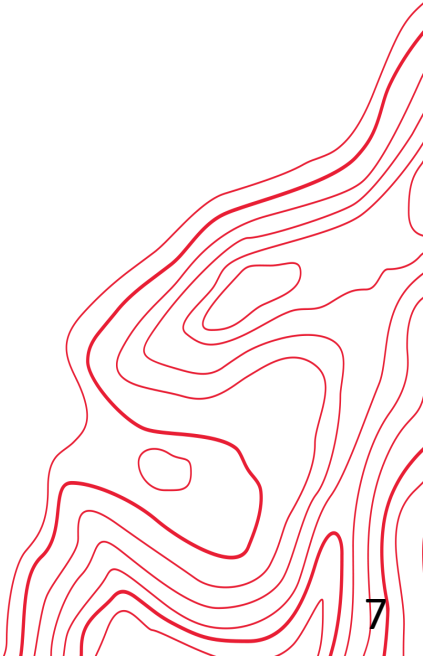
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Color Key:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Color Key:	E-Blast Topics (4 per month)	Podcast Episodes (Monthly)	Town Notes (Quarterly)	Town Council Meetings	Projects/initiatives
2	November	Importance of Executive Sessions + Transparency	Berkeley Electric Coop - Bert Walling	Andell West Public Hearing Notice + Additional Comment Box	Positive News: Intersection of Beachwalker Drive and Kiawah Island Parkway	Town Notes: Traffic Update + Mayor's Corner (TBD - interview w/ Mayor)
3	December	December 6 Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Week of 1/2 - 2023 Solid Waste Calendar	Week of 12/5 - Election Updates + Webb Management Community Meeting Reminder + Town Council Meeting Recap	Week of 12/12 - Town Notes, Comprehensive Plan Residents Involvement, Charitable Contribution	Week of 12/16 - Christmas and New Year Closings + Turtle Patrol Yearly Report
4	January	January 10 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Week of 1/9 - Kiawah Next Launching 1/16	Week of 1/9 - Town Council Meeting Recap	Week of 1/16 - Marsh Sparrow Banding Begins + Town Council Meeting Recap (January 12)	Week of 1/16 - Town Council Meeting Retreat (February 1-3)
5	February	February 7 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Town Council Meeting Recap - February 9	Week of 12/19 - Business License/Contractor Renewals Begin January 1	Week of 2/6 - New Website Announcement	
6	March	March 7 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Town Council Meeting Recap - March 9			
7	April	April 4 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Quarterly Financial Update	Town Council Meeting Recap - April 6		
8	May	May 2 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Town Council Meeting Recap - May 4	Have the Budget At A Glance Completed by June 19, for a release date of June 30 - work w/Dorota		
9	June	June 6 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Town Council Meeting Recap - June 8			
10	July	July 11 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Quarterly Financial Update	Town Council Meeting Recap - July 13		

COMMUNICATIONS CONTENT CALENDAR, SNAPSHOT



2023 Goals

- **Strategic Communications Planning + Support**

- Continue providing the Town's communications team with guidance related to strategic messaging with residents and stakeholders, particularly when it comes to hot-button issues.
- Work with communications team, department heads to build out the Content Calendar through 2023, update regularly.

- **External Communications**

- Enhance the Town's communications with external audiences, including local/regional media, focusing on its work enhancing public spaces and its conservation efforts.
- Develop media-specific fact sheet (in progress) + press kit



Thank You

KIAWAH HISTORY PROJECT UPDATES

Agenda:

1. **Current Landscape of Historic Interpretation Projects in Charleston County**
2. **Town of Kiawah Island Precedent**
 - Kiawah Beach Company Master Plan
 - Town of Kiawah Island Comprehensive Plan
3. **Kiawah History Project Components**
 - Museum exhibits
 - Interactive site map
 - Programs, workshops, and events
4. **Sponsors and Supporters**
5. **Discussion, Questions, and Next Steps**



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PUBLIC SAFETY

Public Safety Overall Responsibilities



- ▶ Safety and Security
- ▶ Code Enforcement
- ▶ Beach Patrol
- ▶ Emergency Management
- ▶ Special Events

2022 Public Safety Review

- ▶ Charleston County EMS had 396 response calls compared to 348 in 2021
- ▶ Average response time for 2022 was 12:58 compared to 15:57
- ▶ Since the new Noise Ordinance, handled 55 calls compared to 108 in 2021.
- ▶ St. Johns Fire responded to 818 consisting of medical calls, false alarms special events, and rescue and emergency (398 Rescue and Emergency & False Alarms at 259) Leaving 161 calls for other services.
- ▶ Code Enforcement overall STR inspections 1025 compared to 600 in 2021.

2022 Overview Results



- ▶ EMS Response Time improved
- ▶ Contractual accountability (4th deputy)
- ▶ Amended Noise Ordinance
- ▶ Beachwalker Traffic
- ▶ Building Human Capital
- ▶ Improve communication with internal security entities
- ▶ Increased Emergency Management Role

2023 Public Safety Goals



- ▶ Improve trust and relationships to provide the highest level of professional service to our community
- ▶ Optimize the public safety operational capacity, resiliency and readiness
- ▶ Invest in the public safety workforce

Professional Service



- ▶ Concerns and Complaints regarding public safety
- ▶ Increase community engagements

Optimizing Public Safety Operation



- ▶ Strengthening emergency readiness
- ▶ Improve crisis situational skills
- ▶ Strengthening Safety awareness (code enforcement, beach patrol, public works, KICA, Freshfield, and Resort Security)
- ▶ Identify equipment and systems requirement, seek appropriate resources to enhance public safety needs to maintain a safe and healthy community.

Workforce Investment



- ▶ Maintain Federal, State and Local certifications for all personnel
- ▶ Performance management practices for efficiency and sustain a high performing workforce.
- ▶ Capitalize in programs aimed to enhance resiliency, health, and professionalism.

Perspective Outcomes



- ▶ Trained staff/employees of Kiawah Island on safety and security awareness
- ▶ Improve engagement between the community and TOKI Public Safety dept.
- ▶ Improve operational readiness during potential emergency crisis

Challenges



- ▶ Role Specifications
- ▶ Process management
- ▶ Blending multiple personalities into a cohesive and unified team
- ▶ Adaptive to change

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PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Department



- ▶ Brian Gottshalk-Public Works Manager
 - ▶ Capital Project Management
 - ▶ Contract Management
 - ▶ Progressive Planning Initiatives
- ▶ Michael Nardelli- Assistant Public Works Manager
 - ▶ Facilities Management
 - ▶ IT Liaison
 - ▶ Contract Support Management

Overall Responsibilities



- ▶ The Public Works Department is responsible for overseeing public services and contracts on the island as well as maintaining/improving all public infrastructure.
- ▶ Public Services and Contracts:
 - ▶ Residential and Commercial Solid Waste Collection
 - ▶ Landscaping
 - ▶ Island Beach Services (beach chair and umbrella rentals)
- ▶ Public Infrastructure:
 - ▶ Municipal Complex
 - ▶ KI Parkway from Roundabout to Main Gate
 - ▶ Beachwalker Drive
 - ▶ The Beach

Town of Kiawah Vehicle Fleet

- ▶ As part of the Town's internal efforts to lead in more environmentally friendly operations, town staff purchased a Ford F-150 Lightning, its first fully electric vehicle to add to our 10 vehicle fleet.
- ▶ Currently the Town has 8 pick-up trucks between the Wildlife, Public Works, Public Safety, and Building Departments. The Town also has 2 SUVs, one for Public Safety and one as an Admin vehicle.
- ▶ This vehicle will be used primarily in the Building Department, which we feel is the right fit for introducing EVs into the fleet.
- ▶ Town staff will closely monitor the usage, durability, battery capacity, and scheduled maintenance to determine efficiency and how we will increase the amount of EVs in our fleet.
- ▶ The intent will be for the Town to have fully electric and hybrid vehicles make up about 50 percent of the total fleet.
- ▶ Town staff would also like to look into have some sort of decal or visible marking on the EV and hybrid vehicles denoting the eco-friendly status and the Town's green efforts.

Kiawah Go Green Initiative 2.0



- ▶ The Town of Kiawah spearheaded a Go Green Initiative that included other island stakeholders (KICA, KIGR, KP, the Conservancy). While the group ultimately became inactive, the Town continued its drive to incorporate and research eco-friendly operations.
- ▶ Town staff is proposing to revamp this initiative through operations specific to The Town, and also partnering with KICA, KIGR, KP, and the Conservancy for island wide projects.
- ▶ These initiatives include:
 - ▶ Increasing the Electric Vehicles (EVs) in the Town Fleet to potentially 5 or 6 total
 - ▶ Implementing public Electric Vehicle Charging Stations across the island
 - ▶ Continue to decrease use of plastics across the island
 - ▶ Implement Hazardous Waste collection for the community
 - ▶ Exploring solar panel options (commercial buildings)
 - ▶ Building a “green” Public Works Building*
 - ▶ Explore the use of battery-powered landscape equipment for island maintenance

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations



- ▶ As the number of Electric Vehicles on the road continue to rise, the Town has an opportunity to contribute to this green effort of island residents and visitors through implementation of EV Charging stations.
- ▶ Other municipalities that have installed public charging stations include Hilton Head, Edisto, Folly Beach, and Mount Pleasant.
- ▶ Currently within the Town, there are no publicly available EV Charging Stations. Town Staff would like to work with other stakeholders to have these charging stations installed in strategic locations around the island.

Map of Proposed Charging Station Locations



Charging Stations cont.



- ▶ What does it look like for The Town to move forward with installation?
 1. Estimate how many EVs live on/visit the island (to the best of our ability). We can potentially use our new data collection contractor, Placer A.I. to help.
 2. Talk with other entities about installing Charging Stations on their property
 3. Determine the amount of charging stations we will have at each location based off data collected and come up with an installation plan for the coming years
 4. Determine how payment will be set up. Potentially the Town can fund the installation and implement additional charges per use.
 5. Work with vendor such as ChargePoint to get quotes
 6. Present information and installation plan to the Ways and Means Committee and Town Council

Charging Stations Continued



- ▶ This project to install island wide public charging stations will be met with a few challenges that the Town will need to overcome:
 - ▶ Determine cost and funding for the project
 - ▶ Determine the most conducive island wide locations
 - ▶ Getting all entities on board with installing charging stations and determining on site locations, funding, and installation process.
 - ▶ Maximizing usage from customers through advertising and signage
 - ▶ Explore opportunities to involve Berkeley Electric for potential funding, installation, and advertising.

Public Works Building

- ▶ Having a Public Works building is a way for The Town to showcase opportunities for becoming more environmentally friendly through a LEED Certified building.
- ▶ By implementing such a building, town staff hopes to inspire other entities to explore green solutions for their facilities.
- ▶ Not only will the building be eco-friendly, but also be a resource for the community to be involved in our green efforts.
- ▶ Some Go Green initiatives that can be implemented are:
 - ▶ Solar Panels
 - ▶ Constructed using recycled material
 - ▶ Designed with area to receive hazardous waste that is commonly disposed of improperly (paints, oils, fertilizers, batteries, electronics)
 - ▶ LED Lighting with motion sensors
 - ▶ Highly efficient heating and cooling system
 - ▶ Installation of intelligent building management systems to optimize electrical usage

Public Works Building Continued

- ▶ Apart from having a Go Green Initiative, a Public Works building also serves to benefit Town operations.
- ▶ Part of the design will include a garage bay with a lift so that town staff can perform vehicle maintenance in house. Currently The Town pays a third party to perform all maintenance on our vehicles
- ▶ Further, by moving the Public Works Department into this building, there would be more office space available in the main building for our growing staff. Right now all of the office space is occupied.
- ▶ We would also be increasing storage for tools, equipment, and miscellaneous items that are housed in and around the garage.

Hazardous Material Collection

- ▶ Town staff has noticed a great deal of hazardous material being disposed of improperly.
- ▶ Items such as paint cans, oils, batteries, fertilizers, etc. are continuing to show up in the residential waste containers and the public dumpsters on Kestrel Court and at Town Hall.
- ▶ This could be due to the inconvenience of proper disposal or simply not knowing how to properly dispose of these items.
- ▶ Currently, the closest drop off for hazardous material is at the County Landfill on Bees Ferry or the County location on Folly Road.
- ▶ In an effort to reduce these occurrences, town staff would like to explore options for proper collection of these materials.
- ▶ Town staff can look into having a collection point at the Kestrel Court center, as well as potentially having an area at Town Hall designated to receive such refuse.

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ENVIRONMENTAL
WILDLIFE

Department Composition



- ▶ Jim Jordan – Wildlife Biologist/Conservation Manager
 - ▶ B.S. Biology – Furman University
 - ▶ M.S. Wildlife Ecology and Management – University of Georgia

- ▶ Aaron Given – Wildlife Biologist/Ornithologist
 - ▶ B.S. Zoology – Southern Illinois University
 - ▶ M.S. Wildlife Biology – Southeast Missouri State



Department Responsibilities



- ▶ **Wildlife Research**
- ▶ **Wildlife Population Monitoring**
- ▶ **Natural Resource Management**
- ▶ Public Education and Outreach
- ▶ Nuisance Wildlife
- ▶ Beach Management
- ▶ Geographic Information System (GIS) and Mapping



Department Mission



*Maintain a functioning, natural ecosystem
on Kiawah Island in perpetuity*

What is an Ecosystem?



*An **ecosystem** is a large community of living organisms (plants, animals and microbes) in a particular area. The living and physical components are linked together through nutrient cycles and energy flows.*



Illustration by Jeff Grider / property of Delta Education

Understanding an Ecosystem



- ▶ **Focus on Keystone and Indicator Species**
- ▶ **Keystone species** – vital for ecosystem health, can change habitat
 - ▶ Bobcats – GPS tracking since 2007
 - ▶ Alligators – Surveys, GPS tracking, tagging
 - ▶ White-tailed deer – Surveys, population management
- ▶ **Indicator species** – used to monitor environmental changes, assess the efficacy of management, and provide warning signals for impending ecological shifts
 - ▶ **Migratory Songbirds** – Fall Banding Program
 - ▶ **Marsh Sparrows** – Winter Banding Program, GPS tracking
 - ▶ **Painted Buntings** – Summer Banding Program, Geolocators
 - ▶ Wilson's Plovers – Spring Banding, Nest Monitoring



Migratory Songbirds



- ▶ Need high-quality stopover habitat
- ▶ Numbers and diversity indicate habitat quality
- ▶ Trends over time can indicate issues with habitat
- ▶ Drives tourism, Birding is a big attraction for many residents and visitors



- ▶ Fall Migration Banding
- ▶ Captain Sam's Spit (2009-present)
- ▶ Little Bear Island (2015-present)
- ▶ August 15-November 30 (daily from dawn to noon)
- ▶ 5-6 banding assistants hired
- ▶ 78,463 birds banded, 18,840 recaptures, 139 species



Marsh Sparrows



- ▶ Rely 100% on saltmarsh habitat in winter
- ▶ Numbers and diversity indicate habitat quality
- ▶ Trends over time can indicate issues with habitat (sea-level rise)
- ▶ Potential for Federal listing

- ▶ Flushed into nets, captured, and banded at high tide roosts
- ▶ December-April (~8 days a month)
- ▶ Collaborative study with USFWS
 - ▶ Use of nanotags began in 2016 to monitor migration
 - ▶ Use of GPS in 2016 to track migration and survival
- ▶ 2,628 birds banded, 1,669 recaptures, 3 species



Painted Buntings



- ▶ Need high-quality scrub-shrub habitat for breeding
 - ▶ Presence indicates habitat quality
 - ▶ Trends over time can indicate issues with habitat
 - ▶ Iconic species, Beautiful bird, Big attraction for birders/tourism
 - ▶ Resident involvement (Better habitat in yards, Feeders)
-
- ▶ Captured at feeders in resident backyards (May-August)
 - ▶ Determine abundance, distribution, and survival
 - ▶ Collaborative study with Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center
 - ▶ Geolocators to look at wintering range
 - ▶ Nanotags to look at migratory connectivity
 - ▶ Painted Buntings - 1,175 banded, 761 recaptures
 - ▶ Other species – 923 banded, 27 recaptures



Major Goals



- ▶ Return bobcat numbers to historic levels
- ▶ Maintain deer population at historic, acceptable densities (60-80 deer/square mile)
- ▶ Increase use of native plants in landscaping (80% native)
- ▶ Eliminate invasive, non-native plants
- ▶ Protect natural habitat from impacts of flooding and sea-level rise (beach, marsh)

Bobcats



- ▶ **Keystone species – Vital to ecosystem. Provide natural control of deer and rodent populations.**
- ▶ **Iconic species – Beloved by residents**
- ▶ Rapid decline in bobcat numbers beginning in 2017 due primarily to second-generation anticoagulants (SGAs)
- ▶ Population has stabilized and started to increase (annual survival rate up from 25% to 83%)



Bobcat Research

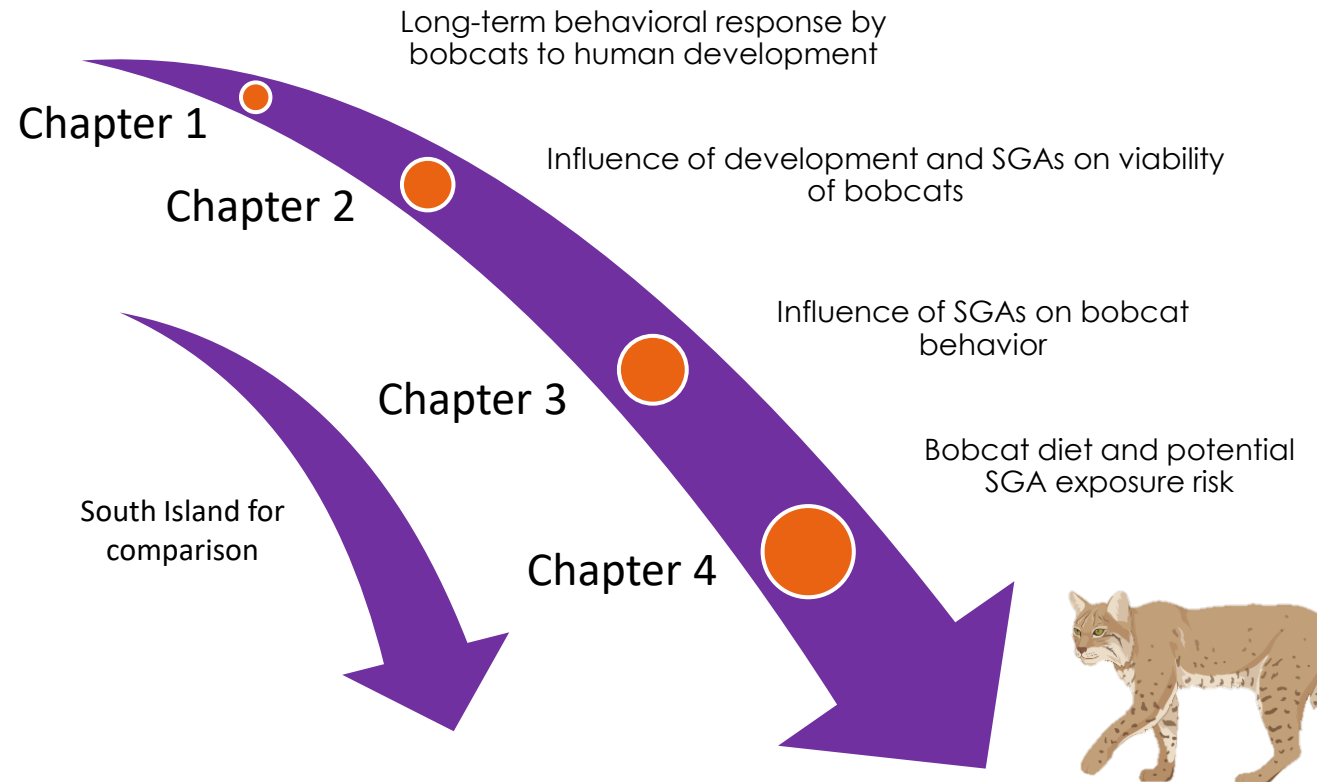


- ▶ GPS Monitoring Program (2007-present)

- ▶ Annual trapping in January-February
- ▶ 99 bobcats collared to date

- ▶ Clemson Bobcat Anticoagulant Study (2022-2025)

- ▶ Funds from Town, KICA, Conservancy, and more....
- ▶ GPS monitoring
- ▶ Population modeling
- ▶ Scat collection



Impacts of SGAs on Kiawah's Wildlife

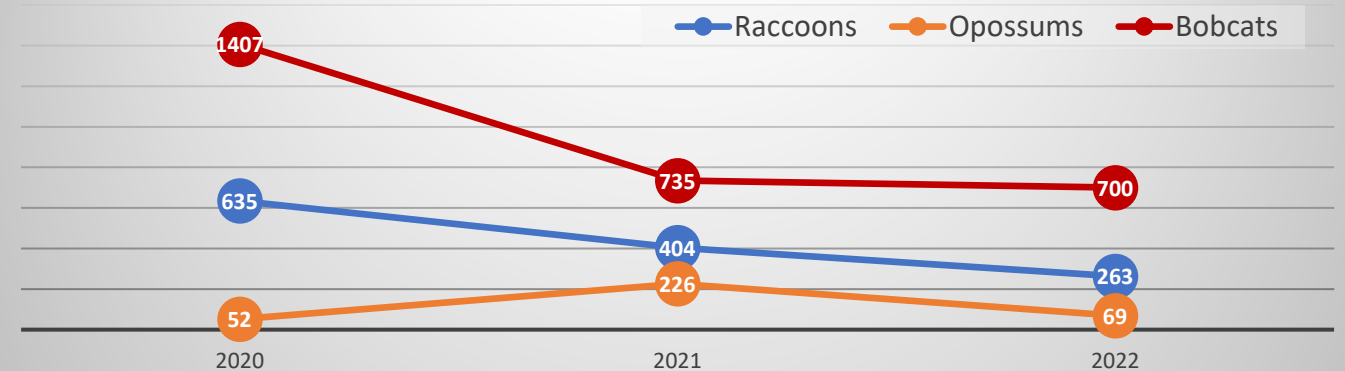


- Biologists began testing other wildlife in February 2020 for anticoagulant exposure

- 116 animals collected to date (64% exposure rate)

• Bobcats	8/8	(100%)
• Screech Owl	2/2	(100%)
• Cooper's Hawk	1/1	(100%)
• Red-tailed Hawk	2/2	(100%)
• Black Vulture	1/1	(100%)
• Alligators	3/3	(100%)
• Coyote	1/1	(100%)
• Roof Rat	1/1	(100%)
• Opossums	24/31	(77%)
• Raccoons	31/62	(50%)
• American Crow	0/3	(0%)
• River Otter	0/1	(0%)

**Average Liver SGA Exposure Level
Kiawah Island, SC**



Initiatives



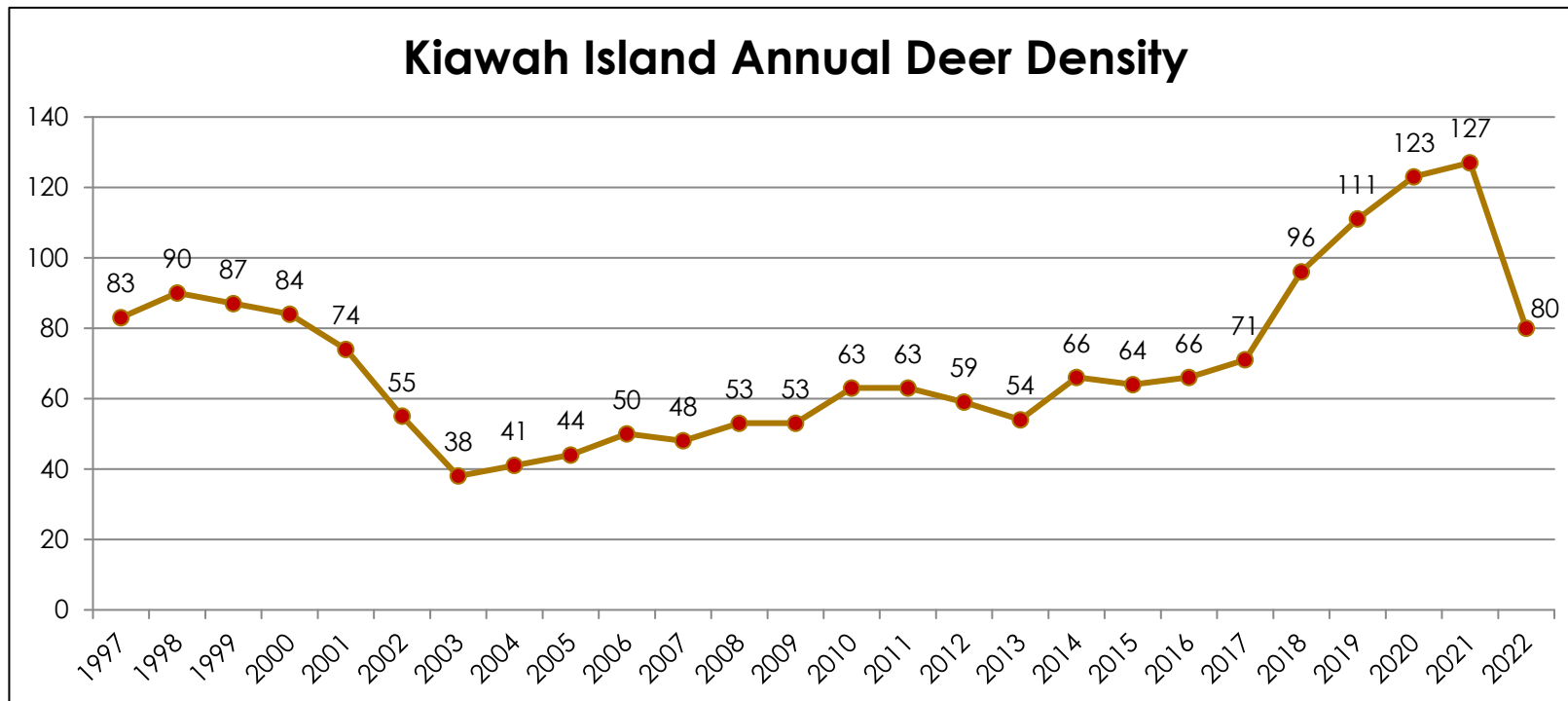
- ▶ Support current Clemson research study over next 4 years
 - ▶ \$50k committed in FY 21-22, and FY 22-23
 - ▶ Additional funding needed for next 2 fiscal years
- ▶ Continue Bobcat GPS Research Project
- ▶ Continue and expand Bobcat Guardian program and outreach efforts



White-tailed Deer



- ▶ **Keystone species – Environmental impacts, Public safety concerns**
- ▶ **Rapid increase in deer population beginning in 2018**



Initiatives



- ▶ Continue biannual spotlight surveys (Fall/Winter)
- ▶ Deer Management Plan approved by Town Council in April 2020
 - ▶ Sharpshooting
 - ▶ State permit and tags (Sept 15-March 1)
 - ▶ Meat donated to charity
 - ▶ 100 deer removed in February 2021
 - ▶ 200 deer removed in February 2022
 - ▶ Annual harvest until population goal is achieved
 - ▶ 2023 harvest goal – 80 deer



Native Plants



- ▶ Sustain pollinators vital for fruit production and provide high-quality food and shelter for 10 to 15 times as many species of wildlife as non-native plants.
- ▶ Reduced use of fertilizers and pesticides
- ▶ Provide essential watershed protection, helping natural aquifers recharge, serving to filter water naturally flowing into rivers and estuaries, lessening erosion and flooding.
- ▶ Resistant to saltwater intrusion from flooding and storm surge



Non-Native Plants



- ▶ Many provide no wildlife value (other than cover)
- ▶ Require more fertilizers and pesticides
- ▶ Susceptible to climate changes (saltwater intrusion)
- ▶ Several are very invasive, destroying native habitats
 - ▶ Chinese Tallow Tree
 - ▶ Giant Reed (Phragmites)



Initiatives



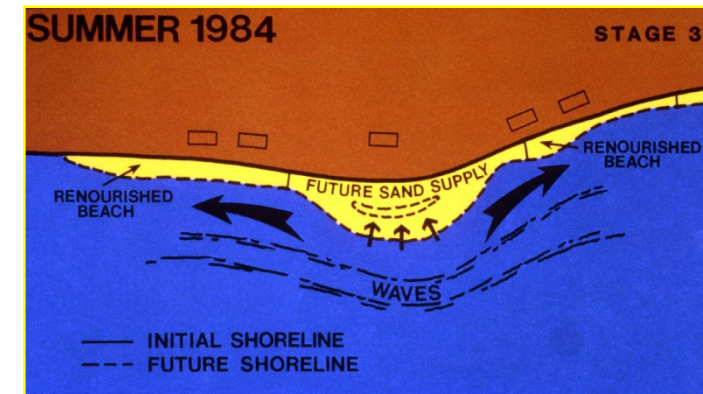
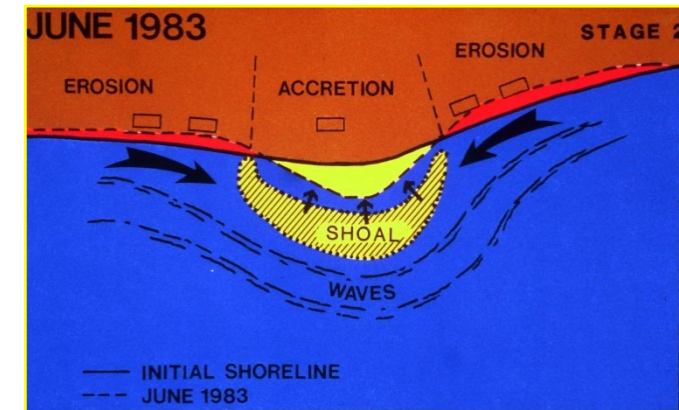
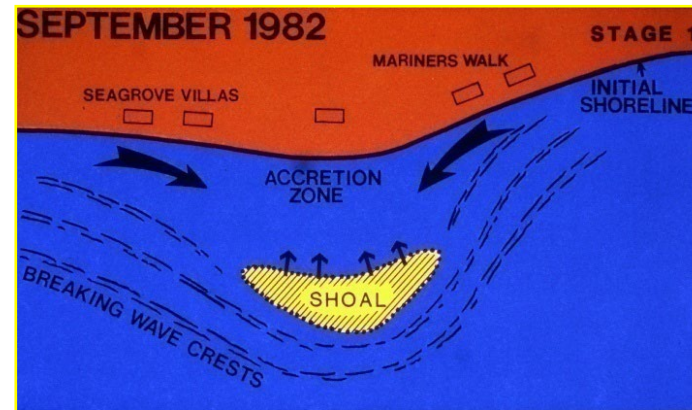
- ▶ Reinvigorate and expand Grow Native Program
 - ▶ Town Hall Landscaping and Nature Trail
- ▶ 80% native plants in all landscaping projects on Kiawah
 - ▶ ARB, KICA, Club, Resort
 - ▶ Add ARB requirement for 80% native understory/groundcover
- ▶ Eliminate Chinese Tallow and Phragmites
 - ▶ Tallow tree eradication program very successful
 - ▶ Phragmites control mainly by KICA
 - ▶ Continue control programs (\$30k per year)



The Beach



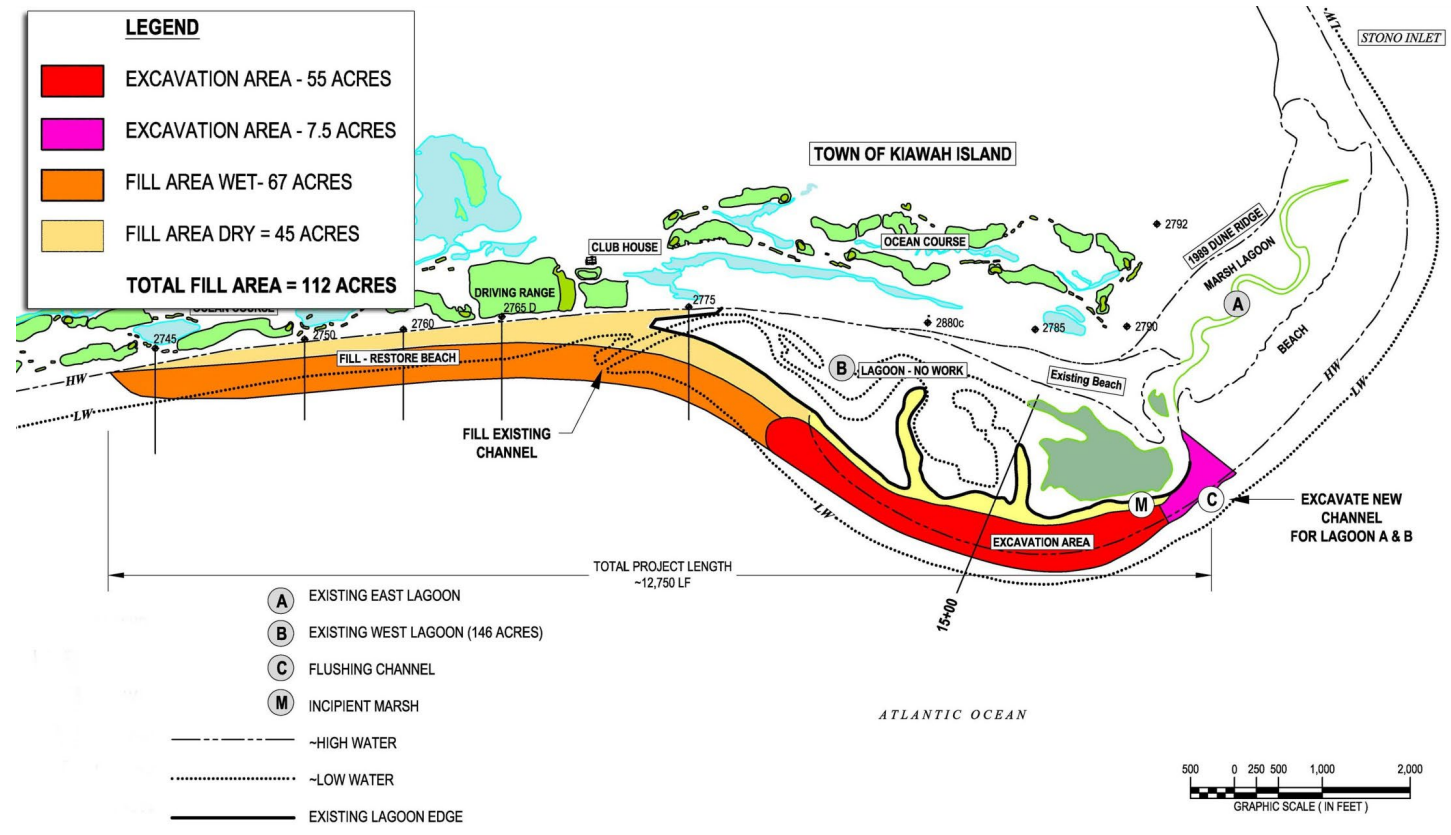
- ▶ Coastal Science and Engineering is the Town's beach consultant (Annual contract ~\$40,000)
- ▶ 10 miles long
- ▶ Healthy, accreting beach
- ▶ Natural renourishment through shoal bypass events on eastern end
 - ▶ Every 5-7 years
 - ▶ 1 million cubic yards
- ▶ Eastern end has historically experienced periodic erosion caused primarily by a small tidal inlet
- ▶ 2 beach renourishment projects conducted by Town (2006, 2015)



2006 East End Renourishment Project



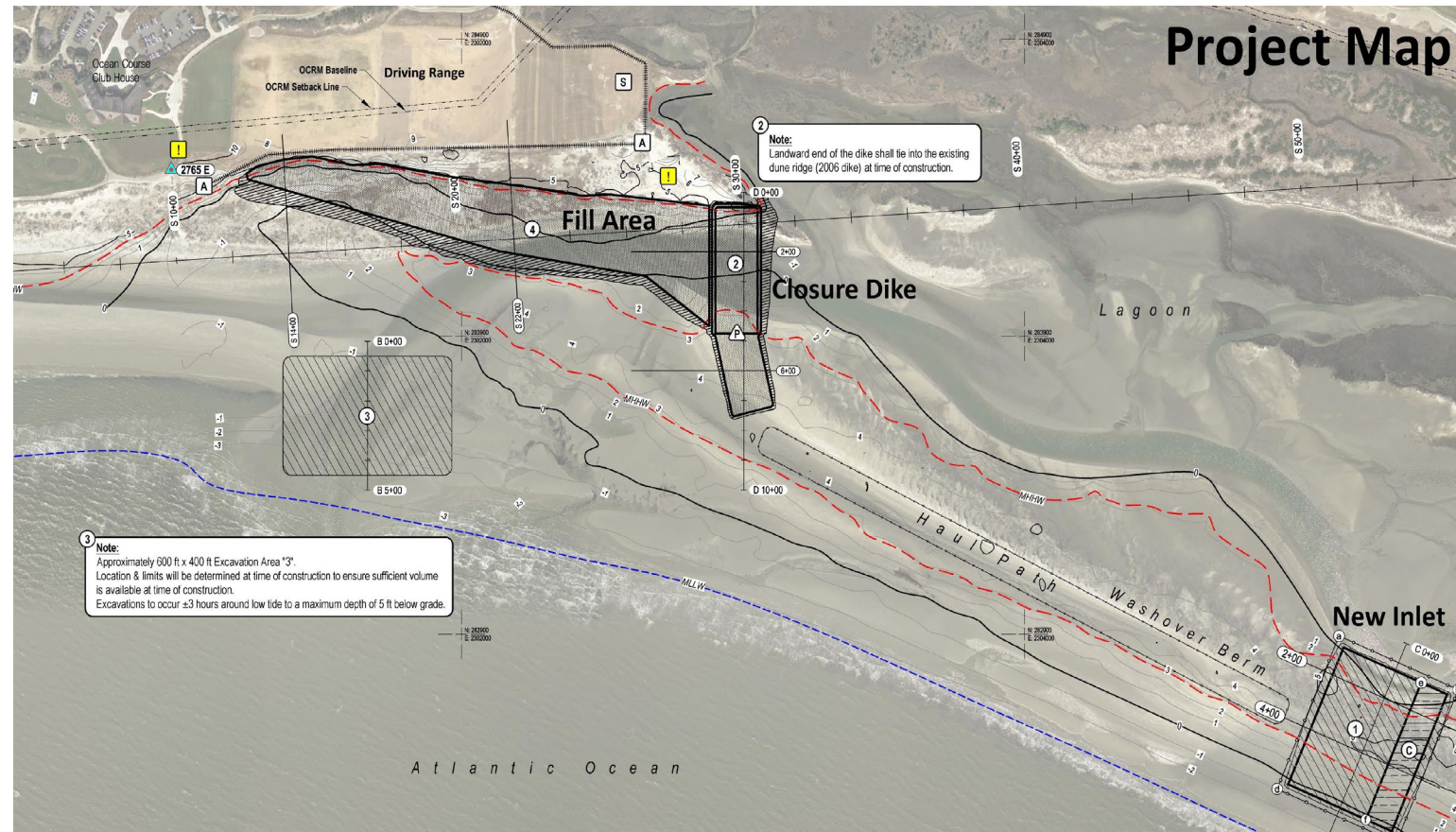
- ▶ June 8-July 28, 2006
- ▶ Land-based equipment
- ▶ 550,000 cubic yards of sand moved
- ▶ \$3.6 million (Town \$2.7 million)
- ▶ Sued by National Audubon Society and SC Wildlife Federation



2015 East End Renourishment Project



- ▶ May 18-June 11, 2015
- ▶ Land-based equipment
- ▶ 100,000 cubic yards of sand moved
- ▶ \$538,000
- ▶ Additional \$450,000 in mitigation costs



Beach Management Plan



► Required by SC Beachfront Management Act

- Review every 5 years, no submission to DHEC
- Updated revision for DHEC approval every 10 years
- 10 required criteria
- Plan must be in place to receive state/federal funding for beach projects (Kiawah not eligible for funding)

► Original plan for Kiawah was completed in 1992

- Full update in 2006, 2012, and 2020.



Kiawah Conservancy Recent Projects



- ▶ Town funding for Conservancy Projects (\$73,000 FY 22-23)
- ▶ **Groundwater Table Study (2019-2021)**
 - ▶ Long-term study tracking sub-soil freshwater reserves and impacts of saltwater intrusion
- ▶ **Marsh Vulnerability Study (2019-2021)**
 - ▶ Historical change in tidal salt marsh, trends
- ▶ **Integrated Watershed Study (2021-2022)**
 - ▶ Created annual water budget, monitor tidal water quality
- ▶ **Rain Garden Education and Installation (2022-2023)**
 - ▶ Demonstrate effectiveness of rain gardens to reduce stormwater runoff
- ▶ **Maritime Forest Health Assessment (2022-2023)**
 - ▶ Initiate long-term study of vegetative composition and structure within the maritime forest (LiDAR)

Questions?

