



Town of Kiawah Island

Seeking a Resiliency Director

Reports to: Mayor and Town Administrator

General Statement of Duties

The Town of Kiawah Island is a residential resort community set in a coastal environment. The Town is responsible for the public health, safety, and welfare of those within its limits. The Town is home to more than 2,000 full-time residents, hundreds of second-home property owners, and hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

Proposed in the Town's KiawahNext Comprehensive Plan, the Resiliency Director is a newly created position responsible for coordinating Kiawah's resilience efforts. An early priority is developing a consolidated Town resilience plan that draws together the community's existing resilience-related plans and initiatives for adoption by the Mayor and Town Council.

On an ongoing basis, the Director coordinates the Town's resilience efforts across departments, Kiawah entities, and outside partners to protect Kiawah's infrastructure, community, and environment.

Core Areas of Responsibility

- Coastal Resiliency and Sea Level Rise Adaptation
- Marsh Health, Restoration, and Coastal Water Quality
- Stormwater Management and Green Infrastructure
- Grant Development and External Funding
- Sustainability Integration
- Resiliency Committee Support
- Community Engagement and Environmental Education
- Interagency Collaboration and Regional Coordination

Essential Job Functions

Note: This is a new and evolving position. The description below outlines the general scope and intent of the role rather than an exhaustive list of duties.

The Resiliency Director leads the Town's effort to prepare Kiawah for long-term environmental change. Working from the KiawahNext Comprehensive Plan, the Director develops and advances a unified resilience strategy that protects the island's marshes, shorelines, water quality, and infrastructure, shaping the priorities and programs of a role that will grow with the community's needs.

The Director evaluates Kiawah's exposure to sea-level rise, flooding, storm surge, and erosion and turns that analysis into clear recommendations for the Mayor, Council, staff, and residents. The Director prioritizes nature-based solutions, such as living shorelines and green infrastructure, and coordinates the Town's stormwater and floodplain efforts.

To carry this work forward, the Director pursues grant funding and partnerships, serves as staff lead to the Town's Resiliency Committee, and builds community awareness through education, outreach, and public communication as the Town's spokesperson on resiliency matters. The role also depends on strong regional collaboration with partner agencies, conservation organizations, neighboring municipalities, and Kiawah entities, including Kiawah Island Community Association, on shared resilience priorities.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

The Resiliency Director brings strong technical grounding in coastal and environmental systems, including coastal zone management, floodplain regulation, barrier island ecology, and marsh and wetland health, along with working familiarity with resilience-planning tools and frameworks, such as GIS, hydrologic modeling, and federal and state resilience programs.

Just as important are the qualities needed to build a new function: a clear communicator who can translate complex technical issues for residents, elected officials, and the media; a collaborative partner across Town departments, outside agencies, boards and committees, and an engaged community; and a self-directed leader who identifies priorities and carries them to implementation with limited supervision.

Qualifications

Education and Experience: A bachelor's degree in environmental science, engineering, coastal or urban planning, ecology, or a related field (master's preferred), and at least five years of relevant professional experience, including time in a leadership role and a record of securing grant funding. An equivalent combination of education, training, and experience may be considered.

Licenses or Certifications: Relevant professional credentials are a plus but not required; the Town values demonstrated experience and capability above any specific certification. A valid SC driver's license, or the ability to obtain one by the start of employment, is required.

Pay info: Salary range \$100,000 – \$123,116 annually + benefits.

How to apply: Applications are available online at www.kiawahisland.gov. Forward resume and employment application to attn.: Town Administrator, at stillerson@kiawahisland.gov or 4475 Betsy Kerrison Pkwy, Kiawah Island, SC 29455. Only those candidates considered for an interview will be contacted.

Deadline: Open Until Filled

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