



Town of Hilton Head Island
Our Plan Environment Work Group

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 4:00 PM

The Living Lab at Town Hall

MEETING NOTES

Work Group:

Redefining Environmental Sustainability

Present from Work Group: Mike Bennett, Richard Blaine, Jean Fruh, Amber Kuehn, Bryan McIlwee, Mark O'Neil, Kenneth Quinty, Tony Wartko

Present from Town Staff: Anne Cyran, Taylor Ladd

- The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM.
- Anne Cyran introduced the attribute activity. This activity is another process for gather inputs to assist in drafting the strategies and tactics for Our Plan.
- Group members filled out the Attribute Worksheet by identifying attributes for each theme that resulted from the photo activity at the previous meeting.
- Group members then discussed their attribute ideas. Taylor Ladd recorded the attributes that were discussed for each theme.
- The results of the attribute discussion for each theme include:
 - a. Water**
 - Quality of lagoon systems
 - Potable water sources (infrastructure)
 - Stormwater management
 - Poisonous runoff; salinity
 - Sea level rise (climate change)
 - Intermingling of surface water and marine water
 - Measurement & data collection
 - Threat to marine water
 - Management of consumption of resources & standards
 - Best practices for regulating agencies
 - Efficient use of potable water sources; consider irrigation, low-flow devices
 - b. Climate Change**
 - Infrastructure improvements needed to change & adapt – higher roads, houses not built on slabs
 - Beach renourishment
 - Seawalls
 - Planned retreat

- Coastal squeeze → Living shorelines
- Change in vegetation
- There will be business effects. Anticipate change in work schedules.
- Adaptation → Planned retreat
- Effect on business community → Broad based economic impact
- Consider effects on Native Islanders

c. Food

- Climate change effects on animal lifecycles. Ex: shrimp and oyster harvesting.
- Farm to table with nothing (plastics, chemicals) in between
- Food waste & by-product waste → Second Helpings, composting
- Recycling & composting
- Local farm distribution, ex. Charleston's Grow Food
- Protect the fishing and seafood industry here
- Effects on resort fishing

d. Environment as an Asset

- Make it known → Market our ecology
- Eco-tourism
- Access to the environment → County is 50% water – Who has access? Need a logical plan for access
- Leadership in eco-tourism and access

e. Baseline

- Be conscious of what's been done.
- Are we getting better or worse?

f. Utilities

- Innovative waste handling & processing infrastructure
- Efficiency – What's our tipping point? What are the limits?
- Incentives to host efficiency programs?
- Solar options

- The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Submitted by: Anne Cyran