

SEWEE PLANNING TEAM
MEETING #1
MARCH 16, 2010 2-4 PM PARK WEST, MT. PLEASANT, SC
MEETING NOTES

ATTENDEES:

Charlie Johnson
Tim Mobley
Jack Villeponteaux
Sam Campbell
Rutledge Leland
Aaron Baldwin
Diane Lauritsen
Dickie Schweers
Noel Thorn

Sam Robinson
Christiane Ferrell
Sarah Hartman
Kevin Godsea
Michelle Sinkler
Jennie Stephens
Tammie Hoy
Greg Lipscomb: BCD COG
Christopher Morgan

INTRODUCTIONS

OVERVIEW OF PURPOSE OF PLANNING TEAM

Noel explained the concept of Natural Neighborhoods and reviewed the results of the Sewee Summit. All of the planning team attended the Sewee Summit except representatives of Berkeley Electric. The Sewee Summit had representatives from all local governments including City of Charleston, Town of Mt. Pleasant, Town of Awendaw, Town of McClellanville and elected officials from Charleston and Berkeley Counties. Also participating in the Summit were representatives of heirs properties, housing, economic development, conservation, landowners, federal agencies and others. The purpose of the Summit was to determine whether we could benefit from regional collaboration. It was agreed yes we could. The Summit stakeholders agreed to form a planning team and assigned it tasks to bring back to the stakeholders sometime in mid-May 2010. Assigned tasks were: (1) prepare an assessment/list of the assets of the region (people, culture, natural assets, manmade assets), (2) define the values of the assets, (3) define the needs of the assets, and (4) list elements that could be considered for a regional plan for the area. Noel was asked to convene the first planning team meeting.

PLANNING TEAM OPERATING PROCEDURES

The team discussed operating methods to include election of officers, minutes, voting, publishing results and other related matters? Noel gave an overview of the methods adopted by the Yemassee area

planning team. Also methods of the recent special committee formed to study wastewater management in the Sewee region. After discussion it was agreed the team will operate in an open form with no presiding officers. Noel will continue to facilitate and keep minutes, provide agendas and to arrange meetings. Minutes will be kept and provided to team members. Votes may be taken from time to time as the team determines appropriate. Results of the team's work will be presented to the Sewee Summit stakeholders sometime in mid-May, with the form of presentation to be determined. All team results are to be transparent to the public.

ADDITIONS TO PLANNING TEAM

The team discussed proposed additions and agreed to the following:

Education: Bill Lewis- Christiane to contact

Local School Board- Charlie Johnson to contact

SCEGO-Bill Turner-Jack Villeponteaux to contact

Local Business-Charlie Johnson to contact

Tammie Hoy inquired about large landowner representation. Noel explained that the Fairlawn owners had been invited to participate in the Summit but declined. Following, they were invited to participate in the planning team but did not respond to the invitation. Sam Robinson agreed to make contact with the Fairlawn owners to seek their participation.

Rutledge Leland said there is a small business group recently formed in McClellanville that may be a valued addition. Charlie Johnson agreed to pursue that lead.

Aaron Baldwin told the team of some recent work by Clemson University in the McClellanville area and that they may be a valuable resource. Charlie Johnson agreed to follow up on that lead.

Jennie Stephens said we may want to add some of the above as advisors to the team as opposed to additions to the team, to avoid the team becoming too large and unwieldy.

PLANNING TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

The team reviewed its charge from the Sewee Summit and agreed to add a fifth category to the general asset categories-Local Commerce, with the five asset categories to be studied as:

- Natural
- Cultural/Historic
- Human
- Infrastructure/Other Manmade
- Local Commerce

It was agreed that the work of the planning team would be divided by the above five categories and that each division would meet separately to define assets, values of the assets and needs of the assets and report their findings to the planning team on April 7, 2010.

The team spent time in listing assets in each of the above five categories and agreed to an assignment of individual planning team members to each category as follows:

✓ **NATURAL ASSETS (Kevin, Sarah, Diane (lead), Sam R.)**

- Waterway and rivers
- FMNF
- Refuge
- Sea turtles
- Cape Romain (area global importance)
- United nations Biosphere Reserve
- Sea life
- Long leaf pine habitat
- RCW
- Flatwood Salamander
- Game
- Swallow tail kite
- Eagles
- Migratory birds
- Sweet grass
- Magnitude of the forest
- Marshes/Creeks
- Class 1 wilderness area (air quality)
- Ecosystem benefits
- Underground aquifer
- Santee Delta
- Barrier islands
- Atlantic Ocean
- Ambient light
- Sand ridges/old dune system
- Wetlands/swamps
- Carolina bays

✓ **CULTURAL/HISTORIC (Jennie (lead), Sam C., Greg L.)**

- Churches/cemeteries
- Indian Shell mound
- Gullah-Geechee corridor
- Sweet grass basket making
- Heirs property
- Traditional lifestyles (crabbing/fishing)
- Plantations (buildings, slavery, cemeteries)
- McClellanville museum/village
- Rice fields
- Lighthouses
- Old Georgetown Road
- Martello Tower on Bulls Island
- Historic sites
- Birds of prey center
- Civil war battery site
- Native population
- Settlement areas

✓ **HUMAN RESOURCES (Charlie, Chris, Tammie (lead), Aaron**

Footnote: develop a comprehensive understanding of local people, a socio-economic profile, including an understanding of education, race, income, poverty levels, skill sets, employment levels and other relevant facts and data.

✓ **INFRASTRUCTURE (Jack, Bill Turner, Tim, Clay, Bill Lewis, Christiane (lead))**

- Highway 17
- Schools
- Parks/recreation
- Secondary roads (private/public)
- Intracoastal waterway
- Dredged entrance channel
- Jeremy creek
- Drainage ditches
- Water/sewer
- Electric lines
- Gas lines
- Broadband & other communication issues
- Spoil areas
- Water dispensing station
- Camp ground
- Sewee Visitors center
- Boat landings
- Cell service
- Housing stock
- Telephone/cell
- Hospital
- Rural Health clinic
- Docks
- Public transportation: LINK Bus

LOCAL COMMERCE (Rutledge, Noel (lead), Dickie, Charlie's contact)

- Fishing
- Private/public Forestry
- Forestry products
- Eco-tourism
- Tourism
- Farming/ranching
- Retail
- Manufacturing
- Post office
- Local trade/artist
- Equestrian
- Sweetgrass
- Eco-system services
- Guides
- Construction
- Real estate
- Entertainment
- Restaurants
- Health clinic
- Broadband
- Child-care/day care
- Entrepreneurship
- Pass thru commerce
- Senior services

ELEMENTS OF A REGIONAL PLAN

It was agreed that time would be spent at the next meeting to review and discuss a list of prospective elements that may be included in a comprehensive plan for the region. To facilitate that discussion Noel agreed to send a summary list as prepared by the planning team in the Yemassee Region for that region.

OTHER BUSINESS

Sarah Hartman agreed to prepare a map showing the proposed boundaries of the study area and to circulate to the team members.

Christiane and the Town of Mt. Pleasant were thanked for their generosity in hosting the first meeting and for providing support.

Noel agreed to update the list of planning team members and to include e-mail addresses.

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the team would meet at Awendaw Town Hall on April 7, 2010 from 2 to 4 PM with the first order of business to hear reports from the asset study groups and to discuss regional plan elements. In the event Awendaw Town Hall is not available the default site will be the Sewee Center.

