



Environmental Advisory Committee

4:00pm, Thursday, August 14, 2025

City Hall

Council Chambers

1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

Public Comment:

All citizens who wish to speak during the meeting must email their first and last name, address, and topic to Nicole DeNeane at nicoled@iop.net no later than **3:00 p.m. the business day before the meeting**. Citizens may also provide public comment here:

<https://www.iop.net/public-comment-form>

Agenda

1. **Call to Order** and acknowledgement that the press and public were duly notified of the meeting in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.
2. **Approval of previous meeting's minutes – July 10, 2025**
3. **Citizen's Comments**
4. **Old Business**
 - a. Recommendations Matrix
 - b. Water Quality Testing
5. **New Business**
 - a. EAC participation at the Farmer's Market
6. **Miscellaneous**

Next meeting: Thursday, September 11, 2025, 4:00pm
7. **Adjournment**



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, July 10, 2025

1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, SC

and broadcasted live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofisleofpalms>

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Present: Laura Lovins, Mary Pringle, Eric Cicora, Cindy Marrs, Sean Popson

Absent: Todd Murphy, Lucia Spiotta

Staff Present: Administrator Kerr, Asst. Director Asero, Council Member Miars

2. Citizen's Comments

Ms. Susan Smith's comments are attached to these minutes. Ms. Lovins asked that the subject of Ms. Smith's comments be added to the August meeting agenda.

3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

MOTION: Ms. Popson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2 and 8, 2025 meetings, and Ms. Marrs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentations – none

5. Old Business

A. Lighting ordinance presentation

Council Member Miars and Mr. Murphy met to discuss modifications to the proposed lighting ordinance. A new draft has been sent to legal counsel for comments, and they are awaiting an updated draft. Administrator Kerr said that legal counsel has suggested making the light timer a requirement or to take it out and make it part of an educational campaign. Discussion ensued about the enforcement of such a requirement.

Mr. Cicora asked if the intent in Section A is to have all residential lights shielded. Mr. Cicora suggested changing the wording to "Outdoor lighting on residential structures must not shine directly onto the intercoastal waterway, marsh, or other natural areas outside of the owner's property line." Ms. Popson later suggested changing "adjacent lands" to "adjacent properties."

These suggested changes will go back to the City Attorney for review.

MOTION: Ms. Popson made a motion to recommend the amended lighting ordinance to City Council for consideration. Ms. Lovins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Water Quality Testing

Referencing the water quality testing information in the meeting packet, Ms. Lovins said it was suggested the City prescreen for bacteria to determine if DNA testing of the water is necessary. She reviewed the testing procedures and associated costs for prescreening and continued DNA testing, if needed.

After some discussion, Administrator Kerr said he would review the budget for Committee initiatives, but he believed there to be enough funding to prescreen water at the outfalls at 25th Avenue, 36th Avenue & Forest Trail, and Myrtle Avenue.

MOTION: Ms. Popson made a motion to move forward with Fluidion prescreening tests for bacteria at the outfalls as discussed. Ms. Marrs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Cicora will update the recommendations matrix with this initiative.

C. Glyphosate/Round-up – usage and education

Mr. Cicora met with Mr. Scott Ferguson who is responsible for the groundskeeping of the Wild Dunes' golf courses. Mr. Ferguson uses glyphosate on the courses and has no intention of stopping. Mr. Cicora explained that Mr. Ferguson is very well-versed on both sides of the glyphosate debate. He said if the City were to ban the use of glyphosate on the golf courses, he would have to apply more herbicides at a significantly higher cost.

Ms. Lovins believes the next step is educating the public on the effects of glyphosate. Mr. Cicora noted that information about glyphosate usage is prolific on both sides of the usage debate. Ms. Lovins has information from WHO and other municipalities who have banned the use of the substance. Council Member Miars suggested passing an ordinance to ban its use on City property and use that as part of the education campaign.

MOTION: Ms. Pringle made a recommendation to advise City Council to pass a ban on glyphosate usage on City properties. Ms. Marrs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Recommendations Matrix

Mr. Cicora referenced the updated matrix and reviewed the status of the previously discussed recommendations. Administrator Kerr said he will speak with the Recreation Director about an eco-event at the Recreation Center.

Discussion ensued regarding the distribution of recyclable plastic straws based on the recommendation that the City adjust packaging ordinances to close loopholes and align with neighboring municipalities. Ms. Smith suggested educating the business community about giving out straws only upon request.

Ms. Lovins reported that she has signed up for the South Atlantic Marsh Initiative newsletter and is investigating how to join the group. She also said that group has a natural resources grant for marsh protection.

Ms. Popson suggested moving the matrix recommendations discussion up to the start of Old Business moving forward.

6. **New Business -- none**

7. **Miscellaneous Business**

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 4pm.

8. **Adjournment**

Ms. Pringle made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Popson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk

Environmental Advisory Committee comments - July 10, 2025

- The Lowcountry volunteer group Mujeres Latinas emphasizes environmental & animal causes.
- For the past couple of years, they've done litter sweeps - likely 2 times a year or more on IOP.
- They came out July 5th and braved the high winds & some rain, collecting more than 1,000 litter items.
- IOP Cleanup Crew has shared supplies with them & they keep in touch with me - so we are connected but they act independently
- Mujeres Latinas also came up with a plan - on their own - to add toy bins and litter bucket storage shelves to beach access paths. They've actually created a couple already.
- Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew & the City have already installed a No Toys Left Behind bin at Front Beach that has been very successful.
- The Community Enrichment Task Force also recommended exploring the idea of bins, bucket trees and benches at major beach access paths.
- A positive about the Mujeres Latinas group is that they seem to be interested in maintaining the toy bins as well.
- I could help arrange for Mujeres Latinas to attend the next EAC meeting and help bring in Natasha Viswanathan, the realtor who established the Fill A Bag bucket stand at Front Beach for a larger conversation to include IOP Cleanup Crew.
- We understand that the City will need to weigh in on placement and may need to get blessing from state environmental officials.

Also, Linda Rowe with SC Aquarium's conservation team assisted Mujeres Latinas at their July 5 sweep. While they reported a lot of left behind chairs, towels, etc, Linda noted that they did not seem to encounter as much fireworks litter as in years past - this is anecdotal & somewhat subjective because of all the different factors that might impact counts - but may validate the changes the fireworks contractor was expected to make to reduce plastic litter from the July 4th show.

Also a shoutout to Public Works for adding in a contracted litter crew that has been doing runs every other week since May. This includes the beach, commercial and parking areas at Front Beach, as well as roadside cleanup from City Hall and the IOP Connector up Palm Boulevard to at least 41st Avenue and the Marina. They collected 22 40-gallon bags of litter Sunday, July 6th.

Finally, 100+ volunteers attended Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew's Monday July 7th All Hands on Deck litter sweep with IOPPD and SC Aquarium's conservation team with SC Federal Credit Union providing treats. Litter counts still being tallied.

Recommendations	Category/Focus Area	Timeline of Implementation	Type of Recommendation	Budgetary Cost	Initiative2	Rec #	Recommendation3	Status
Emphasize sustainable/environmentally friendly practices at the Recreation Center.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Exploratory		Infrastructure Improvements	58	Emphasize sustainable/environmentally friendly practices at the Recreation Center.	Speaker Series includes Barrier Island Eco & CHS Waterkeeper
Facilitate more programming focused on understanding and protecting our natural environment (e.g. beach/saltmarsh/waterways, native plants, native and endangered species).	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	62	Facilitate more programming focused on understanding and protecting our natural environment (e.g. beach/saltmarsh/waterways, native plants, native and endangered species).	Speaker Series includes Barrier Island Eco & CHS Waterkeeper
Preserve, protect, manage and enhance the island’s natural resources – including the beach, salt marsh and natural areas in the island’s interior.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Long	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	87	Preserve, protect, manage and enhance the island’s natural resources – including the beach, salt marsh and natural areas in the island’s interior.	
Secure grants, provide community education, and collaborate with neighboring communities and state agencies.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Long	Aspirational		Revenue & Funding	88	Secure grants, provide community education, and collaborate with neighboring communities and state agencies.	
Evaluate whether more resources (ex. staff) are needed for proper enforcement.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Medium	Exploratory	\$\$	Talent Management	92	Evaluate whether more resources (ex. staff) are needed for proper enforcement.	
Develop consistent data collection that includes water quality testing for the ocean, creeks, marsh and interior; surveys of related wildlife and ecosystems; and sea level rise measurements.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Long	Actionable	\$	Environmental Sustainability	95	Develop consistent data collection that includes water quality testing for the ocean, creeks, marsh and interior; surveys of related wildlife and ecosystems; and sea level rise measurements.	Conducting Fluidion Test at 3 sites on island pending budget review by Douglas. 3 sites: 25th, 36th, and Myrtle
Make environmental data easy to understand, access and share.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Long	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	96	Make environmental data easy to understand, access and share.	
Advance recommendations from city’s developing Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Long	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	97	Advance recommendations from city’s developing Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan.	
Model, map & monitor areas most susceptible to sea level rise, flooding & storm surges.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Long	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	98	Model, map & monitor areas most susceptible to sea level rise, flooding & storm surges.	
Predict social and economic impacts of climate changes, including cost calculations.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Long	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	99	Predict social and economic impacts of climate changes, including cost calculations.	
Determine and articulate long-term goals for Adaptation plan that are proactive and transparent. Communicate these elements effectively to the public.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Long	Aspirational		Forecasting	###	Adaptation plan that are proactive and transparent. Communicate these elements effectively to the public.	
Add solar panels to city buildings when it makes sense for sun exposure and roof replacement schedules.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Medium	Actionable	\$\$\$	Environmental Sustainability	###	Add solar panels to city buildings when it makes sense for sun exposure and roof replacement schedules.	PW had panels installed

Explore transition to battery-powered landscaping equipment to reduce carbon emissions, air & noise pollution.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Medium	Exploratory	\$\$\$	Environmental Sustainability	###	Explore transition to battery-powered landscaping equipment to reduce carbon emissions, air & noise pollution.	
Consider requesting sustainable practices in city's request for proposals and bids.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Exploratory		Environmental Sustainability	###	Consider requesting sustainable practices in city's request for proposals and bids.	
Encourage fuel efficiency as a consideration when buying new vehicles.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	###	Encourage fuel efficiency as a consideration when buying new vehicles.	
Evaluate feasibility of safely of adding electric vehicle charging stations.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Medium	Exploratory	\$\$	Environmental Sustainability	###	Evaluate feasibility of safely of adding electric vehicle charging stations.	Dominion presented at committe, will be coming back with more information
Make IOP's environmental leadership a clear and consistent part of the city's brand.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Long	Aspirational		Communication s	###	Make IOP's environmental leadership a clear and consistent part of the city's brand.	
Secure more related media coverage.	Environmental	Short	Actionable		Communication	###	Secure more related media coverage.	
Add signs to public dock to highlight the location's natural resources, geography and history.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable	\$\$	Communication s	###	Add signs to public dock to highlight the location's natural resources, geography and history.	In progress
With IOP Cleanup Crew, pursue IOP Conservation Station exhibit at Front Breach	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Medium	Actionable	\$\$	Environmental Sustainability	###	With IOP Cleanup Crew, pursue IOP Conservation Station exhibit at Front Breach	
Develop plan to increase awareness of challenges and solutions that includes "Do No Harm" messaging for residents, visitors, developers and businesses.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable		Communication s	###	Develop plan to increase awareness of challenges and solutions that includes "Do No Harm" messaging for residents, visitors, developers and businesses.	Linda Tucker provided more context. Eric to review. Pickup next month.
Provide QR codes in city signage and required messaging for STR's that direct visitors to environmental rules and best practices.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Medium	Actionable	\$	Communication s	###	Provide QR codes in city signage and required messaging for STR's that direct visitors to environmental rules and best practices.	
Explore ways to better share rules with non-English speaking visitors.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Exploratory		Communication s	###	Explore ways to better share rules with non-English speaking visitors.	Started with Breach Inlet signage in Spanish for NO SWIMMING, Danger
Create a guide – available electronically and in print form – for residents, developers, contractors and property managers to promote IOP native plants, trees, eco-friendly landscaping and lighting practices.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Medium	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	###	Create a guide – available electronically and in print form – for residents, developers, contractors and property managers to promote IOP native plants, trees, eco-friendly landscaping and lighting	
Add an annual eco-themed event to the Recreation Department's annual calendar.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	###	Add an annual eco-themed event to the Recreation Department's annual calendar.	Investigating - Douglas asking Karrie about earthday event - Speaker series Fall 2025 Barrier Island Eco & CHS Waterkeeper
Involve public in South Carolina Aquarium's Searise sign project.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	###	Involve public in South Carolina Aquarium's Searise sign project.	

Pursue promising “natural defense” strategies.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Medium	Actionable	\$\$\$	Environmental Sustainability	###	Pursue promising “natural defense” strategies.	
Encourage neighborhoods to work collaboratively to facilitate connection to the public system without grinder pumps.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Long	Actionable		Septic & requested Management	###	Encourage neighborhoods to work collaboratively to facilitate connection to the public system without grinder pumps.	
Routinely collect floodwater samples to pinpoint problems and help prioritize areas where individual onsite disposal systems should be replaced.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable	\$\$\$	Septic & Sewer Management	###	Routinely collect floodwater samples to pinpoint problems and help prioritize areas where individual onsite disposal systems should be replaced.	
Explore funding to aid elderly and fixed income residents in connecting their residences to the public sewer system.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Medium	Exploratory		Septic & Sewer Management	###	Explore funding to aid elderly and fixed income residents in connecting their residences to the public sewer system.	
Consider location of at-risk palmettos – important to our community’s identity & resiliency – and other significant native trees in setting priorities.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Medium	Exploratory		Environmental Sustainability	###	Consider location of at-risk palmettos – important to our community’s identity & resiliency – and other significant native trees in setting priorities.	
Join the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative (SASMI).	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable		Marsh Preservation	###	Join the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative (SASMI).	Ongoing - Laura Lovins has inquired on membership
Consult with groups like Charleston’s M.A.R.S.H. project, Charleston Waterkeepers, Charleston Climate Coalition, South Carolina Aquarium, Barrier Island Eco Tours, Coastal Expeditions and Audubon Society.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	###	Consult with groups like Charleston’s M.A.R.S.H. project, Charleston Waterkeepers, Charleston Climate Coalition, South Carolina Aquarium, Barrier Island Eco Tours, Coastal Expeditions and Audubon Society.	
Partner with neighboring coastal communities, especially Mount Pleasant & Sullivan’s Island.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	###	Partner with neighboring coastal communities, especially Mount Pleasant & Sullivan’s Island.	
With guidance from local experts, emphasize native plants and gardens at all city parks and properties.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	###	With guidance from local experts, emphasize native plants and gardens at all city parks and properties.	
Include in Request for Proposals (RFPs) for landscaping.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	###	Include in Request for Proposals (RFPs) for landscaping.	
Target city properties at risk of flooding for adding examples of “rain gardens” and dry ponds.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Medium	Exploratory	\$\$\$	Environmental Sustainability	###	Target city properties at risk of flooding for adding examples of “rain gardens” and dry ponds.	
Encourage and provide incentives for residents, businesses, developers, Wild Dunes Resort and Homeowner Associations (HOA’s) to increase native plants on residential and commercial properties.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	###	Encourage and provide incentives for residents, businesses, developers, Wild Dunes Resort and Homeowner Associations (HOA’s) to increase native plants on residential and commercial properties.	

Pursue grants to support re-wilding, rain gardens, salt marsh retreat in vulnerable residential areas.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Medium	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	###	Pursue grants to support re-wilding, rain gardens, salt marsh retreat in vulnerable residential areas.	
Involve residents in planting and monitoring vegetation to help stabilize drainage ditches/canals.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Medium	Actionable		Stormwater Management	###	Involve residents in planting and monitoring vegetation to help stabilize drainage ditches/canals.	
Explore funding a city-wide tree survey to document all native trees on the island.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Medium	Actionable	\$\$	Environmental Sustainability	###	Explore funding a city-wide tree survey to document all native trees on the island.	
Recruit volunteer neighborhood captains for regular cleanups of non-commercial sections of beach and island’s interior.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable		Litter Management	###	Recruit volunteer neighborhood captains for regular cleanups of non-commercial sections of beach and island’s interior.	
In addition to existing Front Beach setup, explore adding the following to high-traffic beach access paths, with placement closer to the street than dunes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleanup bucket tree • “No Toys Left Behind” bin • Bench for visitors to help them collect their things 	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Exploratory	\$	Litter Management	###	In addition to existing Front Beach setup, explore adding the following to high-traffic beach access paths, with placement closer to the street than dunes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleanup bucket tree • “No Toys Left Behind” bin • Bench for visitors to help them collect their things 	
Adjust packaging ordinances to close loopholes and align with neighboring municipalities.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable		Litter Management	###	Adjust packaging ordinances to close loopholes and align with neighboring municipalities.	Review Green Group Report Card. Doug to send out. Consider business engagement to reduce packaging concerns.
Partner with Chamber of Commerce and Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew on workshops for businesses on sustainability practices.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	###	Partner with Chamber of Commerce and Isle of Palms Cleanup Crew on workshops for businesses on sustainability practices.	
Consistent message on welcome signs to “Leave Only Footprints” and “See Beach Rules at www.iop.net .”	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Aspirational		Communication s	###	Consistent message on welcome signs to “Leave Only Footprints” and “See Beach Rules at www.iop.net .”	See Beach Rules at www.iop.net on sign board at connector
Signage at ALL public beach access points with No Smoking message + QR code or complete list of restrictions for beachgoers.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable	\$\$	Communication s	###	Signage at ALL public beach access points with No Smoking message + QR code or complete list of restrictions for beachgoers.	
More local promotions with links/QR codes pointing to iop.net “Beach Rules” – including tie-ins with Beach Shuttle.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable		Communication s	###	More local promotions with links/QR codes pointing to iop.net “Beach Rules” – including tie-ins with Beach Shuttle.	
Initiate Pilot Projects including: Living shorelines Bioswales and rain gardens.	Stormwater Management	Medium	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	###	Initiate Pilot Projects including: Living shorelines Bioswales and rain gardens.	
Develop a public education program on resilient strategies.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	###	Develop a public education program on resilient strategies.	Pick up next month (August)to get more context

Develop a comprehensive marsh management plan.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Medium	Actionable	\$\$	Marsh Preservation	###	Develop a comprehensive marsh management plan.	
Conduct a comprehensive water quality assessment.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable	\$	Septic & Sewer Management	###	Conduct a comprehensive water quality assessment.	
Transition high-risk properties from septic to sewer systems.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Long	Aspirational		Septic & Sewer Management	###	Transition high-risk properties from septic to sewer systems.	
Establish educational and volunteer programs to promote community involvement.	Stormwater Management	Short	Actionable		Recreational Offerings	###	Establish educational and volunteer programs to promote community involvement.	
Incorporate recommended improvements from the water quality assessment.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable	\$\$	sewer & septic	###	Incorporate recommended improvements from the water quality assessment.	
Incorporate marsh management plan.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Medium	Actionable	\$\$	Marsh Preservation	###	Incorporate marsh management plan.	
Transition all at-risk properties from septic to sewer systems.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Long	Aspirational		Septic & Sewer Management	###	Transition all at-risk properties from septic to sewer systems.	
Maintain policies and procedures to ensure that beaches, marshlands and marinas are protected and preserved.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Aspirational		Forecasting	###	Maintain policies and procedures to ensure that beaches, marshlands and marinas are protected and preserved.	
Monitor DHEC/OCRM testing of ocean waters impacting the island	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	###	Monitor DHEC/OCRM testing of ocean waters impacting the island	
Create a public awareness/education program aimed at protecting the sensitive ecosystem of a barrier island, to include protection of dunes and marshes and their vegetation, as well as the importance of removing animal waste and trash from the beaches	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Medium	Actionable		Communications	###	aimed at protecting the sensitive ecosystem of a barrier island, to include protection of dunes and marshes and their vegetation, as well as the importance of removing animal waste and trash from the beaches	
Investigate the potential for establishing, or acquiring, City owned, undeveloped green spaces	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Long	Exploratory	\$\$\$	Environmental Sustainability	###	Investigate the potential for establishing, or acquiring, City owned, undeveloped green spaces	
Pursue enforcement of ordinance(s) aimed at protecting loggerhead turtle nesting activities and sites	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Exploratory		Wildlife Stewardship	###	Pursue enforcement of ordinance(s) aimed at protecting loggerhead turtle nesting activities and sites	

Support other regulations that protect wildlife and vegetation	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	###	Support other regulations that protect wildlife and vegetation	
Pursue development of ordinances, education and awareness programs to improve air quality, such as smoking regulations and support of public transportation.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Aspirational		Environmental Sustainability	###	Pursue development of ordinances, education and awareness programs to improve air quality, such as smoking regulations and support of public transportation.	
Support OCRM in administering measures that protect marshes on the backside of the island.	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Maintenance		Marsh Preservation	###	Support OCRM in administering measures that protect marshes on the backside of the island.	
The City should meet periodically with the Water and Sewer Commission and strive for a “team approach” to addressing waste water and water issues that will arise in future years	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Aspirational		Septic & Sewer Management	###	The City should meet periodically with the Water and Sewer Commission and strive for a “team approach” to addressing waste water and water issues that will arise in future years	
In conjunction with the Water and Sewer Commission, the City should take those steps appropriate to facilitate additional sewer service on the island	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Aspirational		Septic & City Management	###	Commission, the City should take those steps appropriate to facilitate additional sewer service on the island	
The City should continue to support tree-planting programs along streets and develop a long-term plan which prioritizes streets and identifies the types of trees to be used	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable		Environmental Sustainability	###	The City should continue to support tree-planting programs along streets and develop a long-term plan which prioritizes streets and identifies the types of trees to be used	
Consider additional ways of reducing littering on the island	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Exploratory		Litter Management	###	Consider additional ways of reducing littering on the island	
Educate the owners of septic systems in the proper maintenance and encourage owners to have their septic systems checked and serviced according to established standards	Environmental Stewardship and Management	Short	Actionable		Septic & Sewer Management	###	Educate the owners of septic systems in the proper maintenance and encourage owners to have their septic systems checked and serviced according to established standards	
Evaluate and continue to improve the drainage system to alleviate the problems in those areas that drain poorly	Stormwater Management	Long	Actionable	\$\$\$	Stormwater Management	###	Evaluate and continue to improve the drainage system to alleviate the problems in those areas that drain poorly	currently in process

\$ (< \$50,000)
\$\$ (\$50,000 - \$100,000)
\$\$\$ (> \$100,000)

Short (< 1 year)
Medium (1 - 5 years)
Long (> 5 years)

Aspirational: long-term vision with no clear policy or action recommended

Exploratory: policy or action to explore and consider further

Actionable: clear policy or budgetary action that can be taken immediately

Maintenance: upkeep of existing practices, policies, or activities

SCOPE OF SERVICES

CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS – BACTERIA SAMPLING

Project Understanding

The City of Isle of Palms prioritizes water quality and environmental health for its residents and visitors. Due to the density of homes and the age of some of the associated wastewater infrastructure, the City wants to assess discharges from several key outfalls to assess potential bacteria associated with septic tanks. Septic tanks and their drain fields require periodic maintenance by the homeowner, but are sometimes neglected. Bacteria are naturally present in soils and waste from pets/wildlife, which can make detection of sources challenging, but not insurmountable.

Woolpert recommends sampling to pre-screen the outfalls for elevated concentrations of bacteria. Woolpert will conduct sampling to assess the concentration of enterococcus at three City outfalls as follows:

- 25th Avenue (SW-13)
- 36th Avenue (SW-17)
- Myrtle Avenue

Upon completion of the sampling, Woolpert will conduct a follow-up call with the City to discuss the results and potential recommendations. If elevated concentrations are present, Woolpert may be asked to conduct DNA testing of the results (through a project addendum) to help characterize the sources of bacteria.

Task 1 –Sampling for Bacteria Pre-Screening

This task includes a local Woolpert team member collecting one manual grab sample at each of the three outfalls for the assessment of *E. coli* the most common bacteria indicator used to assess risk of viruses/pathogens from sources of fresh water. The three samples will be collected on the same day/trip during a period of dry weather and low tides to attempt to capture discharges from the island, rather than backwater from the intracoastal waterway. Woolpert will closely coordinate the day/time for sampling with a representative of the City. The City will provide specific guidance regarding how to access each outfall and where to park during sample collection.

The analysis will be conducted using the Fluidion Alert Lab bacteria analyzer in order to remove the need for sample preservation, transport/traffic, and coordination with a commercial laboratory. This will provide a more cost conscious approach and expedite receipt of results. Woolpert will coordinate the order and receipt of enterococcus reagents needed for the analysis with Fluidion. In addition, Woolpert will purchase preservation kits from LuminUltra for potential future analysis of host species DNA through microbial source tracking (MST). Samples will be filtered and properly stored pending the results of the bacteria concentrations. The results of the sample analysis from the Fluidion Alert Lab will be provided via email to the Town within 24 hours of sample collection. A Woolpert team member will conduct a follow-up call with the City to offer interpretation and guidance based on the measured results.

If the measured bacteria concentrations are low and do not justify MST analysis, this scope of services includes one additional round of samples at the three outfalls following the same process as outlined above.

Assumptions/Notes

- This scope of services does not currently include any formal analysis/data interpretation or project meetings. The project deliverable will include a one-page summary sheet of the Fluidion results from each sample location and a follow-up call with the City to discuss the results.
- Field staff will take care to avoid stirring up bed sediment during the collection of water samples. Bacteria within sediments can often be re-suspended in the water during collection and may result in higher bacteria concentrations that are not representative of discharges from the island.
- *E. coli* reagents have a shelf life of 90 days. Upon receipt, Woolpert and the City will need to identify a preferred day to collect the samples. The reagents are only available in batches sufficient for 6 samples. In the event the City wished to use all of these reagents, a project addendum would be needed.
- This scope of services does not include a pre-inspection of each outfall. Detailed guidance from the City (sample location coordinates – lat/long) or preferably accompaniment by a City representative during sampling is preferred.
- Enterococci is more resilient to brackish/salt water (than *E. Coli*) and could persist within the intracoastal waterway. Enterococci could originate from countless sources other than those on the island but backflow into the City's outfalls during elevated tides. The extent of routine backwater from the intracoastal waterway through these outfalls and storm sewer system (and time to drain) is unknown. The collection of samples during dry conditions at low tide should reduce the potential for sampling water that does not originate from the island. Sampling for *E. Coli* is also proposed for this analysis since it should provide a better representation of recent freshwater discharges from the City.
- Filtered samples for possible MST analysis can be preserved for 30 days. If the City decides to proceed with this analysis, Woolpert will develop a project addendum for these costs.

Compensation

Woolpert will provide these services including labor and reimbursable expenses for a lump sum total of \$4,150.00. Reimbursable expenses include disposable sample vials, bacteria reagent, MST preservation kits, shipping of these products, and rental charges for the Woolpert truck and the Fluidion Alert Lab.

SOUTH ATLANTIC SALT MARSH INITIATIVE (SASMI) UPDATE

- Item #12 on our Matrix is listed as “Join the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative”. In July, Laura contacted Amanda Gobeli, Project Coordinator for SASMI, regarding how the IOP EAC could become a member.
- Amanda emailed Laura back, and has put Laura and the EAC into the SASMI membership group effective 8/1/25
- On 8/5, Laura and Eric Cicora had a conference call with Amanda and Lora Clark (Officer, US Conservation, Southeast-The Pew Charitable Trusts) to learn more about SASMI
- SASMI started in 2021 with support and funding from the Pew Charitable Trust - Southeast region. They assembled partners in South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. There are currently over 400 members
- SASMI is a regional effort and voluntary, non-regulatory partnership that brings together leaders from the [Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability \(SERPPAS\)](#) and other local, state and federal partners, communities and nongovernmental organizations to determine the greatest threats to the salt marsh ecosystem and opportunities to ensure its survival in the four-state region
- Susanna Hopkins, with the SC Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, is the Resilience Program Manager for South Carolina SASMI partners. There is a Summer Workshop at SCDNR scheduled for Thursday, 8/21, which will cover a roadmap for projects and policy needs specific to SASMI. Laura Lovins has been invited, and will attend the event and provide a re-cap at the September EAC meeting.

UPDATE ON INTERPRETIVE SIGN PROJECT FOR IOP PUBLIC PIER

- To date (8/8/25) Susan and Laura have secured commitments for funding from Barrier Island Eco-Tours and the IOP Marina totaling \$9000
- Susan and Laura met with Jon Bushnell, co-owner of Islander 71 on 8/1 to discuss how Islander 71 could help with funding the project. Jon is offering to do a fund raiser Oyster Roast on Saturday, 11/1 (with a rain date on Sunday 11/2) at the restaurant from 12n-5p. It would be promoted through their social media outlets, posters in IOP front beach businesses, and in the Island Eye and Island Vibes newspapers. The event would be an all you can eat oyster roast with a \$30/person admission, or a donation of choice. 100% of the proceeds would go towards the project. The funds collected could be between \$4-\$6K. The money would need to go through a 501-C3 entity (non-profit) We are waiting to hear if the City of IOP could be that entity.
- Susan and Laura have hired Kaitlyn Hackathorn, a local Charleston graphic designer, to do the artwork and illustrations for the interpretive signs. Kaitlyn used to work at DNR, and left a few years ago to start her own graphic design business. She recently completed illustration work for an interpretive sign installation at Botany Bay.
- Susan has been working on the timelines for getting the signs from EnviroSigns and then having Kaitlyn complete the art and illustration work – September 1st deadline for the signs (tentative) and October 3rd for the artwork/illustrations (tentative).
- Susan and Laura are on the agenda to present our project to the Public Services and Facilities committee on August 12th – if we are given approval, we are then scheduled for a final presentation to City Council on August 26th.
- We are currently projecting a total cost of the project between \$18,858-\$19,858. We could potentially need ATAX funds from the City between \$3-\$6K.