



Environmental Advisory Committee

4:00pm, Thursday, December 11, 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 – October 9, 2025**
3. **Citizen's Comments**
4. **Presentation – SC Aquarium Sea Rise and Red Line projects**
5. **Old Business**
 - a. Discussion and consideration of changes to Lighting Ordinance
 - b. Discussion of Water Quality Testing Results
 - c. Discussion of contract and costs with Doody Calls
 - d. Discussion of contract with Fisher Glass Recycling
6. **New Business**
7. **Miscellaneous**

Next meeting: Thursday, January 9, 2026, 4:00pm
8. **Adjournment**



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4:00pm, Thursday, October 9, 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, Cindy Marrs, Sean Popson, Todd Murphy, Eric Cicora

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

2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

The minutes of the September 11 meeting will be voted on at the November meeting so that Ms. Marrs can offer some changes to the City Clerk.

3. Citizen's Comments -- none

4. Presentation – Fisher Glass Recycling

Ms. Elizabeth Fisher shared that 8 tons of glass were collected on IOP in 2023, 15 tons in 2024, and she projects 39 tons will be collected in 2025. She said they have consistently received positive feedback about the program, adding that 5-10% of the collected glass goes into a product they create for sale and the rest is recycled.

Discussion ensued as to why the City should continue its contract with Fisher Glass Recycling when Charleston County is now recycling glass. Ms. Fisher will provide contact information for the company that purchases the recycled glass. Ms. Lovins said she would like clarity from Charleston County about "the level of cleanliness and recyclability of what is going to Georgia from other streams from the County."

4. Old Business

A. Recommendations Matrix

Ms. Lovins said there will be a presentation by the South Carolina Aquarium at the November meeting about the sea rise project.

Committee members discussed the numerous recommendations regarding environmental education and how best to communicate those to the public. The Committee will hold another meeting on Wednesday, October 15 at 1pm to focus on those recommendations and how it may or may not relate to a potential Earth Day event in 2026.

B. Water Quality Testing Results

Ms. Lovins reported that the water quality testing results indicated there is only dog bacteria present in the outfalls at 25th and 36th avenues, which likely means pet owners are not picking up and properly disposing of their pet's waste. While it appears that septic systems on the island are working, she wondered if taking samples during a rain event might indicate if the drain fields are compromised. She will reach out to the testing company to see if they can take samples on Friday, October 10 during low tide since it will be raining.

Discussion ensued about installation of pet waste disposal stations along Waterway Boulevard. Asst. Director Asero said the City currently contracts with Dooty Calls to provide the pet waste disposal bag dispensers at most of the beach access paths. He said, "Part of the plan was when we convert over to the beach garbage being street side, if we see an increase of people wanting to, or get complaints of people with their dog bags, we will put those whole stations up on the dune side of each beach path." He said it is possible to add the stations to the multi-use path when the drainage project is complete. Administrator Kerr stated that there is no City staff manpower available to keep those stations clean if they are added. Asst. Director Asero said he would research the cost of ten (10) pet waste stations on Waterway Boulevard and report back next month.

C. Discussion and consideration of changes to the lighting ordinance

Mr. Murphy reported that the lighting ordinance was met with "mixed feedback" when he attended the City Council workshop last month. He suggested keeping Sections A and B in the ordinance and making Sections C, D, and E as part of a recommended practices document to share with anyone renovating their home and to those building a new home, perhaps as part of the permitting process.

Administrator Kerr reminded Committee members that regulations related to docks are under the jurisdiction of BCM, not the City.

Administrator Kerr said the Planning Commission reviewed this version of the ordinance at their meeting last night and offered technical feedback. It will be up to this Committee to develop the lighting recommendations, which the Planning Commission will eventually review before they become part of the Building Department process.

Administrator Kerr and Mr. Murphy will finalize the language changes to the ordinance and send it back to the Planning Commission for their review in November. Following a recommendation from the Planning Commission, the revised ordinance will go back to the City Council.

D. Contract with Fisher Glass Recycling – discussed earlier

5. New Business

A. Folly Beach's Sustainability Bucket List

Ms. Lovins said this will be part of the discussion at next week's Committee meeting.

B. Aluminum beach recycling

MOTION: Mr. Murphy made a motion move this to the November agenda. Ms. Popson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Miscellaneous Business

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 4pm.

7. Adjournment

Ms. Popson made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Marrs seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole DeNeane
City Clerk

Please ensure this document is filled out accurately and consistently to ensure ease of reporting. Testing and turn-around-time will commence once the completed copy of this form is received. This document is only required for samples being sent to LuminUltra Lab Services. Please disregard this form if your sample is being sent elsewhere.

* = REQUIRED INFORMATION

Customer Information* (Please include as much information as possible)	
Contact Name	Blanche "Bibi" Rivera - Gonzalez
Company	Woolpert - Charleston
Address	North Charleston
Contact Phone	
Contact Email (s)	blanche.rivera-gonzalez@woolpert.com
Account Manager (if known)	Kristi Relgar
Customer ID # (if known)	
Purchase Order # (if applicable)	
Rush Order? (Y*/N)	
Wastewater? (Y/N)	
*additional fees may apply	

SAMPLE INFORMATION* (all fields are required)						Special Sample Handling Requests	
Select your requested assays/target from the checklist on p. 2. Select all that apply. For samples requiring different testing targets, please use separate COC forms						<p>email upon received</p> <p>11-5-25</p> <p>preserved</p> <p>GR</p>	
Client Sample ID (Name, Number, etc.)	Site (e.g., Building A)	Location (e.g., Well 1)	Sample Type (Liquid, Solid, Swab)	Amount Collected (Volume, Weight, Surface area)	Units (mL, g, cm ²)		Collection Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
1 IOP-RZ	25th	SW-13-outfall	Liquid	90	mL		2025-10-28
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
Instructions if hold time (48h) or temperature (15°C) is exceeded for unpreserved samples:						<input type="checkbox"/> Discard <input type="checkbox"/> Preserve and contact <input type="checkbox"/> Proceed with analysis	

Samples relinquished by:	B. Rivera	All LuminUltra samples should be shipped to:	LuminUltra Technologies Inc. Attn: Lab Services
Date / Time:	10/24/2025		805 Pinnacle Dr, Suite M, Linthicum Heights, MD, 21090
Signature:	[Signature]		Phone: +1 (506) 459-8777 customerservice@luminultra.com
To protect confidentiality, confirmation and results will only be sent to email address provided or authorized by contact provided. Signed form indicates agreement with the privacy policy and terms of service. For more information about our terms and conditions and turn around times visit luminultra.com/coc or scan the qr code			



SEQUENCING			
NGS - 16S (Bacteria & Archaea) For timely entry into the GeneCount® Dashboard please ensure your Site, Location and Users are accurate			<input type="checkbox"/>
INDUSTRIAL			
Assay Name	qPCR	dPCR	
GeneCount® MIC Panel			
GeneCount® Total Prokaryote Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Total Archaea Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Total Bacteria Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Sulfate-Reducing Bacteria Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Sulfur-Oxidizing Bacteria Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Methanogens Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Iron-Reducing Bacteria Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Corrosive Biomarker (micH) Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Corrosive Biomarker (micC) Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Total Fungi Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Nitrifiers Panel			
GeneCount® Ammonia - Oxidizing Archaea Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Ammonia - Oxidizing Bacteria Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Comammox Bacteria Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Nitrite - Oxidizing Bacteria Group 1 (Including Nitrospira)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Nitrite - Oxidizing Bacteria Group 2 (Including Nitrobacter)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Pseudomonas Species Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		

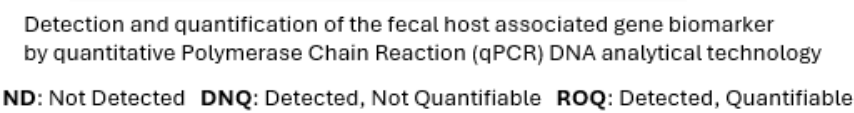
To be filled out by LuminUltra

Date Received
Received By
Temperature
Raw/Preserved/Other

MICROBIAL SOURCE TRACKING			
Assay Name	qPCR	dPCR	
Avian Fecal Assay (GFD)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Canada Goose Fecal Assay (CGOF1)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Canine Fecal Assay (BacCan)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Canine Fecal Assay (DG3)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Cattle Fecal Assay (CowM2)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Chicken Fecal Assay (CI)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Gull Fecal Assay (Gull-4)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Horse Fecal Assay (HoF597F)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Human Fecal Assay (HF183 Assay)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Fecal Assay (HumM2 Assay)	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Pig Fecal Assay (Pig2Bac)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Ruminant Fecal Assay (Rum2Bac)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

NOTE: If interested in testing for Human Fecal Assay using Method 1696, please contact our team. Email: customerservice@luminultra.com Phone: 506-459-8777

PATHOGEN			
Assay Name	qPCR	dPCR	
GeneCount® Enterococcus Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® E. coli Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Legionella Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Legionella pneumophila Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GeneCount® Vibrio cholerae Assay	<input type="checkbox"/>		



Submitter: Woolpert - C
Report Generated: 11/18/2025

[illegible]

Version: 3.2
Effective Date:
10/28/25



Sample Processing and Analysis Information

Submitter: Woolpert - Charleston
Report Generated: 11/18/2025

[illegible]

Version: 3.2
Effective Date:
10/28/25



qPCR Analysis QAQC information

Report Generated: 11/18/2025

[illegible]



Results

NTC2 (no template control)	LOD (Limit of detection)	LOQ (Limit of Quantification)
ND	5.63E+02	1.88E+03

Version: 3.2
Effective Date:
10/28/25

Laboratory Comments

[For Questions on Interpreting Results, Click Here](#)

Non-Detect (ND) Results

In sample(s) classified as non-detect, the host-associated fecal gene biomarker(s) was either not detected in test replicates greater than 35 and the other was not, or one replicate was detected at a cycle threshold less than 35 and the other was not.

Detected Not Quantified (DNQ) Results

In sample(s) classified as Detected Not Quantified (DNQ), the host-associated fecal biomarker was detected in both replicates but quantification (LOQ, see below). This result indicates that fecal indicators associated with the respective host were present but the confidence of such quantification will be lower than that declared by the definition of LOQ.

Quantifiable Results (ROQ)

Sample results are within the range of quantification of calibration curves (standard curves) of a validation qPCR method. Copy number measurements reported are relative, not absolute, quantification.

LOD (Limit of Detection, lower)

A general consensus was reached around the definition of the LOD as the lowest amount of analyte, which can be detected (95%), but, not necessarily quantified as an exact value. It must be noted that LOD is not a limiting value and therefore should be considered as negative. From the definition of LOD, it is evident that values below LOD are absolutely valid in terms of detection; their repeated detection is lower than 95%.

LOQ (Limit of Quantification, lower)

The LOQ was defined as the smallest amount of analyte, which can be measured and quantified with defined precision by the method under validation. Numerically, the LOQ is defined as the lowest concentration of analyte, which gives a precision of 25%.

Inhibition check

If a sample is suspected of being inhibited, a 1:10 dilution of the original sample will be analyzed. In the case that the sample is inhibited, the 1:10 dilution results will be used for quantification and will be reflected in Analytical Volume(ul). For example, if the analytical volume for 1:10 dilution will be 0.2ul.

Result Interpretations

The presence of the biomarker does not signify the presence or absence of that form of fecal pollution conclusively. It is recommended to combine genetic testing with scientifically sound and adequate study design appropriate for the environmental context.

Additional Testing

A portion of all samples has been frozen and will be archived for 3 months. The client is encouraged to perform additional testing contributing to the fecal contamination.

Qualitification Assay Results (Detected/Non-Detected only)

Such results are only reported as Detected or Non-Detected without quantification. Non-Detected results are defined as no detected Ct in both replicate qPCR reactions.

Limitation of Damages – Repayment of Service Price

It is agreed that in the event of breach of any warranty or breach of contract, or negligence of LuminUltra Technologies Inc, as a result of the use of the service, the damages shall be limited to the repayment, to the purchaser (submitter), of the individual analysis price paid by him/her to LuminUltra Technologies Inc. LuminUltra Technologies Inc provides analytical services on a PRIME CONTRACT BASIS ONLY. Terms and conditions of service apply.

either direct or consequential. LuminUltra Technologies Inc. provides analytical services on a FIDELITY CONTRACT BASIS ONLY. FIDELITY cannot be used for research purposes after an archiving period of 3 months from the date of this report. Research includes, but is not limited to, publications. Anonymity of the sample(s), including the exact geographic location will be maintained by assigning an arbitrary ID by state / province of origin for research purposes. The client must contact LuminUltra Technologies Inc in writing within 10 days of submitted sample(s) to be used for any type of future research.

DNA Analytical Method Explanation

Water Samples: Each submitted water sample is filtered through 0.45 micron membrane filter(s). Each filter is placed in a unique mix of beads and lysis buffer. The sample is homogenized for and the DNA extracted per kit manufacturer's instructions or client's request.

Non-Water Samples: Each non-water sample submitted by the client is processed as per internal laboratory extraction protocol to PCR analysis. Details available upon request.

Amplifications to detect the target gene biomarker were run in a final reaction volume of 20ul sample extract, for each target. All assays are run in duplicate. Quantification is achieved by extrapolating target gene copy numbers from a standard curve.

For quality control purposes, test samples are run in duplicate with each qPCR assay. Two non-template controls are run: a non-process extraction control (NPEC, or extraction blank).

replicates, one replicate was detected at a cycle threshold
or was not after repeated analysis.

1 test replicates but in quantities below the limit of
present in the sample(s) but in low concentrations, and the

method. For most qPCR assays, the range is 1E1 to 1E5

detected with more than a stated percentage of confidence
fore, that Ct values below the LOD cannot automatically be
s of microorganism presence. However, the probability of

sion and accuracy under the experimental conditions by the
defined variability (coefficient of variation, CV) of under

he 1:10 dilution produces a higher signal than undiluted
sample, if the analytical volume for undiluted sample is 2ul,

γ. The most reliable way to accurately test for contamination
al quality questions to be answered or issues to be resolved.

ditional tests on the sample(s) for other hosts suspected of

ied as stated above, and Detected results are defined as

well as its agents or representatives, the liability of the company
Technologies Inc. The company shall not be liable for any damages,
ns are available upon request. The sample(s) cited in this report may

ns are available upon request. The sample(s) cited in this report may limited to internal validation studies and peer-reviewed research internal reference. These anonymous samples will only be grouped ys from the date of this report if he/she does not wish for their

ced in a separate, sterile 5ml disposable tube containing a s protocol. Deviations to these procedures may occur at the

tion procedures. An extracted DNA sample is proceed directly

ward primer, reverse primer, probe and an optimized buffer. ard curve generated from serial dilutions of known gene copy

ire run on each assay per qPCR plate, with one replicate of the

October 14, 2025



IOP Beachside
City of IOP
Ocean / Palm Blvd
Isle of Palms, SC 29451

DKM SERVICES LLC
DoodyCalls of Charleston
1608 Balsam St
Charleston, SC 29407

DoodyCalls is the #1 Pet Waste Management company. We are pleased to offer the following product and service solutions perfectly tailored for your community.

Proposed Scope of Services

Once a Week Pet Waste Station Service

Service	Description	Rate	Quantity	Visit Total
Pet Station Maintenance	Change Trash Can liner Refill Dog Bags as necessary*	\$10.00 each	1	\$ 10.00 per visit
* Roll/Header Bags are an additional cost.			# of Visits	52
			Annual Cost	\$ 520.00

* Replacement Refill Dog Waste Bags (Additional Cost)

Product	Description	Rate	Quantity	Total
Roll Bags	1 roll of 200 Pet Waste Bags for roll style dispensers	\$9.00 ***	200 bags	Replaced as needed

*** Taxes not included

* Replacement Refill Dog Waste Bags (Additional Cost)

Product	Description	Rate	Quantity	Total
Header Bags	1 card of 100 Pet Waste Bags for roll style dispensers	\$7.50 ***	100 bags	Replaced as needed

*** Taxes not included



Potential Pet Waste Station Location



DoodyCalls
Pet Waste Management



DoodyCalls manufactures high quality stations and replacement parts in the USA

- * Square Posts provide long lasting rigidity, high strength and quality looks
- * Trash Cans, Dispensers and Signs are made of High Quality aluminum and will not rust
- * We stand behind our products and offer a 1 year quality guarantee



Installation of Pet Waste Station(s)

Installation One Time Fees

Install	Description	Rate	Quantity	Visit Total
Pet Waste Station	Post, Sign, Dispenser and Trash Can	\$345.00 each	1	\$ 345.00 per visit
			Tax	1.09
			Install Cost	\$ 376.05

Pet Waste Station Options

- 1) **Black** or **Green**
(Green is Standard)
- 2) Any Custom Design on Dispenser
- 3) Any Custom Design on Sign



Why should you choose DoodyCalls?



- 1) **DoodyCalls** technicians drive wrapped, clean and well-kept service vehicles
- 2) Our employees are Experienced, Uniformed, Courteous and Professional
- 3) We focus on Quality over Quantity and Guarantee your satisfaction
- 4) We are active members of the CAI and Local Apartment Associations
- 5) Our equipment is cleaned and sanitized between visits
- 6) We use our own line of quality products and equipment
- 7) We provide custom tailored Pet Waste Management Solutions for every community
- 8) We carry commercial GL, AUTO and WC insurances to protect your community
- 9) We are the largest Pet Waste Management focused company and strive to be the BEST!



Prepared by:

Kyle Coker

Owner

doodycallscharleston@gmail.com

843.209.5267

Contract Terms and Conditions

- * Invoices will be sent monthly on the 1st of each month for previously completed work
- * Payment terms Net 30 (10% late fee may be added after 45 days)
- * Minimum Requirement of 3 full months of service
- * Service will provided indefinitely until cancelled by either party
- * Cancellation of service requires a 30 Day Written or Emailed notice



Acceptance of Contract

Desired Start Date: _____

Community Representative(s)

Name Title

Signature Date

Name Title

Signature Date

DoodyCalls Representative

Name Title

Signature Date



October 14, 2025



IOP Waterway Boulevard Project
City of IOP
Waterway Boulevard
Isle of Palms, SC 29451

DKM SERVICES LLC
DoodyCalls of Charleston
1608 Balsam St
Charleston, SC 29407

DoodyCalls is the #1 Pet Waste Management company. We are pleased to offer the following product and service solutions perfectly tailored for your community.

Proposed Scope of Services

Once a Week Pet Waste Station Service

Service	Description	Rate	Quantity	Visit Total
Pet Station Maintenance	Change out Trash Can Liner Refill Dog Bags as necessary*	\$10.00 each	10	\$ 100.00 per visit
* Roll/Header Bags are an additional cost.			# of Visits	52
			Annual Cost	\$ 5,200.00

* Replacement Refill Dog Waste Bags (Additional Cost)

Product	Description	Rate	Quantity	Total
Roll Bags	1 roll of 200 Pet Waste Bags for roll style dispensers	\$9.00 ***	200 bags	Replaced as needed

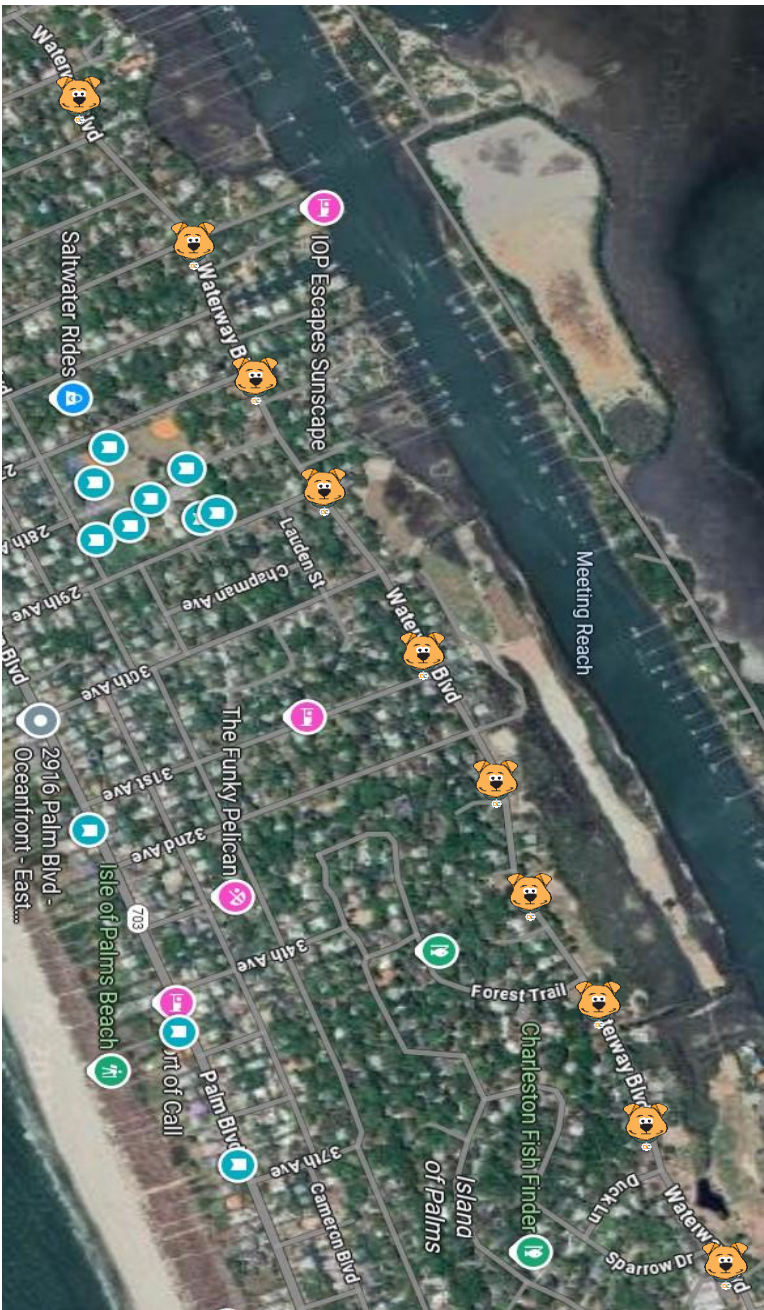
*** Taxes not included

* Replacement Refill Dog Waste Bags (Additional Cost)

Product	Description	Rate	Quantity	Total
Header Bags	1 card of 100 Pet Waste Bags for roll style dispensers	\$7.50 ***	100 bags	Replaced as needed

*** Taxes not included

Potential Pet Waste Station Locations



DoodyCalls manufactures high quality stations and replacement parts in the USA

- * Square Posts provide long lasting rigidity, high strength and quality looks
- * Trash Cans, Dispensers and Signs are made of High Quality aluminum and will not rust
- * We stand behind our products and offer a 1 year quality guarantee

Install	Description	Rate	Quantity	Visit Total
Pet Waste Station	Post, Sign, Dispenser and Trash Can	\$315.00 each	10	\$ 3,150.00 per visit
			Tax	1.09
			Install Cost	\$ 3,433.50

- 1) **Black** or **Green**
(Green is Standard)
- 2) Any Custom Design on Dispenser
- 3) Any Custom Design on Sign



Why should you choose DoodyCalls?



- 1) **DoodyCalls** technicians drive wrapped, clean and well-kept service vehicles
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Acceptance of Contract

Desired Start Date: _____

Community Representative(s)

Name Title

Signature Date

Name Title

Signature Date

DoodyCalls Representative

Name Title

Signature Date



SOUTH ATLANTIC SALT MARSH INITIATIVE (SASMI) MONTHLY VIRTUAL COFFEE MEETING 12.5.25

Laura Lovins sat in on the virtual SASMI coffee meeting on 12/5 to hear about successes around the 4 state region of SASMI coverage – Georgia, NC, SC, and Florida.

The meeting started off with a presentation from Mike Molnar, who is with Manomet Conservation Sciences in Plymouth MA, on the beneficial use of dredge material for coastal habitat resilience. Their website has a ton of information about this project, and many others, as well as webinar information, etc. This can be a great resource for IOP to use as we develop out our resilience buckets from the matrix.

We then heard about the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Living Shoreline project, which was completed in Fall of 2025. This was a collaboration between the SC Nature Conservancy, DNR, and NOAA. The shoreline will now be monitored for progression and growth.

Next was an update about the SC Coastal Climate Pollution Reduction grant. There were 5 states that were awarded funds from this grant, and South Carolina received \$30 million dollars of the grant.

Next up was information from the Seabrook Village Living Shoreline project in Georgia. Phase 1 of the project wrapped up in October 2025

The SASMI representative from Florida talked about their Regional Resilience Plan, which has 80 partners providing content of the plan, and another 80 partners to help implement the plan. They will develop a matrix to monitor the progress of the plan (sounds a bit like our IOP matrix!)

Finally, Amanda Gobeli, director of SASMI, made note of the fact that there are new videos of the SASMI website on salt marsh migration, which is an area of resilience that many communities are starting to monitor.

SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

To Finance Coastal Resilience, States Turn to Innovative Policies and Partnerships. In a recent webinar hosted by Pew's Blue Carbon Network, Experts from Maryland, Louisiana, and Duke University shared information about three innovative (and successful!) approaches to the persistent challenge of financing coastal resilience projects. Learn more about these unique strategies in this article.

Updated Definition of Waters of the United States. On November 17, 2025, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Army (“the agencies”) announced the signing of a proposed rule to revise the definition of “waters of the United States.” This proposal implements the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett v. EPA*. You can find the full documentation detailing the revised definition at the link above.

New Report Reveals Economic Benefits of Fish and Wildlife Conservation. A new report titled, “Conservation Economy in America: A Snapshot of Total Fish and Wildlife-Associated Direct Investments and Economic Contributions,” reveals that fish and wildlife conservation generates substantial economic benefits. Federal, state, local, and nonprofit contributions combined contributed \$115.8 billion in total economic activity and supported over 575,000 jobs nationwide. Leading conservation organizations across the country applauded the findings, underscoring the report’s importance for America’s economy, communities, and natural resources.

SCDNR adds 176-acre property to Botany Bay Plantation Heritage Preserve and WMA. EDISTO ISLAND, S.C. (WCBD) – The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and its conservation partners celebrate a major addition to one its heritage preserves and Edisto Island. Botany Bay Plantation Heritage Preserve and Wildlife Management Area is officially expanding, as the SCDNR has acquired Bayview Farms. Officials said the property was put on the market in 2022 and was in danger of being developed. Thanks to the Open Space Institute, the South Carolina Conservation Bank, and the Charleston County Greenbelt Program – the land is protected in perpetuity and enhances Botany Bay.

FUNDING REMINDERS

(Georgia) Coastal Incentive Grant Program

The Coastal Incentive Grant (CIG) Program is a competitive pass-through subgrant program made possible by a grant to GA DNR from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through Congressional funding pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act. Its purpose is to support the Coastal Management Program's mission to balance economic development in Georgia's Coastal area with preservation of natural, environmental, historical, archaeological, and recreational resources for the benefit of Georgia's present and future generations. Pre-applications are due **December 5, 2025**.

National Fish Passage Program FY25

The National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) provides technical and financial assistance to partners to remove instream barriers and restore aquatic connectivity, improve community safety, and support local economies. Fish passage projects benefit communities by reducing flood risk, improving recreational opportunities, and improving roads while supporting native fish populations and aquatic ecosystems. NFPP project examples include dam removals, culvert replacements, floodplain restoration, and the installation of fishways. Applications are due by **December 31, 2025**.

Impacts of Ecosystem Transformation on Testing and Training Lands

The objective of this Statement of Need (SON) is to advance understanding of how recent, ongoing, or potential ecosystem transformations may impact Department of Defense (DoD) mission fulfillment and operations, directly and indirectly, and how management actions might offset such impacts. Ecosystem transformations, in which a historical ecosystem is replaced by another with contrasting properties (composition, structure, function), are driven by invasive species, altered fire regimes, severe weather, and other disturbances. Some representative examples include conversion of sagebrush steppe to annual grassland, forest to woodland or scrub, tundra to forest, and salt marsh to open water. Proposers for this opportunity should follow the [SERDP Core FY 2027 Solicitation](#) instructions and deadlines (**January 13, 2026** for pre-proposals).

Parks and Open Space Florida Forever Grant Program

The Parks and Open Space Florida Forever grant program provides funding to local governments and eligible nonprofit environmental organizations for acquisition of community-based parks, open space and greenways that further outdoor recreation and natural resource protection needs identified in local government comprehensive plans. The program provides local governments the opportunity to leverage local dollars with state dollars to optimize conservation benefits and encourages both public-private partnerships and land acquisition initiatives. Applications are due by **January 19, 2026**.

2026 Climate Smart Communities Initiative

CSCI awards provide funding and technical assistance to advance community-based climate resilience in communities or regions that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Grants typically range from \$60,000 to \$115,000 based on the scope of work proposed in the application. The program prioritizes funding for communities that include historically disinvested populations at increased risk to climate-related impacts. The competition is open to US-based project teams composed of a climate adaptation practitioner and representatives from a local or regional government entity and a community-based organization. Applications are due by **March 12, 2026**.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

State of the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Workshop | December 3, 2025 | Virtual

It's nearly time! This virtual workshop is being presented through a collaboration between SASMI and the Sea Grant programs in the South Atlantic. The purpose is to convene salt marsh scientists and local conservation and restoration experts working in the South Atlantic to discuss the latest research related to salt marsh sustainability in a changing environment, and to inform priorities and actions within SASMI.

USFWS Webinar: Collaborative Conservation Successes, Challenges, and Building Trust | December 16, 2025 | Virtual

Description coming soon! Keep an eye on the landing page to learn more or to register.

Annual Meeting of the National Shellfish Association

The National Shellfisheries Association is hosting their next Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon in March 2026. There are [many topics which may be of interest here](#), but take special note of the "Shellfish Restoration & Conservation" session moderated by Peter Kingsley-Smith. This segment will feature a diversity of presentations related to research and efforts to restore, enhance or conserve molluscan shellfish species (not just oysters!). Living shorelines, ecosystems services, sustainability, and increased resiliency are all relevant themes for talks submitted to this session. [Abstract submissions are still open at this link](#) until December 15; you can also contact Peter with questions at kingsleysmithp@dnr.sc.gov

UPDATE ON INTERPRETIVE SIGN PROJECT FOR IOP PIER/DOCK

On 11/1, Islander 71 hosted their first oyster roast of the season, and the EAC interpretive sign project was chosen to be the recipient of donations made by people attending the event.

The ticket price per/person was an “ask” of \$30 that would be donated to the project – people were allowed to donate less or more. We had a VERY generous community- most everyone donated more than \$30.

Susan Hill Smith, Laura Lovins, Sean Popson and Mary Pringle were there on behalf of the EAC to take in the donations and tell people about the project. Susan brought an example of one of the larger 36” x 24” signs to show people what they can expect to see when the installation is complete.

We took in \$3,800 from the event, and Barrier Island Preservation Alliance was the charitable organization that collected the donations. They will be transferring the money to the City, which will then distribute it to the sign company and our graphic designer to cover their fees.

With the \$3,800 from the oyster roast, a \$5,000 donation from the Marina, and a \$4,000 donation from Barrier Island Ecco Tours, we have a total of \$12,800 to go towards the cost of the project, which will be close to \$20,360. The City also agreed to put up to \$10,000 towards the project, if needed. We will only need to ask the City for about \$7,200 to cover the final costs.

The sign designs are in the final stages of completion, the actual signs are on order, and we are hoping to have the installation completed by early January.