



Letters and Opinions

Dear Editor

On April 28th, the DNR's Shore Protection Committee (SPC) reviewed a controversial request from the Jekyll Island Authority for a beach management general permit (BMGP) to use as a tool "to facilitate more efficient and effective management" of Jekyll's beachfront and dynamic dune fields.

After receiving a large number of complaints about how the proposed BMGP would, in effect, exempt the JIA from the permitting process required by Georgia's Shore Protection Act, and after listening to statements made at the April 28th meeting by members from four local conservation organizations along with an attorney from the Southern Environmental Law Center, the SPC decided to table the Authority's troubled permit application.

Having attended that meeting and spoken with a number of people who have objected to the JIA's permit proposal, I would like to point out the main deficiencies of the JIA's permit application and to recommend that the Authority reconsider how to achieve the goals it hoped to accomplish through the proposed permit:

- The Shore Protection Act (SPA) does not include a provision for a permit that would enable an applicant to conduct unspecified activities at unspecified sites within the SPA's jurisdictional area the JIA. Put simply, the Authority's BMGP is at odds with the law.

- There is no planning framework for the beach stewardship activities the JIA says it wants to conduct. The framework needed was to have been provided by a comprehensive Beach Management Plan, the development of which is listed in the 2011 Jekyll Island Conservation Plan as a top priority. By substituting for a publicly-vetted beach management plan an open-ended permit as a management tool, the proposed permit violates the Authority's own Conservation Plan.

- The BMGP was crafted by the

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Letters

Dear Editor:

At the recent Island Planning Commission meeting about the St. Simons Tree Ordinance one of the appointed Island Planning Commission (IPC) Members declared he wants to see a good Tree Ordinance. Later, at that same meeting, he declared he wants to expand the Tree Ordinance Committee to include more developers than those developers that are already on the Committee.

Largely, due to the fact that some developers have been barbarically amputating and stripping trees from the land for their projects, including County trees (taxpayers), on St. Simons Island is how a Tree Ordinance came to originate. Irresponsible developers were actually the catalysts for the Tree Ordinance on SSI. LOL!

The IPC is appointed by the Glynn County Commissioners. Only one County Commissioner lives on St. Simons Island and therefore solely represents the Island and that is Commissioner Murphy. Commissioner Coleman is at large and is territorially split between Brunswick and St. Simons Island and to his credit has been supportive of Island issues.

When County Commissioners from Brunswick appoint IPC Members, they are going to pick those who share the same philosophical views they have. That's human nature, 99% of us would do the same thing. So I am not laying blame,

Because of this we are getting IPC Members who represent largely the same philosophical view as the County Commissioners who appointed them and do not live on St. Simons Island with the exception of Commissioner Murphy.

We end up with IPC Members who tend to be carbon copies of the Brunswick domiciled County Commissioners. The IPC becomes a reflection of the County Commissioners who appointed them with no philosophical or intellectual diversity and no true views of the people who live on St. Simons Island.

Wouldn't it be nice to have the residents of St. Simons have a choice by voting for IPC Members who share their views? Shouldn't these County Commissioners from Brunswick concentrate on the problems of their own district who they were elected to represent and some of their accumulating problems and despair?

Wouldn't it be nice to vote on IPC Members? There are several on the IPC who would get my vote and a few who would not. Wouldn't it be liberating to choose for ourselves?

Bill Hilton
St. Simons Island

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