

Board Responds To Advisory Motion

Editor's Note: The following letter, agreed to unanimously by the KICA Board of Directors, was sent to Mayor Bill Wert, Councilmen Leo Fishman, Don McIver, Steve Orban and Rich Bennett, Buddy Darby of Kiawah Development Partners, Townsend Clarkson of Kiawah Resort Associates, and Becky Dennis of Kiawah Island Utility.

April 25, 2003

An advisory motion presented from the floor at the March 9, 2003 annual meeting of the Kiawah Island Community Association, Inc. (KICA) regarding utility rate issues has been addressed by the Board of Directors.

As you may know, members of the board met with Tom Lamb and Jim Piet of KPOG, Townsend Clarkson and Becky Dennis of KRA and KIU, respectively, Mayor Wert, and Councilmen Rich Bennett and Don McIver of Town Council. Board members have been furnished material from or have had conversations with the Seabrook Utility Commissioner, Gary Walsh of the Public Service Commission (PSC), and a legal opinion from KICA attorney, Kenneth Krawcheck.

The board has also reviewed the prior cases and appeals as well as pre-filed testimony. We have reviewed [rate schedule comparisons](#) of the surrounding areas and had discussions with those who were involved with the situation since its beginning.

The board has made a sincere effort to accumulate all the facts available from all of the parties involved in this ongoing activity. We have studied the materials and aired our findings at the April 21, 2003 Board of Directors meeting. At the conclusion of our discussion at that meeting, the following motion was presented and approved:

The KICA Board of Directors recommends the Council of the Town of Kiawah Island and the Management of KRA and KIU meet to review all aspects of operations of Kiawah Island Utility as they affect the ratepayers with particular emphasis on ways to resolve this matter through negotiation and to end the cycle of repeated legal confrontations at the expense of all property owners.

We are asking each of you to put forth a concerted effort to meet, discuss and come to an agreement on the various issues which have divided the parties for so many years.

The current court actions are by the Town and KPOG against rulings by the PSC. Final review from the state Supreme Court is expected by late summer. However, we do not believe any ruling from the Court will significantly assist in resolving the dispute.

This board's major interest is to ensure that our members have an adequate supply of water, with adequate peak load capacity, at a reasonable cost. We believe the utility has satisfied these requirements. The disagreement, as we understand it, is over rate-setting principles used by the PSC.

Our members are property owners. They are rate payers. They are our neighbors. As their representatives, we urge you to resolve this matter.

Sincerely,

KIAWAH ISLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Martin I. Yonas
President

[Click Here](#) to view the Water Rate Comparison Chart referenced in Paragraph 3.