

COMMUNITY MEETING - PHASE II: AWENDAW

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES WITH NATURE



What you love about your community:

- Clean, natural environment (Clean water and air, Francis Marion National Forest, pine trees, and green space)
- Rural lifestyles and peace (Quiet living, dark skies for stargazing, and space for farming and livestock)
- Wildlife and nature (Birds and other animals enrich daily life)
- Strong community ties (kind, neighborly people and a shared sense of place)
- Protective of heritage and environment (Identity tied to cultural history, heirs' property, and stewardship of land and water)



Challenges you face:

- Flooding and drainage issues (Doar Road, Hwy 17, and Sewee Trail flood regularly; septic tanks and poor ditches worsen problems)
- Rapid development pressures (Fast growth and clear cutting threaten rural character and strain resources)
- Water quality concerns (Septic run off, fertilizers, and poor town water quality (sulfur smell))



General issues we heard:

- Tree canopy and clear cutting (Increases flooding and heat)
- Infrastructure and growth balance (Septic and drainage maintenance, lot coverage, and traffic management)
- Cultural & natural heritage (Historic relics, knowledge, and animal habitats diminishing)
- Desire to protect community identity, rural character, open spaces, wetlands, wildlife, and forests



Top Priorities / Urgent Issues (focused on Nature-Based Solutions)

- Flooding blocks roads (Doar Rd., Hwy 17, Sewee Trail); sulfur smell in drinking water; septic run-off harming the marshes
- Worsening storm patterns (King tides, stronger storms, and faster flooding events are now common)
- Barrier islands and green space (Shrinking coastlines and filled lands for development)
- Loss of access to waterways (Creeks like Horlbeck endangered by silt; salt marsh access reduced)
- Need wetland protection (Interior wetlands need the same protection as coastal ones)
- Have noticed a decline in fisheries and habitats (Shrimp and blue crab populations shrinking; barrier island erosion reducing habitat)



Notes / Comments:

Key Takeaways:

The Awendaw community treasures its **clean water, forests,** and **rural character,** but faces rising challenges from **flooding, rapid development, tree loss,** and **water quality concerns.** Protecting **natural resources, wetlands, cultural heritage,** and **community identity** while guiding **smart growth** remain top priorities.