

March 14, 2016

**Nikki Haley
Governor of South Carolina
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201**

Dear Governor Haley,

I am writing to you on a matter of great urgency and I am contacting you in behalf of my family and myself and my fellow neighbors who live in my neighborhood of Sturgis Estates.

As property owners in the City of Rock Hill, SC, we are turning to the Governor's office for any kind of help that can be offered to us to help combat a very serious problem that we are facing and don't have anywhere else to turn to locally. We are hoping that because of the serious nature of this problem your awesome civic authority might be able to aid us in some way.

Our neighborhood is being systematically destroyed because of a city planning commission that is completely corrupt. They have approved a development project to build apartments in a section of land that cannot accommodate the facility based on proper building codes and land development procedures.

The apartments in question are to be constructed by an individual who has no regard for the negative impact his development project will inflict on all the property owners in and around this neighborhood. I am a professional Landscape Designer and I have worked on land development projects for decades. I have a working knowledge and understanding of land development codes and regulations. They are in place to protect the interests of surrounding property owners while allowing for land development that does not destroy the look, environment and property values around the project.

Our neighborhood has a very large retention pond that is a protected Wetland. It is a registered Wetland that is part of the National Wetlands Inventory. It is a permanent water body that is a living ecosystem. It has many species of birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, mammals as well as aquatic plant life. Migratory birds are coming to the pond throughout the year. This pond is not only a highly valued asset of the neighborhood but it is also home to these many types of animals and plants.

All of us in the neighborhood understood that the Wetlands were part of the neighborhood, a community asset. Somehow the developer purchased the pond from the Sturgis family and his motives for purchasing it were all designed to circumvent the building codes I mentioned earlier. The pond is not even on the same side of the street as his proposed development. His plan was to try to direct all the rain run-off from his property and parking lot and channel it under the street to the side of the street where the Wetland area is. By doing this it would save him from having to build his own run-off retention pond, thereby allowing him to build another apartment building on the site. He was told by the Planning Commission publicly at a Public Hearing meeting in 2014 that he would need to have studies done by the Army Corp of Engineers, who has authority over the protected water body, to determine if the run-off from his apartment complex parking lot and buildings would have an ecological impact. These statements are all in the public record from the minutes of that meeting. The developer now says he does not need to have any studies done because he owns the pond,

contradicting what was stated at the public hearing. He plans to drain the Wetlands and dredge it to make it deeper, thereby killing all forms of animal and plant life that live there and rely on it.

The issues continue to get worse from here. His plan does not allow sufficient space for a greenbelt area to separate his structures from the existing single family home neighborhood behind it. He is using the trees around the Wetland as his needed tree count to try to satisfy the buffer zone requirement on the actual lot where the apartments will be. This alone by any building code standards would have disqualified the project as not being suitable for the site. There must be a tree buffer zone between his buildings and the homes behind. His representative at the meeting said their buffer was the parking structures as though they represent some kind of tree buffer. The representative also said they were expecting to use the tree count of the Wetlands area to count as the tree count for the tree buffer zone on the actual construction site. These trees he expects to use in his tree count are not even in the buffer zone! Again, this is in the meeting minutes.

The apartment complex is so dense with apartments that they have to have two entrances. One of the proposed entrances is from the street between the Wetlands and the Apartments, a street that was never designed to handle such a load of traffic. The street is already overloaded with traffic from a neighborhood that was later built and permitted by the Planning Commission to use the road.

The property owners who found out about the Public Hearing meeting and where able to be there (The meeting was never announced to any of the surrounding property owners, someone in the city who knows one of my neighbors tipped him off about the meeting the day before) showed up and were allowed to speak. They spoke about the building code violations the project was being proposed under as well as the fact that this facility and the destruction of the Wetlands area would seriously negatively impact all of our property values. It would cause excessive traffic issues because the surrounding roads were never designed to accommodate such a volume of traffic.

During the Public Hearing the representative for the developer stated that they had met with the neighbors around the project and took their concerns into consideration. This is an outright lie, no such meeting ever took place and all the neighbors are completely opposed to the project.

After everything was said, the Planning Commission simply voted unanimously to proceed with the project anyway, completely disregarding everything said by the property owners who were able to attend the unannounced Public Hearing, disregarding the building code violations the project would be built under and allowing the destruction of the protected Wetlands.

One of my neighbors personally knows the members of the Planning Commission as well as the developer and he said they have done outrageous things like this before in the City of Rock Hill. Apparently the developer is very wealthy and is very arrogant about getting his way no matter what. I have already informed the Planning Council that I and my neighbors are going to fight this. The developer has stepped up his surveying activities since I gave the Planning Commission notice in early February that we are going to fight this. A Planner in the planning department responded to an email I sent them in early February 2016 asking if the project was approved to move forward. He told me in writing that nothing had been submitted by the developer yet on the issues he needed to have addressed and no one at the city had been contacted by him. The Planner said the developer had many issues he needed to address before his project could move forward. It is obvious that this was all a lie because the surveying activities were already occurring when I sent the email. One of the surveyors told one of my neighbors next to the pond that the project was approved and moving forward. I have the Planner's dated email and everything he said.

A number of my neighbors know these people in the government of Rock Hill personally or through their family members and have told me the City is corrupt on all levels and in all departments,

including law enforcement. Personally I have already prepared myself for the possibility that I might be killed because of all the corruption that I am trying to fight and because of these people's desire to not be publicly exposed. There are millions of dollars at stake in this project and there are plenty of people in this world that have been killed for much less. Although I am a brave person I don't want to be murdered if I can avoid it, but I and my neighbors will fight this corrupt project.

There is more detail to this circumstance but I have already written you a book! I apologize for writing so much but I don't know any other way to help you appreciate how serious and time-urgent our issue is and the very real danger to my life. We have documentation to support our position and what I have stated to you.

We feel that this corruption is not able to reach your level of government so I beg you on behalf of myself, my family and my neighbors for your help with this matter. We have nowhere else to turn locally and do not know who we can trust on a local level. My neighbors were feeling that the corruption is so bad and these people are so powerful that they are powerless to fight it.

If anything does 'mysteriously' happen to me at least I was able to inform you in writing of this possibility so I could never be 'swept under the carpet.'

I also look forward to the day when I might have the opportunity to meet you in person and be able to thank you in person for any help you can offer us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin J. Kellogg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kevin J. Kellogg

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kjkenterprises@hotmail.com

625 Wildwood Drive
Rock Hill, SC 29730



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

National Wetlands Inventory

Wetland Pond

Mar 13, 2016

Wetlands

- Freshwater Emergent
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Riverine
- Other



This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

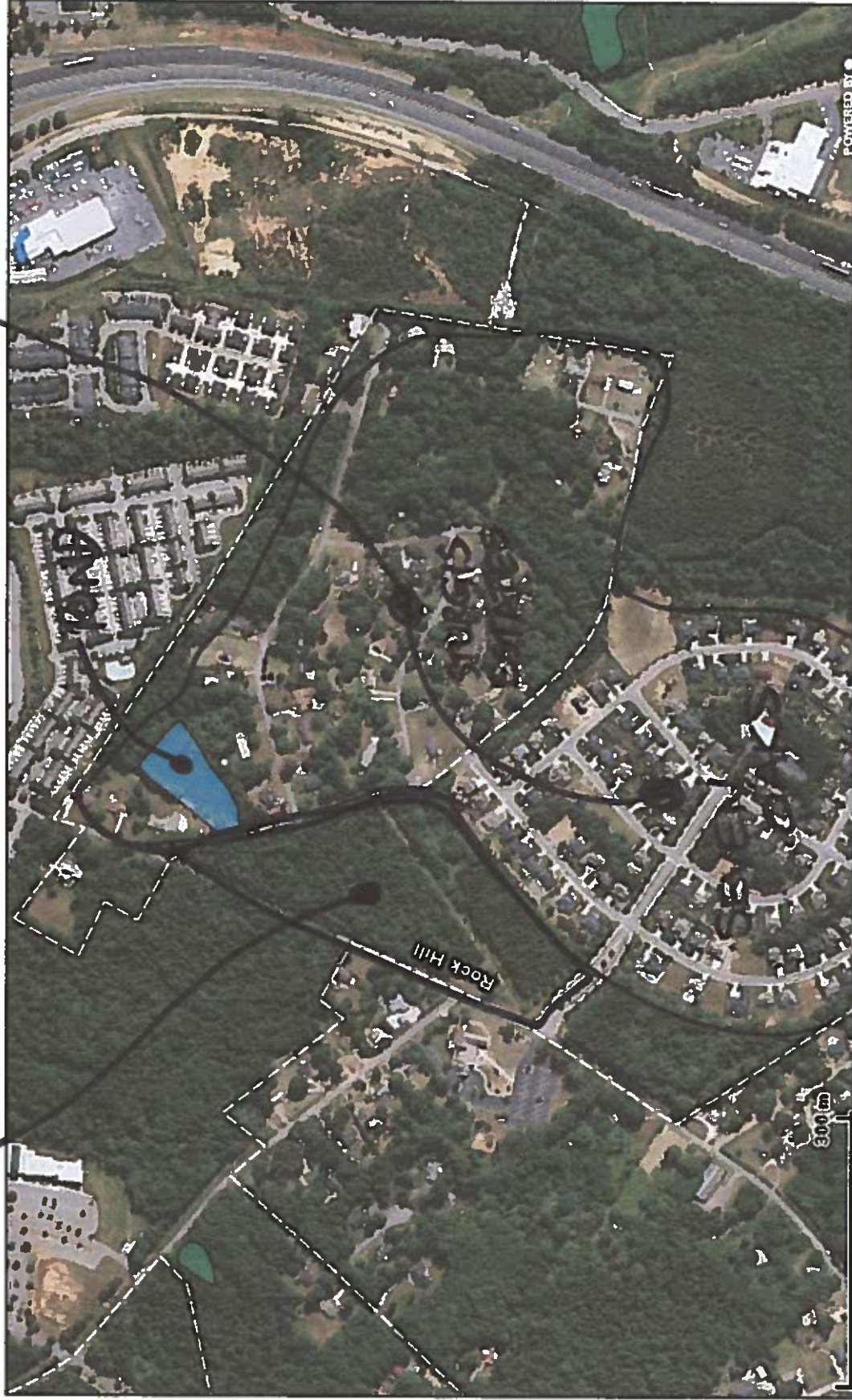
User Remarks:
Sturgis Estates



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

National Wetlands Inventory

SITE OF PROPOSED APARTMENTS
NEIGHBORHOODS THAT USE THE POND





U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service

National Spatial Data Infrastructure Wetlands Layer

The National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) is a way of enhancing the accessibility, communication, and use of geospatial data to support a wide variety of decisions at all levels of society. NSDI is defined as the technologies, policies, and people necessary to promote sharing of geospatial data throughout all levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors, and the academic community.

Wetlands Data Stewardship

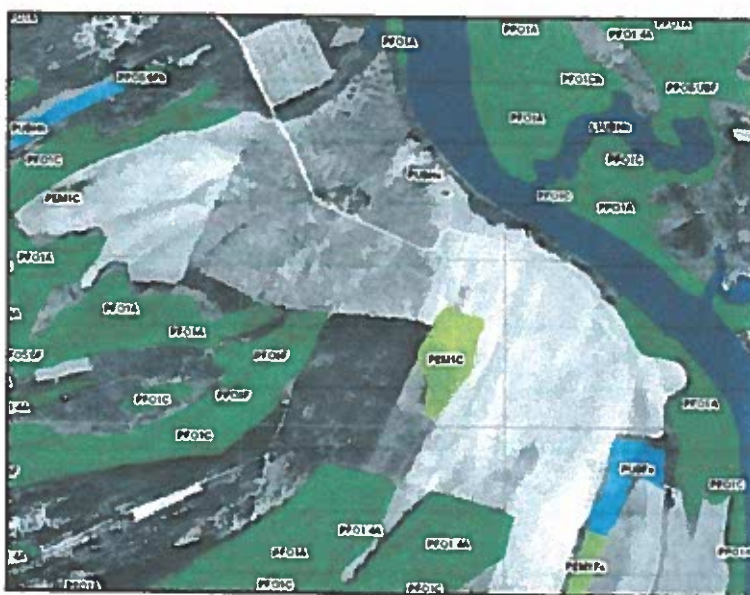
Wetlands are some of the Nation's most ecologically and economically important habitats, and provide benefits for fish, wildlife and people. Emerging conservation issues such as global warming, sea-level rise, increasing storm severity, drought, energy development, species declines and expansion of infrastructure are driving the need for contemporary geospatial resource information. As data stewards, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is the principle Federal agency that provides wetland information to the public and other agencies.

In 1986, the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act mandated that the FWS complete the mapping and digitizing of the Nation's wetlands. The result of this effort is the Wetlands Geospatial Data Layer. This data layer houses all of the Service digital geospatial wetlands data, and forms the Wetlands Spatial Data Layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).

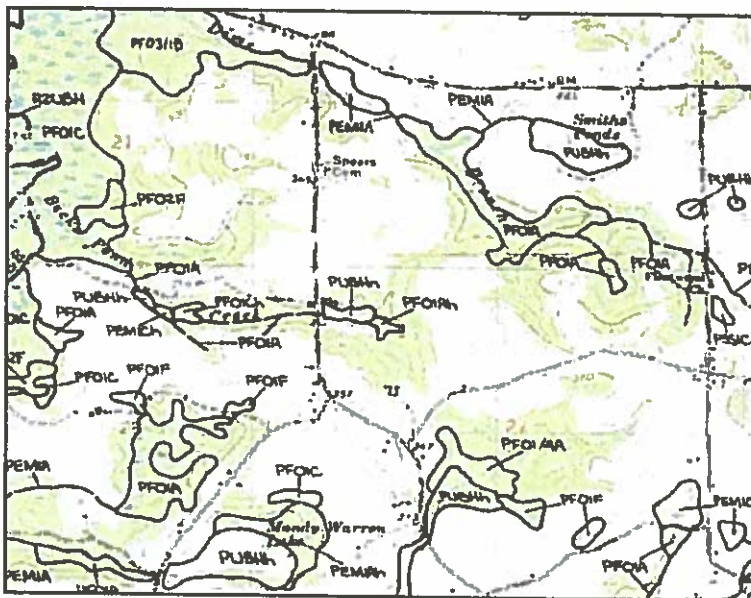
The FWS has modernized the wetlands geospatial data and services to meet the demands of resource managers and other users. This Wetlands layer is now available to all federal, state, tribal, and local governments, as well as the public. It is an important component of the Department's Geospatial Blueprint, actively supporting the E-Government (E-Gov) initiative, Geospatial One-Stop, <http://gos2.geodata.gov/wps/portal/gos> and The National Map, <http://nationalmap.gov/>.

Content and Status

The wetlands layer is a seamless digital data layer stored in an ArcSDE geodatabase format. Currently, the data layer for the lower 48 States contains seamless information for approximately 60 percent of the conterminous U.S. The wetlands layer also covers 27 percent of Alaska, 100 percent of the windward islands of Hawaii, 62 percent of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 100 percent of Guam and Saipan. Along with digital data, the wetlands layer includes raster images of hardcopy wetland maps for those areas not yet in vector format. These images are scans of the original 1:24,000 scale wetland maps produced in hardcopy by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Both the wetlands vector and raster data are currently being served on the Wetlands Mapper, <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/>.



Digital data from the Wetlands Geospatial Layer overlaid with the corresponding black and white imagery.



Scanned hard copy maps are georeferenced to the corresponding Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) and served on-line until vector data is available.

It is important to the Fish and Wildlife Service to improve the internet delivery of updated digital data and keep pace with the growing demand for wetland resource information. The goal of the Wetlands Mapper is to provide a greater awareness of wetland map data and to improve the delivery of this information to its users. It allows users to access the Wetlands Geospatial Data Layer as well as provides a tool for the integration of large relational databases with spatial information and map-like displays. The national wetlands layer can be easily expanded and updated, and contains several levels of metadata as well as supplemental wetland information. All metadata are compliant with the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata Version 2.0. Users can explore this resource information on a web-based discovery site at <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/>.

Contributing to the NSDI Wetlands Layer

Organizations and individuals have the opportunity to contribute their data to the Wetlands Geospatial Data Layer. Contributors will be acknowledged for their work and assistance can be given in order to prepare data to meet qualification standards. For more information on how you can contribute data to the National Wetlands Database visit our website at <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/wetlandslayer/ContributedData.html>.

The Future of the NSDI Wetlands Layer

The FWS continues to work to improve the integrity and scope of the wetlands layer. The wetlands layer is increasing in size each year primarily due to existing analog data being converted to vector or raster images. Contributed data from other Federal, State and local organizations is also increasing. The FWS has limited budgetary resources and faces many challenges in balancing increasing demands for wetlands map information for high priority resource conservation applications. As a consequence, under current budget scenarios completion of the national geospatial data layer will be a long-term goal. However, through its strategic mapping projects, the FWS will continue to provide updated information as well as add map data to provide a complete National data layer. Additionally, the FWS will work with partner organizations to facilitate the incorporation of wetlands map data and provide this information to the public.

Contact Information:

Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation
Branch of Resource and Mapping Support
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 840
Arlington, Virginia 22203
703 358-2161

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
800/344-WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>



"The present goal is to provide the citizens of the United States and its Trust Territories with current geospatially referenced information on the status, extent, characteristics, and functions of wetlands, riparian, and deepwater habitats in priority areas to promote the understanding and conservation of these resources."



Bayou Cocodrie NWR, USFWS Digital Library