

3-26-2021

## Socastee Interview, Participant #03, March 26, 2021

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### Recommended Citation

Mokos, Jennifer and McCauley, Jaime, "Socastee Interview, Participant #03, March 26, 2021" (2021).  
*Flood Survivor Interviews*. 2.  
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## **"Flooded Afterlives Project" Interview**

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Participant ID: 03  
Community: Rosewood/Socastee  
State: SC

Interviewer: Jaliyah Oats  
Interview date: 03/26/2021  
Interview location: Zoom

This protocol for this study was approved by the Coastal Carolina University Institutional Review Board (Approval #2021.102) on March 3, 2021. All subjects gave their informed consent for inclusion before participation in the study.

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Interviewer: So how many times have you experienced flooding in your home or your place of residence?

Participant: Well, inside my home it's been twice but in the development I live in it's been seven times.

Interviewer: How long have you been living down here?

Participant: 28 years.

Interviewer: Oh, my. Seven times in 28 years.

Participant: Yeah. Well it's only been in the past five years that we've been flooding. Yeah, it just started.

Interviewer: Oh, my.

Participant: And each year's gotten worse. Our development flooded starting in 2015 and then my home flooded in 2016. And then the neighborhood flooded again in 2017, 2018 my home flooded. And then 2019 there was another flood. There are people that are lower down, closer to the intracoastal waterway, that's where we live along, that they flooded each time. There's one lady that's flooded eight times since 2015. Mm hmm. And then, this

past year in 2020 our development flooded twice and we've already flooded again this past February.

Interviewer: In the beginning did it feel like bad luck or did you actually understand it was kind of like climate change and the weather, that was impacting you?

Participant: No, at first it was just a fluke. That's how most people took it as... And you know I'm not a climate denier, so to speak, climate crisis denier but I really didn't think that it was going to continue to increase or continue. I mean I knew that that was the potential, but I didn't think it was going to be that dramatic or that often, and it got so much worse over time. Yeah- it's terrible...it's terrible and you know it's just...it's, a fact that, well, number one this place never should have been developed on. It's swampy marshlands...probably was wetlands, at one time so it never should have been... the elevation's really low and then you're, of course, right along the intracoastal waterway and so it should have never been developed on. So over time, you know, it's obvious it's not going to be habitable for humans.

Interviewer: Was there a key moment that stuck out to you when you started to realize that this is not just bad luck... like this is something serious and I need to take action against it? Do you have like a key moment for that?

Participant: I think that would be after the first time that I actually flooded in my home. That's when I started really looking at things. I educated myself, well rounded myself in soils and things of that nature. And then that's when I realized this is not just a fluke and it's going to continue to happen. And it's going to be progressive. It's going to go out further. There's going to be a lot more people. And so, then it just like hit me that there was nothing I could do to stop it. There's nothing anyone can really do to stop it.

Interviewer: A lot of times when I hear people talk about how there is nothing that we can really do to stop it, I feel kind of powerless. Did you feel powerless?

Participant: Yes, and I still do. I still do. When it rains...there's a lot of trauma especially when you flood repetitively. The first time it was so... I'll never forget the moment when we went to bed we had we had very little warning... the yards were starting to fill up with water, but it was nothing major. We had no warning. So when we went to bed, we thought okay we'll get up and see how it looks in the morning. Well the water had saturated up under the houses and came up through the slab foundations wherever there was a crack. When we woke up in the morning, it was over our ankles and everything was already wet. I had a small child with me and dogs and what have you. And so, then I opened up my front door, which I never should have did, but I didn't know any better and the water just poured. The water was actually higher outside and it was just seeping in slowly but as soon as I open the door it just it all came in and we had to be boated out. The National Guard and the Coast Guard came in and were boating people out. And that was really bad and it didn't hit me right away because I was in that flight or fight mentality. But then when I came back, which it was a long time- it was well over two weeks before we could even get back in- and when I came back, I saw the destruction of everything that I owned because I didn't pack anything. I really didn't think anything about it and I lost everything because, even though it didn't touch the water, I had mold up into my ceiling and it permeated every fiber that you had. Like say you had leather shoes that were put in your closet way up high that they didn't get wet. But then when you would

go to open them, they're covered in mold. So it was just really bad. It was very traumatic. So then every time... You know, even though I'm a strong person, and I know it's not going to kill me or anything like that, but still every time it rains there's little triggers...

Interviewer: Yeah that's crazy. I've been fortunate. I've never witnessed a flood and because I've always lived not on the coast... I'm from North Carolina so I live in the middle of the State so I've never lived on the coast... Just hearing about that I can never relate and I'm so sorry that this happened to you.

Participant: Yeah.

Interviewer: Oh, my gosh. I can't even imagine.

Participant: Well and the only thing that I really ever had to relate to was, of course, Katrina and in New Orleans. New Orleans is my heart, I love New Orleans and I have several friends that live there and what have you. So, after Katrina and what happened there and people that I literally knew that were on their roofs. That may have played a big impact too. Because I just saw how terrible it was there and took so long. A lot of people still are not recovered there. It's hard because really New Orleans never should have been developed either. Not for habitants to live. It just shouldn't have been.

Interviewer: Do you think that society and news and the media downplay the emotional impacts of flooding?

Participant: Absolutely, I don't think people talk- I don't think they talk about it because we have a mental health crisis anyhow with our veterans and just everyone so I think that's overlooked in a lot of things, probably almost everything. And that's huge because if you're not mentally well or if you're not happy, you're not going to be healthy, and so of course that plays on your physical condition as well, which is something that probably happened to me too because I did end up getting a cancer scare last year. But they were able to remove it and I'm good to go now. But I'm sure that I had never been sick before and now it's because of the environmental toxins because we did have a lot of sewage and with the 2018 flood, the Smithfield hog farms got flooded into so we had a lot of pig parts and feces and stuff that the fish didn't even survive. We had fish that were just dying. There were fish killed everywhere, so that water was really bad. I'm sure that had something to do with a lot of people. A few elderly have died since also so you know it's never been related to that, but I would almost say that you know that's a big part.

Interviewer: When you were flooded the first time, did you ever think about moving from where you lived? Because I know you said that you lived here for 20 years so the first time you were flooded. You already built a community, and that was your family, and that was your place at home, so when your home was destroyed, did you think about actually moving?

Participant: Um... no not the first time because I have roots here. I raised all my children, my three children here. Now I'm on with my grandchildren. My parents live down the road. My sister lives down the road and my in laws live across the street. I watched all these kids and it's funny because I'm like an old grandma already to all the kids in the neighborhood. Everyone was really close, and no one ever moved out of here. It was

almost like Gilligan's island or something or Andy Griffith. Everyone knew each other and, not that everyone necessarily may have liked each other, but we all got along. And it was multicultural. It was down home and so all the neighborhood kids you know and it's right behind Socastee High School so the kids would play sports through the neighborhood, they run track through our neighborhood. So I've seen so many kids grow up and then they come back and they visit me as adults and have their own kids and I never- I always in my mind, I was going to keep the house. I was one day I'll go and would get my own condo and live by the beach or something where I didn't have to do yards or anything. But I would have kept it in the family. Probably let my children stay in it. They're older. And then they would have a place, but I never thought about getting rid of it. As time went on, and especially after the second flood, I really wanted to get rid of it, and I could have but I couldn't bring myself to sell it to someone else for it to happen. Even if they- even if someone says "oh it's no big deal it only floods every now and again". No, they don't get it. You really don't get it. And you especially don't understand when you've invested so much money and, time into your property and your domicile to just destroyed. And then yeah you can build it back, but it's never the same. You don't, you don't...you can never understand that unless you've been through something... a catastrophe like a fire... like if your house burnt down or something... then you might understand, but just for the everyday person. Because I've watched people come and move into the neighborhood and they're new and you've tried to warn them... you've tried to say when the real estate agent was showing it to them or they were looking at it and you say "Hey you know, we're in a flood zone". And they're like "Oh well, you know...it's no big deal" and then six months later boom it happens, and then they come to you and they're in shock because they're like "Wow we really didn't get that" and, I'm like "I know I tried to warn you". I tried to tell you.

Interviewer: Do you feel like more people in positions of power, such as real estate agents, or certain positions within the government, should warn those who are moving here that it's as bad as what it is? I understand that you tried to do it as a neighbor, as a friend, or a person in the community but do you think that people higher up should also do something like that?

Participant: Oh absolutely! I actually think that it's criminal. I think the way that it's done is criminal. It's inhumane. It's immoral. It's terrible. The banks have no responsibility or accountability to tell people and to be transparent about things. I mean if someone chooses or what have you- and see I don't even like that, when they choose because they don't understand. I think that has a lot to do with education because there's so much denialism with climate issues or science in general, so people aren't really going to take that to heart. But I don't think it's just the banks and the realtors or even the representatives, because the planning and zoning departments in every one of these counties, wherever they may be, know the grades. They know the elevations, and they know that they're improper. A lot of areas have not even updated their FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) maps in 20-30 years. The army corps of engineers is at fault for a lot of things also because they released a lot of wetlands. They've also, for example, with the intracoastal waterway, they've not maintained it. You know that was a man-made ditch and they have not maintained it, at least in this area, and they had to be forced to do it down through Florida, and down in Charleston. You know Charleston is horrible. The things that happened there with the flooding issues there. So yeah I think there's a lot of responsibility on them because they're the ones that write the laws or enforce the laws. Also, as far as warning people, if the water crosses the road emergency

management of any sort cannot enter that water. That's why they have to call in the National Guard. That's why they call in the Red Cross. So, if you can't even perform public safety to communities, I'm sorry but that's criminal.

Interviewer: Yes, I agree, I agree with you 100%. Based on what you said it sounds like we're losing that sense of a community. You know? It kind of feels like everybody's kind of looking out for themselves or for a profit. I wish that we were more of a community, you know?

Participant: Right mm hmm.

Interviewer: So what do you wish that people understood about your experience with flooding?

Participant: um... I guess... I really wish that more people would understand the need for certain areas and certain people for mitigation purposes, you know there's a lot of people that are in a lot of areas that they shouldn't be. Right- and um... I don't... I don't like the idea that people think that it's just so simple. Okay, so you know there's a small community and you just expect them to just pick up and just move from whatever the crisis may be in that area, whether it be even just clean water. People don't understand that should be a basic need provided to communities. Clean, fresh drinking water and...so I guess it would be that monetarily...the money that it would take to help those people in need...you would actually be saving more money removing them or relocating them, assisting them in that manner and giving them the opportunity to be in a place where it's healthy and it's safe. Because they're gonna want to take care of that so people are gonna work. It's not necessarily like a handout. A lot of people think that it's a form of socialism when you're looking into these mitigation projects and such. It's not because all of that money's already within our federal structures. The money's sitting there and they're going to spend it. Now, the whole thing is, are they going to spend it on their infrastructure projects? Which are needed. But you know there's people that need to have access to these funds as well. I don't know did that make sense?

Interviewer: You answered it perfectly. It made it made a lot of sense to me.

Participant: You know what my end goal was with that right.

Interviewer: I saw- I saw where you were going. Okay- I was with you, yes. Yeah, just based off what you said, it makes so much sense how all this money doesn't seem to be going back to the people who need it, or back to the community. As if the people in power... it just doesn't seem like the money or the funds are going back to the community, even though that's where it needs to go. It just doesn't make sense to me. I don't understand.

Participant: Right, because a lot of people here..."oh okay well they put this disaster money...you know 2 billion dollars in disaster money"... And then a few years later you're looking around like "Wait why are them people still sitting there", or "why is it still flooding there"? And I can understand people's frustrations because it's like okay well where did the money trickle to? Because it didn't get into the holes where it needed to go. There's so many holes and that's why I really think the best practices that we could have is when there is the disaster money that's allocated down to the states, it needs to go directly to the sub-recipients needs to go to the victim- the people. And, not through all of these- there's so many channels. You know? Like they set their plans up, their projects are set up for infrastructure, and for this, and for that. You know there's all these different

departments, but the ones that get- that has to go to the people. It's like they have to develop the program. They have to write the program, they have to have the people to implement. Well, by the time you get through all that all the money is gone so you haven't been able to be effective with where you need to be. And basically that's to either get the people out or you know there's other things you could do too, with like elevations and that's a big thing with the developers and manufacturers when they're building... putting these pads down. They don't want to go up because it costs so much money. And so they're just turning these houses and setting them, and that's not right because honestly anything along the coast should be elevated. You know?

- Interviewer: Yeah, yeah. It just seems like they say that they want to help the community but they want to do it on a certain budget that just doesn't- and we can't work off that budget we're going to need a little bit more.
- Participant: It's like minimum wage at \$7.25 an hour, you know. They think people can live off that. But that's whole other interview.
- Interviewer: A whole other interview.
- Participant: I'll be here waiting on you.
- Interviewer: I'll come back to you- I gotchu. I'll set it up. Okay, so what is your vision for the future? Like if you could ideally set up the future, what would it look like within your community or within your area?
- Participant: Within the community, people need to either get up—their homes need to be elevated and you know structured properly—or they need to get out. Honestly, I would really like to see everyone get out of here. There are about 120 homes but 60 that are critical. I would love to just see them have the opportunity and the desire too also- because there's a lot that are not wanting to leave and I get it- but I would like to just see them safe, however that may be. And then I would just like to see the landscape here to be basically put back to nature. And then it couldn't hurt anyone. We have a boat landing here, and it would be a beautiful park. It would be absolutely beautiful as a marina or something of that nature but not residential.
- Interviewer: Why do you think people want to stay?
- Participant: I think comfort, familiarity, you know just- because it is nice here. It's peaceful. There's no crime. It's kind of like you're back in a little hidden woods. Yeah if we weren't flooding, people wouldn't even know we were back here. And most the time, even when we are flooded, they don't know we're back here. We're just off the 707 and traffic is flying by, and it's so lively out there. But then you come down here and it's just... it's picturesque and it's quiet and it's nice. And, some people just don't want to leave. They just like it and it doesn't bother them. I've got two families, they don't care. And it's like okay, I mean I get it, I don't, but I do, you know?
- Interviewer: Do you think some people don't leave because they're just not aware of- that this was actually a wetland that people built upon or that this is serious. It's not a fluke or something like that?

Participant: Yeah. Yeah, um I think that there's some you know, they are more of...they think that it can be stopped. They're blaming dams or large amounts of rainfall and we don't have the storage capacity. So...they think that you can dig another canal and divert the water there. Which, who knows? Maybe you could. But are they going to take the time and the money and also there's management. You would have to manage that.

Interviewer: mm hmm.

Participant: I try to use the example of the intracoastal waterway itself. When that was put in, it was fine for what... I don't know how long it's been there 100 years or so... It was fine, but now, all of a sudden it's not and they will not maintain this portion of it. They say it doesn't need to be snagged or dragged or cleaned out or...and it's like are you serious? Okay, so you would have a ditch in your yard and you're not ever gonna extend it out. That doesn't even make sense. They just don't want to spend the money.

Interviewer: I see that you have like a lot of passion and interest for this. What drives you? What drives you to keep educating people or keep informing people?

Participant: That is funny because I always just say love and I know that sounds hokey. And some people aren't going to get that but that's all it is, because I do love and I do care. And not just about myself. I mean, I do love myself. But I love- I just love people. And I would just want to... if I didn't know these kinds of... I wish someone came to me and told me certain things and they didn't. I kind of had to find it out on my own, so I just feel that I have the passion to want to try to help people, and if I could just help a few people in different communities or wherever, not necessarily just my own. They can learn from my experiences and pass that along.

Interviewer: Did you feel like-

Participant: Oh I'm sorry, no.

Interviewer: No, no, please go ahead that's on me.

Participant: Because essentially what it all boils down to, is that communities are going to have to take care of themselves whether they like it or not. We're not on an island, a one man island, and there's going to be other kinds of emergencies or crisis's so people are just going to have to learn how to take care of their small little nests, the little villages.

Interviewer: Did you ever feel discouraged whenever you were fighting for change and it just didn't get done in a timely manner, or you felt like you weren't being listened to?

Participant: Mm hmm. For a long, long time- I still do, to a small degree. And it's like okay, well... which way do I go? You know there's just always, there's just always something. And um... But no, I...I... except recently... they're going to be buying out people and they're going to be helping to elevate them here locally... locally... Horry County is a very diverse and rather oppressive in some ways. When we were able to achieve getting these projects, the mitigation projects, within two years... Normally that's a five to six year process. I was so happy and I was so excited and then, then that's kind of when I realized, I was like, okay, it's working, and we're on the right path here. But then that's also increased because then I...I'm looking around and I'm like "Okay, well, I see this



flaw and I see that and I see this need and that need and so how might we get to that fulfillment?", you know? It's a work in progress.

Interviewer: I think it's always a bittersweet moment whenever you achieve something so great like what you achieved, and then you also realize that there are so many other problems that you need to attend to. You recognize the victories, and you just want to celebrate, but then you also look around, and you're like "well I need to do this, and this needs to be changed, and someone needs to advocate for this and we need to educate". So I think it's very powerful that you just keep driving and I'm just in awe. I would love to be her please.

Participant: Thank you.

Interviewer: So who do you think we should talk to next? Like who do you think we should interview next?

Participant: Um... well...that's interesting. Because I really think umm...I think the people in the Department of HUD (Housing and Urban Development) and the South Carolina Disaster Recovery. They know- they recognize the needs. But I feel that, where the holdup happens is with Council members. And then going up the food chain, the senators, the congressmen. Now Congressman Rice has been really the best, our biggest advocate. I know Henry McMaster, our governor, established the flood committee, which was great, and I think that increased a lot of education and awareness. So anyone within that committee. Oh gosh you know who was the greatest one was um... There was this senator on there Goldfinch- Senator Goldfinch. He was really good. And then there was also someone on the county flood committee that was a scientist. I think he was from CCU. I can't remember his name now, but he was he was incredible too.

Interviewer: I'm gonna have to look into him, see what I can find

Participant: Yeah it was on the Horry County flood subcommittee. He was a researcher and he wrote some maps. I probably could find out his name and text it to you.

Interviewer: That would be amazing...if you could.

Participant: Now I think what would be interesting, though, is if we got a lot of the- ones um...and I hate to call them climate deniers but they really are. Because a lot of our administrators and stuff in this area, they just don't get it. So I don't know what angle, you'd want to go to.

Interviewer: You gave me so many different ones...I love them all. I think they're are all great. Do you think we should talk to more people who actually live in the community and who go through it to get their point of view?

Participant: Yes, if you can get them to talk. That's what I worry about and that's been a big issue. A lot of them are either afraid or they don't know how. And you know and I've tried to use myself as an example of that too. See I don't get gussied up and I don't do, you know, frou frou. You'll see I've been on the news hundreds of times, and I look like I just rolled up out of bed and most of the time I have. But I have I had to do these interviews and and news stories just simply so that people would know what was going on. Because if

you would walk around the communities, people say "Oh boy that really happens down there, I never would have known that". And it's like, dude you live within a mile, how do you not know what's going? But like I said, people just don't...they'll ride right by and they don't even understand. So if you can get the people to talk, it would be awesome and you they're all along the intracoastal waterway, like in Bridgecreek. There's so many developments all the way down through Lawson's Landing and then also there's Bucksport. Bucksport is on the other side of us, the other side of the drawbridge. But no one will say anything. I don't know... I feel bad. I wish they would.

Interviewer: I think you made a great point how you don't get all frou-frou up and look like you just rolled out of bed, but you look you look like somebody...somebody who lives there and it's not putting on a front and is not getting all dressed up in suits and I think it inspires people. It definitely inspires me too, I'm like if she can do it, and she is willing to fight for her community than I can do it and fight for my community. And I can fight and educate myself and research and figure out what's really going on. Because, like you said in the beginning, people think that this is just a fluke, it's just bad luck, it's just bad weather and so. At a certain point we just need to all just be like well seems a little- one too many floods. Maybe we should do some educating.

Participant: Exactly yeah. And, that was one of the things when I've had to talk with politicians, it's been said to me that if I would just be a little more finesse and polite. And yeah I have my moments, and I can be nice. But I always tell them, I'm sorry, I'm a human, I'm down to earth and I'm keeping it real and if you don't like the way it comes out or it comes across then obviously it's a problem with you...not me.

Interviewer: Mm hmm

Participant: I mean, and if it gets to the level where I have to scream and shout, which I have. And I don't have a problem with that and I don't think other people should either. I mean if something is wrong and it's repetitively happening for whatever that reason is, if it's affecting people's livelihood and economically as well...they have every right to stand up and scream and shout and be mad. I had one politician...his advisor tell me, if you would just sit down and just talk instead of acting like you have to stand there with the sign in your hand with 50 people behind you, we might listen to you. Oh- and I said oh okay. Okay. Well then, you heard what I was saying when I was holding that sign. And that was after everything got put through so that made me feel even better because I thought "Okay, you heard me. And now you want to sit down and talk to me because, however I got to get you to listen to me, it worked".

Interviewer: I really love how you said that people have a right to be mad. Like people have a right to be angry. Yes, yes, they do. Yes.

Participant: Yes, yes, yes, they do. And it's sad that people- and that's where I say that a lot of oppression happens, because you're not supposed to be emotional. Right? You're not supposed to be offended. You're not supposed to get upset...I mean that's crazy, that's just crazy to me.

Interviewer: mm hmm.

- Participant: I mean everyone has a right to... if you stub your toe, you have the right to scream. Maybe say a curse word. Whoo... wow. See, my daddy- my daddy was a sailor. When I was growing up, he was a sailor. He had a filthy mouth. And I had to go to school- but the good thing was is that the school that I went to, there was other sailors' children, so we all said curse words. And we didn't know any better- you know we didn't know that it was bad and so it's funny because I used to just talk like that. It was just natural. Then when I started to, of course, when I went to church and stuff I would get in trouble.
- Interviewer: In church what? That's crazy.
- Participant: Yeah. I would be like "Well daddy said that word".
- Interviewer: I think what's really powerful about what you said is that people in the community are- or may- may be scared to like speak out. And as an outsider looking in I think the problem is that, as a bunch of outsiders that we have an outsider mentality. So we don't really understand what's going on, we can't really put ourselves in that situation. So when you say that some of your fellow residents are scared, it's just like, well why would they be scared? It just kind of angers me because we're never going to truly understand, unless we talk to them. And we're not really talking to them, we're talking at them. And I'm like I don't...
- Participant: Amen, that is it right there. That is exactly it. Yeah.
- Interviewer: Is there anything else that you would like to share to me? Or would you like to share anything that you've been through, that somebody else has been through, or is there any beautiful words that you would like to share?
- Participant: Umm... No, I think the only other thing and I don't know if this is relative to your studying but animals are overlooked, a lot also. And not just personal pets. You think about the animals that are out in these... the wildlife that are that are being dislocated as well. And the fear that they have also. So that would probably be the only other thing. And then, as far as inspiration just when you're being wronged, whatever that wrong is, just don't give up. I mean don't shut up that's- that's what they want you to do. And the they is whoever it is you have your controversy or conflict with or whatever that may be or that's causing that crisis. You know, they want you to shut up and no one should ever shut up. And that's the thing we have to keep a dialogue, you know, and it may not be a dialogue that everyone likes at whatever time. But that dialogue's gotta keep going and- too, we also have to be more considerate of one another... one another's conditions. That's the thing...there's a lot of people that want to tell you how you're supposed to react, or how you should act or what you should do and not everyone's going to be at that capacity to be able to do that. You know it's funny because I took a- I had to do a lot of studying because I'm chronic with being late to everything and it doesn't matter. And then, when I started to look at it, I started to realize- cause I've...I've even lost jobs and things of that nature, because of that and friendships or what have you, because those people were taking it personal. Well, it was- it was something, a defect in me that I could not change. I cannot change it. I've tried and I can't. It's just, it's the way it is, and so you know there's nothing I can do about that. And I'm sorry that some other people may take that offensively, but it has nothing to do with them. It's me, you know what I mean. So it's like... we need to be understanding with others. Oh, and thank you. Sorry, I got my granddaughter. That's a big thing too. It's hard raising kids and what

have you. And having children living in flood zones and stuff. I told myself, I was probably gonna write a book but I'm too tired.

Interviewer: I support you. You totally should. If you write it, I will be the first person to buy it. Just shoot me a text. It's on Amazon, I will be right there, to purchase it...yes.

Participant: Thank you. I'm gonna find someone to write a book. Yeah. I'll probably have them write that book about me.

Interviewer: I also love the, "Don't Shut Up". I'm gonna get that on the T-shirt. Just get it on the front and the back, and just says "Don't Shut Up." Yes.

Participant: Well, we had T-shirts that said "I Flood I Vote" too, and we would go to the council meetings. Or just like wear them around where we knew, especially you know, during election season. You know you wear that around and that gets their attention I don't care what they say. They're paying attention.

Interviewer: They only pay attention whenever you yell or it's a loud crowd and it's an eyesore so.

Participant: Yeah yeah. Yep.

Interviewer: I'm so happy that you're not afraid to yell.

Participant: No, I'm not.

Interviewer: I also think that it's very important that you mentioned the animals because a big thing is that they lose their habitats and it's not like we can communicate with them and tell them "hey you're gonna have to move" because they're animals. That's where they live. That's their habitat. And it's just like things that we have done are like kicking them out of that space and it's just...I don't think people understand that. Or not just animals, but also trees and plants and vegetation. We have to make a change. We have to stop doing this.

Participant: Absolutely. And the way they treat those animals and what have you, because DNR (SC Department of Natural Resources) doesn't do a lot of rescue when they deem a lot of the animals like alligators and crocodiles and stuff like that...they're considered a nuisance ...where they can't be rehabilitated somewhere else so they'll kill them. I mean and that's horrible. Even if it is a crocodile that can kill me I just don't see where it's humane for them to just go and just kill it because it got out of its natural territory. I'm sure it's not because it wanted to. Something happened to cause that creature, to come up out of there. So that that's been a big thing too, because we had two gators that were in our pond and after the flood it was rumored that when DNR was in here, they killed them. Now I'm sure they killed them for safety and I get that, but still. They have the capability where they could have wrote them up and took them somewhere else, or something. - Sorry I'm getting a bunch of phone calls. And it's like flipping me out.

Interviewer: You're just popular, you're just popular today.

Participant: It's too much.

Interviewer: I'm very glad that you're advocating for the animals because they can't speak for themselves. And so I'm glad that there are people like you out there who are trying to speak up for them.

Participant: Thank you.

Interviewer: Well, that's kind of all. If you have anything else that you would love to say, please share. I'm here, I have nothing else. So if you love to talk about anything else- yeah, but other than that, I think I think this would be the end.

Participant: Okay, well, if you need to speak with anything about... any more I'll be at your disposal. So if you need to add to it to get a better whatever or if you just wanna talk, we can talk.

Interviewer: Of course, of course. I just want to thank you so much for participating cause it really- it not only just educated me because I didn't know like half of the things... and you just you educated me, but you also inspired me. So I feel like just getting your story out there on the internet or just any way, it's just not only going to impact people, but inspire the next generation to realize that we have to make a change in order to keep our world, safe and healthy. So, thank you so much.

Participant: No, thank you, thank you because that's what it's really all about. Thank you so much.

Interviewer: I think you're doing such good work. You're just educating and I'm so inspired. You're amazing.

Participant: Thank you. Thank you you're awesome.

Interviewer: Thank you, I was very nervous, but I was like she's really cool. I was like, she's really cool I want to match her. Let me match her coolness. Let me try to be cool.

Participant: You were girl, you were. You got it.

Interviewer: Thank you. All right, well I'm just going to record until you leave. So if you- if you would like- you're more than welcome to leave. But just thank you again. If you if you need anything you can contact me, you can also contact Dr. Mokos and we will we will try to help in any way, but thank you.

Participant: I greatly appreciate it, and thank you so much. Tell Dr. Mokos thank you as well.

Interviewer: Of course.

Participant: I appreciate everything.

Interviewer: I hope you have a great day. Bye.

Participant: You too, love. Bye.