

**MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
PARKER ANNEX ARCHAEOLOGY CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY
AUGUST 3, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Campbell Coxe, Chairman
Jake Rasor
Eric Emerson
Julien Springs
States Clawson (for Bobby Hitt)
Sonny King
Ken Rentiers
Terry Hurley (for Duane Parrish)
Breck Carmichael (for Alvin Taylor)
Scott Phillips (for Gene Kodama)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Julia Krebs
Steve Tully
Jonathan Leader
Kevin Hunter
Dave Cicimurri (for William Calloway)

OTHERS PRESENT

Harry Shealy	Andrew Cooper
Lorrienne Riggan	Frank Holleman
Van Whitehead	Emily Cope
Kay Daniels	Tom Swayingham
Ken Prosser	Tariq Ghaffar
Sean Taylor	Chris Moore
Meg Gaillard	Robert Gibb
Brian Long	Herrick Brown
Nick Moskos	Andy Wicker
Debbie Winslow	Johnny Stowe
Jen Konarski	Amy Tegler
Bert Pittman	Aaron Robinson
Abby Stevens	Jay Baldwin
Phil Maier	Billy Dukes
Tim Moore	Dick Byrd
David Lucas	Greg Mixon

Before the meeting began, Sean Taylor and Meg Gaillard, archaeologists with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resource's Heritage Trust Program, took the Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) members and others on a tour of the Parker Annex Archaeology Center.

Call to Order

Chairman Coxe called the meeting to order and a roll call of attendance was taken.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Coxe asked if there were any changes, additions or deletions to the minutes from the May 4, 2017, meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board. *Dr. King made a motion that the Board approve the minutes of the May 4, 2017, meeting, as submitted. Mr. Springs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

Board Information Items

Proposed Development in Travelers Rest – Threat to Bunched Arrowhead on Two Heritage Preserves

Frank Holleman, Senior Attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, spoke to the HTAB about a proposed Bluestone Ridge subdivision development in Greenville County. He explained the subdivision would contribute to the extinction of the federally-listed endangered species plant, Bunched Arrowhead, which is found on the Blackwell Heritage Preserve. The proposed development is adjacent to the preserve. Construction would harm and undercut the integrity of the wetlands, which is needed for the plant to survive. The developer has not acquired the property and Mr. Holleman said meetings have been held and letters have been written opposing the project. He added the ideal solution would be to acquire the property.

Andrea Cooper, Executive Director of Upstate Forever, reported there is another threat to one of our preserves, Glassy Mountain Heritage Preserve in Pickens County. A development at the base of Glassy Mountain to build 254 houses on 183 acres was approved by the Pickens County Planning Commission in June. Ms. Cooper said Upstate Forever has filed an appeal and she will keep the HTAB informed about the project.

Chairman Coxe stated both of these items will be taken as information and action will be taken at the November meeting.

White Pond Human Paleoecology Project

Chris Moore, archaeologist for the Savannah River Archaeology Research Program, gave a brief report on the project, *Introducing the White Pond Human Paleoecology*. This is a collaborative effort between multiple institutions and researchers to study the geology, archaeology, and paleoecology of White Pond near Elgin, South Carolina. Building on the seminal work of Watts (1980), The White Pond Human Paleoecology Project seeks to: 1) derive the broader geologic context of the age and origin of White Pond and its fringing sediments containing the archaeological record; 2) delineate and correlate the lacustrine paleoenvironmental and terrestrial archaeological records through integrated studies of litho- and biostratigraphy, geochronology (OSL and AMS radiocarbon dating), and archaeostratigraphy; and 3) conjoin the correlated paleoenvironmental and archaeological records in systemic, human behavioral terms (human paleoecology).

Mr. Moore stated excavations began at White Pond in the spring of 2016. He presented a slide show and noted work is continuing on the project.

Cultural Resource Education at SCDNR

Meg Gaillard, archaeologist with the Heritage Trust Program, reported on the accomplishments of two summer interns, rising high school seniors, Hannah Willis and Kerrigan Sunday. She said many activities are being planned for staff in association with their new building, including participation at an event at Spirit Communications Park, an Earth Science Week exhibit, partnering with the Boy Scouts of America for merit badges, holding Project Archaeology meetings, and participating in a Veterans Curation Program and a National Association for Interpretation event.

Archaeological and Historic Investigation of the Wateree River Heritage Preserve

Tariq Ghaffar, archaeologist with the Heritage Trust Program, discussed the historical background of Goodwill Plantation (comprising the majority of Wateree River Heritage Preserve). He described the settlement of this land, beginning with the earliest pioneer farmers in 1751, followed by the eventual consolidation of about thirteen tracts into a single plantation under the control of Andrew Allison (1763), then Daniel Huger (1779) and Edward Barnwell Heyward (1858). Mr. Ghaffar subsequently discussed the post-bellum use of the lands and the various systems of labor in use after the era of slavery. Additionally, he pointed out and described large historic features constructed by slaves at the preserve, such as the earthen embankment along the Wateree River, the Outer Canal, the Bank Canal, drainage and irrigation canals, water impoundments and Garners Ferry. He concluded that the history and features of the preserve qualify Goodwill Plantation as a historic district.

Archaeological Investigation of Pockoy Island Shell Ring

Sean Taylor, senior archaeologist with Heritage Trust, reported that Dr. Thaddeus Bissett, an archaeologist from Northern Kentucky University, identified two circular features while reviewing LIDAR imagery for Edisto Island that appeared to be shell rings on Pockoy Island at Botany Bay Heritage Preserve/Wildlife Management Area. Shell Rings were built by Native American 4,000 years ago along the South Carolina, Georgia and Florida coast and the most impressive example is on Fig Island. Mr. Taylor said Dr. Bissett partnered with Dr. Mike Russo, an archaeologist from the National Park Service's Southeastern Archaeological Center in Tallahassee, and with SCDNR archaeologists to conduct a field investigation of the rings in July 2017. The work included shovel testing, systematic probing and one unit excavation. The results concluded that a shell ring was present. Unit excavation also recovered deer bone that was sent for Radio Carbon dating. Recent hurricanes and king tides are eroding the eastern shoreline of Pockoy Island and the ring midden has become exposed. Bissett, Russo and SCDNR staff are making plans for salvage excavations in December.

Executive Session

At this time, Dr. King made a motion that the Board hold an Executive Session to discuss contractual and legal matters. Mr. Springs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Return to Regular Session

Dr. King made a motion that the Board return to regular session, noting that no actions were taking during Executive Session. Mr. Rasor seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Coxe thanked Meg Gaillard for putting the lunch together.

Board Action Items

Request to Use Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve

Jay Baldwin, Great Escapes Kayak Adventures, LLC, thanked the Board giving him the opportunity speak. His request is for DNR to consider allowing them access along a road to the Chris Anderson Boat Landing on Highway 9. He provided maps and drawing of the route.

Dr. King made a motion that the Board deny the request for access at this time but a new request may be made in the future. Mr. Rasor seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Dedication of Sassafras Mountain into Heritage Trust

Emily Cope, deputy director of DNR's Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, explained that Sassafras Mountain is South Carolina's highest point and has been a destination point for many years. She stated it should be dedicated as a heritage preserve based on its uniqueness, educational value and geographical features. It is a special place in South Carolina and would provide many opportunities for visitors to enjoy and appreciate this treasure. Ms. Cope said creating an observation platform and educational area at the top of Sassafras would provide an excellent view of the surrounding mountains of North Carolina and South Carolina, and provide a panorama of the upper South Carolina Piedmont. She added the Foothills and Palmetto Trails cross the site and the facilities will be ADA compliant and fully accessible. She requested the HTAB approve funding to complete the observation platform.

Mr. Phillips made a motion that the Board approve acceptance the dedication of Sassafras Mountain as a Heritage Trust Preserve. Mr. Springs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. King made a motion that the Board approve the expenditure of \$389,242 for construction of the Sassafraes Observation Platform. Mr. Rasor seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Crab Bank Renourishment

Lorianne Riggan, environmental programs director with DNR, reported that Crab Bank is a dedicated heritage preserve and an existing seabird sanctuary in Charleston Harbor managed by DNR. The island was originally formed with the placement of dredged materials in the 1950s or 60s, but has eroded significantly over time. In the early 2000s, Crab Bank was approximately 23 acres, a substantial difference to its existing 0.5 acres. Although small in size, the island serves as a predator-free refuge for nesting brown pelicans and as a resting and foraging area for a variety of State Wildlife Action Plan conservation priority species, including black skimmer, gull-billed tern, royal tern and sandwich tern.

Due to high wind and wave energy, Crab Bank will continue to erode; however, the importance of this harbor island to seabirds is paramount for nesting, resting and foraging. Therefore, Ms. Riggan requested approval by the HTAB to amend the 2018 fiscal year budget to include \$61,250 for the renourishment of Crab Bank through the beneficial use of suitable dredged material from the Charleston Harbor Post-45 Deepening Project.

Mr. Rasor made a motion that the Board recognize and support Crab Bank through the beneficial use of dredge material from the Post-45 Charleston Harbor Deepening Project to renourish the island for seabirds by apportioning the needed \$61,250 for the Phase I Feasibility for renourishment design. Mr. Clawson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Acceptance of TNC Donation at Forty Acre Rock

Johnny Stowe, wildlife biologist and preserve manager with DNR, reported Forty Acre Rock was one of the first Heritage Trust preserves. In the early years, several tracts were acquired by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and then transferred to DNR. One tract slated for donation was never transferred as intended. Mr. Stowe noted this forgotten parcel is an integral part within the Forty Acre Rock Heritage Preserve.

The tract consists of 49.11 acres, is centrally located within the preserve and shares the special characteristics common to other elements there. Mr. Stowe stated TNC is willing to donate the tract to DNR for inclusion as a Heritage Trust property following DNR's standard due diligence and obtaining necessary approvals.

Mr. Rasor made a motion that the Board approve accepting the donation of the 49-acre TNC tract at Fort Acre Rock Heritage Preserve and recommends it be dedicated and incorporated into the corpus of the South Carolina Heritage Trust. Mr. Springs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Forty Acre Rock – 3 Trust Properties

Mr. Stowe stated there are three other parcels DNR holds title to at Forty Acre Rock Heritage Preserve that were dedicated, but never placed entered into the corpus of the Heritage Trust. In 1989, DNR acquired title to three different parcels: Byrd III (~187 acres), Hoyt-Cooke (~512 acres) and Wall II (~144 acres) in Lancaster County. They hold the same individual significance as other parcels comprising the preserve and Mr. Stowe requested approval to place the three tracts into the corpus of the trust.

Mr. Rasor made a motion that the Board recognize the outstanding and unique natural character of the Byrd III, Hoyt-Cooke, and Wall II tracts and recommend that the SCDNR accept them into the corpus of the South Carolina Heritage Trust. Dr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

FY 18 Capital Project Approvals (Sassafras Mountain and Crab Bank Renourishment)

Ken Rentiers, deputy director for DNR's Land and Water Division, stated these projects had been approved earlier in the meeting. He noted the costs for them do come out of the Heritage Land Trust Fund, but are not part of the operating budgets that will be presented now. They are a separate item and handed differently.

FY 19 Habitat Protection Budget

Ken Rentiers, presented a proposed administrative budget with a 3.3% increase primarily to cover salary adjustments.

Mr. Springs made a motion that the Board approve the Habitat Protection budget as presented. Dr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

FY 19 Cultural Preserve Management Budget

Mr. Taylor, presented a budget with a 19.9% increase. He reported the increase was because of new FTE positions, the purchase of new equipment, an archaeological inventory at Green Shell Heritage Preserve (a film), and some preservation work to be carried out at Poinsett Bridge Heritage Preserve.

Dr. King made a motion that the Board accept the budget increase for Cultural Preserve Management as presented. Mr. Springs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

FY 19 Heritage Preserve Management Budget

Billy Dukes, chief of DNR's Wildlife Section, presented a budget that included a 1.8% increase for heritage preserve management. The increase is for two pieces of equipment and one vehicle.

Mr. Springs made a motion that the Board approve the increase to the Heritage Preserve Management budget. Dr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

FY 19 Coastal Preserves Management Budget

Phil Maier, director of coastal preserves and outreach for DNR, presented the budget and reported it represented an 8.2% increase. The increase is due to contractual services and personnel costs.

Mr. Springs made a motion that the Board approve the Coastal Preserves Management budget as presented with the 8% increase. Dr. Emerson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Updates and Comments

Mr. Rentiers thanked the Board for their support of where we are today. He also thanked Director Taylor, the DNR Board, and the entire DNR team. He noted the new facility represents a strong commitment to the future of the program. He expressed his thanks to the Heritage Trust staff for all their hard work and stated they are headed in the right direction.

Mr. Stowe expressed his appreciation for two summer interns that recently worked with him on preserves this summer. Their salaries were paid for out of a different budget, so Heritage Trust Program obtained free labor and the interns received valuable experience.

Mr. Springs inquired about the status of the Gunter's Island property donation from the SC Department of Transportation (DOT). Van Whitehead, assistant chief counsel for DNR, reported DOT was still working through some title issues with the owner and the transfer is not yet complete.

Time and Location of Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board will be held Thursday, November 2, 2017, location to be determined.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Board at this time, *Dr. King made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.*

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