

MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
TABLE ROCK STATE PARK
PICKENS COUNTY
AUGUST 6, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT

Campbell Coxe (Chair)
Eric Emerson
States Clawson (for Bobby Hitt)
Terry Hurley (for Duane Parrish)
Ken Rentiers
Breck Carmichael (for Alvin Taylor)
Jake Rasor
Steve Tully
Julien Springs
Sonny King
Jonathan Leader

OTHERS PRESENT

Ken Prosser
Sean Taylor
Meg Gaillard
Julie Holling
Kay Daniels
Herrick Brown
Bob Perry
Kathy Boyle
Bert Pittman
Greg Lucas
Tom Swaynham
Dick Byrd
Van Whitehead
Shannon Bobertz
Carol Kososki
Quinton Epps
David Whitehead
Phil Maier
Harry Shealy

MEMBERS ABSENT

Julia Krebs
Tom Patton (for Gene Kodama)
Dave Cicimurri (for William Calloway)
Randy Lowe

Call to Order

Chairman Coxe called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Chairman Coxe thanked Terry Hurley for her help in arranging the use of Table Rock State Park.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Coxe asked if there were any changes, additions or deletions to the minutes from the May 7, 2015, meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB). *Dr. King made a motion that the Board approve the minutes of the May 7, 2015, meeting, as submitted. Dr. Leader seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

Board Information Items

Property Status Update

Ken Rentiers, deputy director for DNR's Land and Water Division, reported that he and Ken Prosser, assistant deputy director for DNR's Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, had been working on a list of properties that had not been dedicated. Mr. Rentiers thanked Julie Holling for her hard work on updating the heritage preserve map and current list of properties. For the next meeting, an updated description of all the properties will be available. Mr. Rentiers handed out both of these documents.

Mr. Prosser gave a brief report on the list of all Heritage Trust land acquisitions and the list of properties acquired with Heritage Trust funds that have not been dedicated.

The Vegetation of the Summit of Cooks Mountain

Bert Pittman, botanist with DNR's Heritage Trust Program, gave a report on Cooks Mountain vegetation. He stated the area is 17 miles east of Columbia on the Wateree River and takes its name from the 18th century home of cartographer James Cook. Rising 372 feet above sea level, and 272 feet above the Wateree River, Cooks Mountain was striking a striking and scenic feature in the 18th century and it still is today.

Dr. Pittman stated Cooks Mountain is an erosional remnant capped with ironstone conglomerates with numerous outcroppings well above the surrounding peneplain and bottomlands. The natural communities, defined largely by aspect, *i.e.*, east-to-north-facing slopes, west-facing slopes, and south-facing slopes, are large, undisturbed, and are unique to the coastal plain. With the exception of some cleared area around the residences at the summit, the mountain is mainly forested. Beginning in the spring of 2014, Heritage Trust staff began conducting surveys of these forests and Dr. Pittman characterized them as:

1. Longleaf, Loblolly, Shortleaf, Virginia Pine, Chestnut Oak, and Mountain Laurel forest (in Vaucluse loamy sand on east-to-north-facing slopes)
2. Xeric Longleaf Pine and Turkey Oak woodland (in Faceville sandy loam and Vaucluse loamy sand on west-facing slopes).

3. Virginia, Longleaf Pine, Sparkleberry, and Little Bluestem woodland (in Vaocluse loamy sand on south-facing slopes).

Dr. Pittman further discussed the attributes of the site and said he was very glad to have had the opportunity to examine it.

Fort Frederick Update

Sean Taylor, DNR Heritage Trust archaeologist, updated the Board about cultural resources work that took place at Fort Frederick Heritage Preserve in Beaufort County. He explained the archaeological investigations and the tabby restoration has been completed, and the artifacts found are currently being analyzed at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. Mr. Taylor said an underwater archaeological investigation is planned for this fiscal year to determine the extent of the fort ruins in the Beaufort River. Koelker & Associates is currently working on a 30-minute documentary about the property to be shown on SCETV. Public screenings of four short documentary films are scheduled for August in Lexington, Beaufort and Spartanburg Counties. A public screening of the films took place at the DNR Columbia office on Friday, July 24, which coincided with the International Day of Archaeology. Plans for a future boat landing on adjoining Beaufort County property were also discussed.

Mr. Taylor reported Beaufort County has made a formal request for access to Fort Frederick and staff are working on a response.

Executive Session

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

Board Action Items

FY 17 Habitat Protection Budget

Ken Rentiers distributed the revenue statement and stated the document stamp revenue continues to generate sufficient funds to accommodate current budget needs and the annual bond debt service requirements. He also reported there was a new budget request from the Marine Resources Division (MRD). Mr. Rentiers introduced Mr. David Whitaker, assistant deputy director for MRD. Mr. Whitaker stated the MRD

actively manages two coastal Heritage Preserves, which include 11 islands that comprise 17,110 acres. In addition, the MRD has significant involvement with Cedar, Murphy, and Deveaux Bank, as well as management of visitation and volunteers at Botany Bay. A budget request of \$80,000 was distributed to the Board members.

FY 17 Cultural Preserve Management Budget

Mr. Taylor stated his budget request for 2017 is \$740,518, which is an increase of 2.8 percent from 2016. He explained the increase is due mainly to personnel additions to the Cultural Preserve Management (CPM) staff and salaries being transferred from the Habitat Protection Budget to the CPM budget.

FY 17 Natural Preserve Management Budget

Tom Swaynham, assistant chief of wildlife for the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, presented a proposed budget for Natural Area Heritage Preserves for Fiscal Year 2017. The request of \$1,321,267 represents an approximately 12 percent decrease from the FY 2016 request. Mr. Swaynham noted the decrease is a result of a one-time budget request of \$250,000 for a bridge at Great Pee Dee Heritage Preserve in the FY 2016. He added the 2017 budget contains modest increases in personnel costs, equipment and supplies.

Mr. Rasor made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve all budget requests as presented. Dr. Emerson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Other Items

Updates and Comments

A status report was provided on the Ft. Frederick project in Beaufort County. Mr. Rentiers told the Board members and others that a brief trip to Sassafras Mountain would be held after lunch.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board will be held Thursday, November 5, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. The location to be determined.

Adjourn

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

/k