

**MINUTES**  
**HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD**  
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY  
COLUMBIA, SC  
RICHLAND COUNTY  
FEBRUARY 4, 2010

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Campbell Coxe (Chair)  
Henry Fair (Vice Chair)  
Julia Krebs  
Sonny King  
Eric Emerson  
Irvin Pitts (for Chad Prosser)  
States Clawson (for Joe Taylor)  
Joel Felder (for Gene Kodama)  
Breck Carmichael (for Mike McShane)  
Fritz Hamer (for William Calloway)  
Ken Rentiers  
Jonathan Leader

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Ken Prosser  
Caroline Pinckney  
Kay Daniels  
Julie Holling  
Sean Taylor  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Tim Ivey  
Johnny Stowe  
Alan Bridgeman  
Bert Pittman  
Kathy Boyle  
Herrick Brown  
Paul League

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Beth Grace  
Jake Rasor  
John Frampton

**Call to Order**

Campbell Coxe called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and requested they introduce themselves.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Coxe asked if there were any changes, additions or deletions to the minutes from the November 5, 2009, meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board. *Dr. Krebs made a motion that the Board approve the minutes of the November 5, 2009, meeting, as submitted. Mr. Felder seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

## **Updates and Comments**

Ken Rentiers reported that Representative Laurie Funderburk's bill (H.4129) to make it unlawful to enter posted lands or lands of the state to investigate, disturb or excavate a prehistoric or historic site passed the full House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday, November 3, and was sent to the House floor uncontested. Mr. Rentiers stated that the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) has been very actively engaged on S452, the surface water permitting bill. He reported that the bill has passed out of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee without the amendments we were proposing to protect downstream users. SCDNR staff is hoping to protect downstream users through a floor amendment; however, that is a difficult legislative path. The differences between the SCDNR and the Department of Health and Environmental Control regarding the permitting process described in the bill were not resolved.

Mr. Rentiers reminded the Board members that the Kolb site archaeological dig will be held March 8 through March 19, with the public day being Saturday, March 13. He encouraged all to attend.

The budget is in crisis and another 20% cut is expected. In the past year, the agency has had a 61% cut in its state appropriated budget. Ten years ago the agency's state budget was \$31 million and has now been cut to approximately \$13.5 million. There will probably be a reduction in force for the agency and possibly a two-week furlough. Currently there is a buyout being offered. Major changes will be taking place within the agency.

## **An Investigation of the Effects of Timber Harvest on Artifact Locations**

Sean Taylor presented research, described as the "Washer Study", he and other SCDNR staff conducted to ascertain the effect of timber harvest on surface and near surface artifact scatters. He began by describing the Federal and State legislation that requires agencies to consider how their undertakings will affect cultural resources in order to establish the research project's relevance to SCDNR's mission. Before Federal, and in certain situations, State agencies undertake any activity; Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires that they consider how their work will affect cultural resources.

In general the archaeological community currently considers timber harvesting to be an activity that will have an adverse effect on archaeological resources. While some activities such as flooding or earth moving can be expected to have an obvious, destructive effect on archaeological resources, the impact of many other activities is less clear.

The Washer Study was conducted on the Woodbury WMA in order to ascertain the impact of timber harvesting on surface scatters of archaeological materials. The results of this experiment indicate that the impact of certain kinds of timber harvesting techniques is relatively small, suggesting that timber harvesting should not necessarily be considered as having an adverse effect on cultural resources. This research indicates that the intensive archaeological surveys that are currently routinely done prior to timber harvests are in many cases may be unnecessary. However, further research is necessary to fully understand the potential impacts timber harvest can have on archaeological sites.

It should not be concluded from this research that timber harvests have no adverse effect on artifacts. The primary conclusion of this experiment is that by following the South Carolina Forestry Commission's Best Management Practices; and, with close monitoring of the harvest by land managers, adverse effects to archaeological sites can be minimized to the point that costly intensive archaeological inventory surveys are not necessary prior to logging operations.

### **Executive Session**

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

### **Return to Regular Session**

*Mr. Clawson made a motion that the Board return to regular session. Dr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

*Dr. Krebs made a motion to approve up to \$6,000 in funds for an appraisal of property within Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve if needed. Mr. Fair seconded the motion and it was approved.*

*Dr. King made a motion to approve up to \$20,000 for legal fees in Horry County. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clawson and passed unanimously.*

### **City of Cayce Lease on Congaree Creek Heritage Preserve**

Mr. Taylor discussed a lease agreement the City of Cayce has requested to extend the Riverwalk across the Saxe Gotha portion of the Congaree Creek Heritage Preserve. The lease would allow the city to extend the existing walking trail southward along the bluff on the west side of the river. A draft lease agreement has been completed and is being reviewed by our legal staff. Mr. Rentiers stated that the final agreement would be e-mailed to the Board for their approval and then it will be presented to the Department of Natural Resources Board. Mr. Coxe suggested this would be a good opportunity to promote the Heritage Trust Program at this site if at all possible.

### **Survey of Plant Species of Federal Concern on Mafic Formations in the South Carolina Mountains**

Mr. Pittman provided an overview of the Five-year Botanical Inventory of the Mountain Regions of South Carolina that was completed in December 2009. Several plant species of Federal interest were targeted in this study with efforts focused on locating new populations and monitoring populations previously discovered. Methods used to locate new populations involved the use of geology maps which helped identify significant areas of mafic deposits in the mountains. Soils derived from mafic rocks are high in basic minerals and are characterized by a circumneutral soil reaction. This higher alkalinity supports several rare plant species. Another species targeted for study, but found only on felsic rock outcrops to date, is *Gymnoderma lineare* (rock gnome lichen). This is the only lichen species presently protected under the U. S. Endangered Species Act. With its closest living relatives found in eastern China and Japan, this is one of the rarest lichens found anywhere in temperate North America. The only known site for the rock gnome lichen in South Carolina is Jones Gap State Park. Cooperation between the SCDNR and South Carolina State Parks

staff has resulted in the rerouting of a nearby trail to minimize potential disturbance to the population.

### **Initial Inventory of the Vegetation on South Carolina Heritage Preserves**

Mr. Pittman stated the importance of botanical knowledge and fostering a better understanding of the state's flora. With an estimated 3,000+ plant species occurring in South Carolina, characterizing the flora is an exacting task confounded by the ever-present threat of new invasive species. Many of these invasive species can have a severe economic impact especially with respect to agriculture. A better understanding of the state's flora will help identify these 'invaders' early and potentially minimize their adverse effects not only on agriculture, but on natural communities as well.

### **New Techniques and Approaches in Electronic Databases and Their Application to Conservation in South Carolina**

Mr. Brown provided a synopsis of the Heritage Trust Program's involvement with digitization efforts recently undertaken by several South Carolina herbaria. The use of Specify Biodiversity Collections Software has made cataloging the collections of the University of South Carolina Herbarium and the Clemson University Herbarium much simpler while concurrently ensuring adherence to data standardization. Additionally, the new database software has made possible an online search feature which allows users to query the collections on a variety of data elements. Heritage Trust staff has used the online feature to augment the Heritage Trust database by adding approximately 25 new element occurrence records based on previously unreported collections from distinct populations of target species in the recently completed Botanical Inventory of the Mountains of South Carolina. Further collaboration with the South Carolina Exotic Pest Plant Council resulted in the application of invasive species information to herbarium specimens. This information makes possible the easy retrieval of a list of collections of invasive species which can then be used to roughly map their distribution and occurrence. Quick and easy access to such information plays a vital role in Early Detection and Rapid Response Programs which aim to mitigate the potential adverse effects of invasive species by identifying new invasions and eradicating them before infestation is uncontrollable. The database may also be used to search for species of special interest to wildlife managers and rare species indicative of unusual habitat types.

Ms. Boyle provided a demonstration of the redesigned South Carolina Plant Atlas which now contains information on invasive species and rare, threatened and endangered species. Many new photos have been added depicting plants in various seasons of the year which includes examples of fruits and flowers. New features also include a means by which botanists may update new county occurrences and a way to verify questionable county occurrences. Most of these data were harvested from the online Clemson and USC herbarium collections databases.

### **Heritage Trust Budget Update**

Mr. Rentiers updated the Board on the budget. He pointed out that the budget is in a new format with a separate operating fund category which will include all salaries, administration and management funds. At the November, 2009, meeting the Board approved the transfer of \$2 million from the Land Trust for the purchase of Belfast in Newberry County. The purchase of this property is proceeding.

Mr. Rentiers also reported that the Craig Pond project will be looked at within the next few months. If this project goes through this will end land purchases for some time.

### **Project Updates**

No report at this time as everything has been reported on earlier in the meeting.

### **2010 Meeting Locations**

Ken Rentiers expressed the thanks of the Board to Eric Emerson and Elizabeth Johnson of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH) for providing the room for the meeting. He stated that due to budget constraints the Board will be meeting in Columbia for the time being. The next meeting is May 6 and will be held again at the offices of SCDAH.

Chairman Coxe stated that his term is up as Board Chairman and expressed the desire to elect a new chairman at the next meeting.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned.

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