

MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
FEBRUARY 7, 2008
WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING
GREAT FALLS, SC

MEMBERS PRESENT

Campbell Coxe (Chair)
Henry Fair (Vice Chair)
Julia Krebs
Rodger Stroup
Sonny King
Fritz Hamer (for William Calloway)
Joel Felder (for Bob Schowalter)
States Clawson (for Joe Taylor)
Irvin Pitts (for Chad Prosser)
Breck Carmichael (for Mike McShane)

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Frampton
Steve de Kozlowski (Interim)
Jake Rasor
Jon Leader

OTHERS PRESENT

Barry Beasley
Ken Prosser
Kay Daniels
Julie Holling
Sean Taylor
Kathy Boyle
Bert Pittman
Elizabeth Johnson
Tim Ivey
Monica Linnenbrink
Glinda Coleman
Elizabeth Wilson
Lindsay Pettus
Bill Price
Steve Bennett
Dan Tufford
Mayor Al Starnes
Roger Hux

Call to Order

Campbell Coxe called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and requested they introduce themselves. The Mayor of Great Falls, H. R. Starnes, welcomed the group to Great Falls and provided an overview of current activities and projects in the area.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Coxe asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the November 8, 2007 meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB). There were none and a motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Mr. Coxe recognized Dr. Julia Krebs for her tenure as Chair of HTAB. Dr. Krebs expressed her gratitude and stated that serving on the board is one of the most important things in her life.

Election of Vice Chair

Rodger Stroup, representing the Nominating Committee, made a motion to nominate Henry Fair as HTAB Vice-Chair. The motion was approved unanimously.

Comments from the Director

Barry Beasley thanked Elizabeth Wilson, Glinda Coleman and Hugh Barwick for assisting with the field trip and the meeting. He stated that work is underway to revise the Heritage Trust link on the department website.

Dr. Beasley announced that the Budget & Control Board approved the sale of 30 acres to the Department of Transportation at the Little Pee Dee Heritage Preserve for I-73. Regarding Palmetto Fort, he stated a proposal from a developer to amend a conservation easement held by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is ongoing and involves a reduction of wetland buffers and a release of several archaeological sites. Dr. Beasley said it is likely that a proposal will be put before HTAB at the May meeting.

Dr. Beasley showed members properties that DNR had recently acquired in the Great Falls area along the Catawba River.

DNR Marketing Plan

Monica Linnenbrink, DNR Marketing Director, gave an update on the department's marketing campaign. She announced that the new slogan is "Life's Better Outdoors," which will be included on all outreach and promotional items. Ms. Linnenbrink said the plan is divided into three campaigns, each with detailed strategies, objectives and target audiences. She stated new radio and TV ads would begin soon, and added that the goal of the campaign is to increase the public's knowledge about DNR.

Overview of Nature-based Tourism Efforts in the Great Falls Area

Glinda Coleman, President of the Great Falls Hometown Association, gave a presentation on the economic and nature-based tourism efforts in Great Falls.

Conservation Initiatives in the Piedmont: Katawba Valley Land Trust

Lindsay Pettus, President of the Katawba Valley Land Trust, discussed land conservation projects in the area and stated that development is increasing in northern Lancaster County. He thanked HTAB for their work in land conservation and stated that what is accomplished now will be our legacy to future generations.

Overview of Botany Bay Property

Breck Carmichael said the former owner of Botany Bay, Mrs. Warren Pepper, passed away in December and the land was left to the State of South Carolina. He stated they are working with the Budget and Control Board to transfer management authority to DNR. Mr. Carmichael noted the property consists of approximately 5,000 acres, including 1,800 acres of uplands, two miles of undeveloped beach frontage, five structures on the National Historic Registry, 300 acres of agricultural fields, numerous cultural and historic sites, and the Fig Island Shell Ring. He stated that limited public visitation would begin on May 1. Mr. Carmichael added there would be no spring turkey hunting as the population is too low.

Update on the Preserve Management Budget

Tim Ivey reviewed current management expenditures for the fiscal year. He noted that 43 field trips had been conducted on heritage preserves, 775 acres had been burned, 800 signs posted, many roads mowed and scraped, and several new gates installed.

Update on the Cultural Management Budget

Sean Taylor updated members on cultural management expenditures for the fiscal year. He noted activities conducted on cultural preserves, including the removal of exotics at Fort Lamar and proposed access facilities at Poinsett Bridge. Also, Mr. Taylor stated that visitation had increased on several preserves due to the installation of new directional signs.

Report on the Study of South Carolina Seeps

Steve Bennett and Dan Tufford discussed the ecology of seepage wetlands in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina. They explained that seepage wetlands occur along the outer edges of floodplains and stream corridors, and stated that four seeps were selected as initial study sites. Mr. Tufford stated that the areas were inspected seasonally for one year to collect data on herpetofauna, flora and water quality. He said initial results suggest these ecosystems are especially important for species that are absent, or rare, in the surrounding floodplain and terrestrial habitats. Mr. Bennett added that seeps provide excellent habitat for salamanders.

Update on Active Projects/Budget Overview

Ken Prosser reported that the current cash balance in the Heritage Land Trust Fund was \$12.3 million. He stated that approved operational expenditures for the year were \$2.3 million and the current approved project commitments were \$2.7 million. Mr. Prosser stated that remaining funds after deductions for all expenditures and commitments was \$7 million.

Executive Session

HTAB entered Executive Session to discuss contractual issues.

Return to Regular Session

HTAB returned from Executive Session and a motion was made to approve the budget. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Additions to the budget included expenditures for preliminary work on a potential property acquisition in Newberry County and a property acquisition in Lancaster County.

Other Business

The next HTAB meeting will be held May 1, 2008, at Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve in Calhoun County. The August 7 meeting will be at Archives & History in Columbia, and the November 5-6 meeting will be held at Bennett's Point in Colleton County.

Adjournment

No further business was brought before HTAB and the meeting was adjourned.

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