

**MINUTES  
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD  
MAY 7, 2009  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DENNIS BUILDING  
RICHLAND COUNTY**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Campbell Coxe (Chair)  
Henry Fair (Vice Chair)  
Julia Krebs  
Jake Rasor  
Sonny King  
Rodger Stroup  
States Clawson (for Joe Taylor)  
Joel Felder (for Gene Kodama)  
Mike McShane  
Jonathan Leader  
Ken Rentiers  
Fritz Hamer (for William Calloway)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Beth Grace  
Irvin Pitts (for Chad Prosser)  
John Frampton

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Barry Beasley  
Caroline Pinckney  
Kay Daniels  
Julie Holling  
Harry Shealy  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Breck Carmichael  
Tim Ivey  
Ken Prosser  
Deanna Ruth  
Sam Chappellear  
Mary Bunch  
Brett Moule  
Paul League  
Bert Pittman  
Kathy Boyle  
Steve de Kozlowski  
Sean Taylor  
Chris Judge  
Laurel Barnhill  
Greg Lynch  
Derrell Shipes

**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 to the minutes from the February 17, 2008, meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board. There were no changes and a motion was made by Mr.

Stroup to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. King and approved unanimously.

### **Updates and Comments**

Dr. Beasley reported that the Senate budget added \$2 million to the Conservation Bank. The budget will now go to the conference committee. It's very encouraging that this dollar amount was added to the budget, as this would give the Conservation Bank money for administrative costs as well as operating funds.

The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology along with Sean Taylor of Heritage Trust organized a trip for eight scientists to visit the shell rings at Fig Island. Five scientists were from Japan, one from Peru, one from Russia, and one from the Netherlands. Mr. Taylor did an outstanding job of putting together a presentation for this group. This was the second year in a row that international scientists have visited Fig Island. The transportation to the island was provided by Al Segars from the Marine Center.

The Palmetto Fort easement is being discussed between the DNR attorney, Buford Mabry, and the attorney for the current owners. The current owners are developers and attempted to extinguish the protections that had been set forth in the easement. An agreement has been made to revise this easement and assuming that all issues are worked out; the easement would be held by the Mount Pleasant Open Space Foundation. A meeting will be held in early June to discuss protection for the property's critical features and Mr. Beasley and Mr. Taylor will attend. Mr. McShane requested that clear language be inserted in the easement that if the property is not properly protected that the property revert to DNR.

Two legislative items were discussed: (1) The turtle removal legislation passed (which protects ten species of turtles) and was signed by the Governor; and (2) In the process of passing the bond legislation a few years ago, an amendment to the Heritage Trust Act was added which states; "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the board may not dispose of any Heritage Trust property if otherwise permitted to do so unless there are restrictions sufficient to protect all of the natural and cultural characteristics of the property." This was added in reaction to the process that was going forward with I-73. This is an overly restrictive clause and impossible to carry out. Legislation does allow certain types of projects in the public realm to go forward under certain legally prescribed processes. That section has been amended to read; "For the purposes of county, state or federal infrastructure projects the Subsection A does not apply." The Governor has signed this legislation.

### **Overview of the SCDNR Bird Conservation Program**

Laurel Barnhill, Wildlife Biologist for Statewide Projects, reported on her work for the past four years with the bird conservation program. The different projects within this program are: sea and shorebirds, red-cockaded woodpeckers, land birds, bald eagle and water birds. The agency is guided by a number of different things, initiatives such as, the Comprehensive Wildlife Comprehensive Strategy, endangered species recovery plans, national bird initiatives (e.g., Partners in Flight, U. S. Shorebird Initiative and Water bird Conservation for the Americas), and

the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture. Ms. Barnhill gave a brief report on each of the projects under her supervision outlining management, research, monitoring and survey activities.

### **Savannah River Bluffs HP Management Plan**

Tim Ivey stated that no presentation would be made at this meeting on the Savannah River Bluffs Heritage Preserve as it is an updated plan. Staff has decided to do a five-year rotation for updates on management plans for each preserve. His staff is responsible for 84 properties and 230,000 acres so it will take some time to get through all of them. Mr. Ivey also introduced Brett Moule, the preserve manager for Savannah River Bluffs, stating he has done a great job on this preserve.

### **Report on the Fire at Lewis Ocean Bay HP**

Deanna Ruth, Wildlife Biologist in Region 4, showed various slides of the fire on the preserve. Prescribed burning previously completed saved much of the uplands on the preserve as well as 83 of 85 trees with active red-cockaded woodpeckers. The preserve is 9,383 acres and nearly 8,000 acres was consumed by fire. No large die-off of animals has been seen. To date staff has worked a little over 1,000 hours including the fire itself, mop up of hot spots and salvage timber. Between 1,900-2,100 acres of salvage timber will need to be cut. Marking boundaries has begun. Ms. Ruth expressed her thanks to the staff of Region 2 and Region 4. Mr. McShane, DNR Board Chairman, also expressed his thanks to the South Carolina Forestry Commission on behalf of the DNR Board. The preserve is closed to the public for safety purposes.

### **Stumphouse Mountain HP Management Plan**

Mary Bunch, Wildlife Biologist in Region 1, reported on the management plan for Stumphouse Mountain Heritage Preserve. This 442.2 acre preserve is located in Oconee County. It was purchased from The Nature Conservancy in August, 2008. The City of Walhalla owns 440 acres adjacent to the preserve and has now placed that acreage under a conservation easement, held by Upstate Forever. This property has very significant cultural elements as well as some natural areas features which included two Pre-Civil war railroad tunnels and an undeveloped mountain area providing habitat for wildlife and plant species.

### **Botany Bay HP Management Plan**

Sam Chappelle, Region 4 Wildlife Coordinator, presented the management plan for the Botany Bay Heritage Preserve. The preserve is 4,687 acres with two miles of beach front. The State of South Carolina through the Budget and Control Board (BCB), assumed full ownership of the property on December 27, 2007, upon the expiration of the life estate of Mrs. Pepper. On June 25, 2008, the BCB assigned full management responsibilities to the DNR. In July, 2008, the property was opened to the public. It was formally dedicated as a heritage preserve November 20, 2008. This property is 1,850 acres of forested uplands most of which is mixed pine hardwood. There are no plans to cut any hardwoods unless it will benefit or improve wildlife habitat. The DNR wants to encourage consumptive and well as non-consumptive uses on the property. In the first ten months, 38,000 visitors have been on the preserve, with 7,000 visiting in April. There is concern how much it can handle before harming the resources. There is a great

volunteer program on this preserve. There are 80 volunteers that “do it all” on this preserve. The preserve is open seven days a week during daylight hours. An emergency regulation has been passed so that the preserve can be closed one day a week to maintain the road system, prescribed burns, and other needed management work can be completed. Beginning June 2, 2009, the preserve will be closed on Tuesday of each week.

### **Woodbury WMA Management Plan**

Greg Lynch, Wildlife Biologist from Region 2, reported on the management plan for this 25,668 acre property in southern Marion County. This property was acquired in two acquisitions, the first being in August 2006 and the second being July 2007. This tract is between the Little Pee Dee and Great Pee Dee rivers and contains several unique habitat types such as Carolina bays, oxbow lakes, threatened and endangered plants, isolated freshwater wetlands, bottomland hardwoods, and longleaf pine forests. Management efforts will be focused on restoration and maintenance of natural ecosystems with special consideration given to unique, rare, sensitive and otherwise special ecosystem and species. During this discussion, Chairman Coxe stated that it is time to formally dedicate this property. Dr. Beasley stated that he would take this issue to the DNR Board in his report and discuss it with appropriate staff.

*A motion was made by Mr. King that the HTAB accept the management plans for Stumphouse Mountain, Botany Bay and Woodbury Heritage Preserves as presented. He also stated that “It is the position of the HTAB to support the DNR staff’s position in having a maintenance day once a week at the Botany Bay HP. Mr. Rasor seconded this motion and it passed unanimously.*

### **FY 2010 Preserve Management Budget**

Tim Ivey, Chief of Wildlife, presented the FY 2010 preserve management budget. This budget is the lowest presented to the HTAB in six years. Mr. Ivey also reviewed activities that have been conducted on the preserves under his management.

### **FY 2010 Cultural Management Budget**

Sean Taylor, archaeologist with the Heritage Trust Program, presented his budget request for FY 2010, also reduced from last year’s request. He also updated the board on management activities conducted on the cultural preserves under his management. Noteworthy was the large number of visitors at the Kolb site archaeological dig this year.

*A motion was made by Dr. Krebs to approve the natural and cultural management budgets as presented. Mr. Stroup seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.*

### **Draft 2009 Annual Report**

Caroline Pinckney reviewed the draft annual report for 2009. Five properties were acquired in the 2008 calendar year totaling 3,068 acres at a cost of \$7,162,684. She noted that administrative and preserve management costs totaled \$1,740,703. These figures are now presented to the board

in calendar year totals but next year the annual report figures will be switched to fiscal year totals (July 1 – June 30).

### **Heritage Land Trust Fund Budget Update and Overview**

Dr. Beasley reported on the Heritage Land Trust Fund (HLTF) budget. In comparing the current revenue with the FY 2009 revenue statements, the HLTF is about \$1.4 million under where it was one year ago. There was a slight increase in April 2009 revenue. Even though the revenue is declining, all obligations have been met and management budgets are being funded. He stated that he appreciated the cooperation with staff for all their help with budget issues.

### **Project Updates**

The DNR will be receiving a 200 acre donation the Historic Rice Field Association to expand the Little Pee Dee Heritage Preserve. This property is near Highway 501 near Galivants Ferry. The final paperwork should be completed very soon.

The Lighthouse Inlet Project at Folly Beach is in the final stages of completion. When the title opinion is complete, a check will be sent to the Charleston Park and Recreation Commission for the property and then we can dedicate the property and the property will be dedicated as a heritage preserve. The DNR will have a 10% undivided interest in this property for approximately \$300,000.

### **Executive Session**

*At this time, Mr. King made a motion that the Board hold an executive session to discuss contractual and legal matters. Mr. Rasor seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

### **Return to Regular Session**

*HTAB returned from Executive Session and Mr. Rasor made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$20,000 for possible acquisition of a site in Aiken County. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stroup and approved unanimously.*

*Mr. Fair made a motion to approve moving forward on a potential property acquisition in Jasper County.*

### **Future Meetings**

The August HTAB meeting will be held Thursday, August 6, 2009, at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, in Columbia.

The November HTAB meeting will be held Thursday, November 5, 2009. The location is yet to be determined.

**Adjournment**

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

/k