

**MINUTES**  
**HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD**  
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NAURAL RESOURCES  
COLUMBIA, SC  
RICHLAND COUNTY  
NOVEMBER 10, 2011

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Campbell Cox (Chair)  
Henry Fair (Vice Chair)  
Julia Krebs  
Jake Rasor  
Russell Hubright (for Gene Kodama)  
Eric Emerson  
Ken Rentiers  
Dave Cicimurri (for William Calloway)  
Randy Lowe

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Emily Cope  
Tim Ivey  
Ken Prosser  
Kay Daniels  
Julie Holling  
Herrick Brown  
Sean Taylor  
Johnny Stowe  
Roger Hux  
Bert Pittman  
Kathy Boyle

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Elizabeth Grace  
Phil Gaines (for Duane Parrish)  
James Hill (for Bobby Hitt)  
John Frampton  
Jonathan Leader

**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 August, 4, 2011 meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB). *Mr. Fair made a motion that the Board approve the minutes of the August 4, 2011 meeting, as submitted. Dr. Emerson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously*

### **Poinsett Bridge HP Construction Update**

Sean Taylor, Archaeologist with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR), gave a brief update on the Poinsett Bridge Stabilization and Public Access Plan.

Mr. Taylor stated the parking area is nearly complete and final surfacing will be done after all other construction is completed. He said a concrete sidewalk had been poured and the installation of handrails is in progress. Next, Mr. Taylor stated that steps will be installed from Callahan Mountain Road to the bridge, along with a pathway to the creek.

Mr. Taylor reported that the bridge had been vandalized with graffiti the previous month. Unfortunately, surveillance cameras malfunctioned and the culprits were not photographed. He stated he has requested assistance from the DNR Law Enforcement Division. In the past, Mr. Taylor said graffiti had been removed from the bridge by staff from the Greenville County Recreation District using a pressure washer. However, over time, this method is harmful to the bridge. As an alternative, Mr. Taylor stated they were using a graffiti removal product that is safe for historic structures. He noted that most of the graffiti has been removed using this product and said another version of it is currently being applied to the bridge. It will provide an invisible protective coating and allow removal of any additional graffiti with warm water.

### **Savage Bay HP Management Plan**

Johnny Stowe, DNR Region 2 wildlife biologist and heritage preserve manager, gave a brief update and presentation on Savage Bay Heritage Preserve (HP). He stated the preserve, located in Kershaw County, was purchased by DNR between 1987- 1995 via eight transactions totaling 110 acres. Mr. Stowe described the property and stated it contains two Carolina Bays, a cypress pond, and the rare plant species Pond spice and Georgia beargrass. Years ago, he noted there were 500,000 bays in locations from Florida to New Jersey, but few remain today. As referenced by a 1986 study by Steve Bennett and John Nelson, Mr. Stowe said that 90 percent of Carolina bays in South Carolina have been altered in some fashion.

### **Restoration Activities on Longleaf Pine and Lynchburg Savanna Heritage Preserves**

Mr. Stowe stated that Longleaf Pine HP comprises 843 acres and contains the rare plants species, *Oxypolis canbyii*, and the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. He described restoration activities and explained that prescribed burns have played a major role in restoring wildlife habitat on the property. As a result, quail have returned to the preserve and pitcher plants now grow there as well. Mr. Stowe stated the preserve has become a popular site for public hunting.

Mr. Stowe reported that restoration activities at the 291-acre Lynchburg Savanna HP are a work in process. He stated the preserve is an excellent example of a wet longleaf pine savanna and noted that students from Chicago, Eastern Kentucky University, Francis Marion University, and other schools have visited the preserve. Mr. Stowe said he and his staff are conducting prescribed burns on the property and hope quail will return as they did at Longleaf Pine.

Because of its small size and close proximity to residences, he said it is almost impossible to hunt the property, but hopes the law will be changed to allow archery hunting.

Chairman Campbell suggested that Johnny return to a future meeting and give a more extensive report on burning. Mr. Rasor suggested a field trip and Mr. Stowe said he would be glad to help.

### **Updates & Comments**

Ken Rentiers reported that DNR Director John Frampton would be retiring on January 15, 2012 and noted one of his great legacies will be habitat protection. He added that the DNR Board will be appointing an Interim Director until they have found a permanent replacement for Mr. Frampton.

Mr. Rentiers informed members that Emily Cope has been appointed as the new Deputy Director of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division. He said the former Deputy Director, Breck Carmichael, has accepted a position in the agency's Executive Office. Mr. Rentiers said the Heritage Trust Section may be moved back to the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division as part of agency reorganization. He added it could happen as early as July 1, 2012.

### **Budget Updates and FY 2013 Budget**

Mr. Rentiers reported that requests to the General Assembly for the upcoming session include additional funding for staff and equipment for the Land, Water and Conservation Division and funding for an update to the State Water Plan. He said a large stakeholder meeting for the water plan will be held on December 15, 2011, at the State Farmer's Market and invited members to attend.

Mr. Rentiers noted that the state budget seems to be improving. He distributed the revenue statement and said revenues had increased in September and October. Mr. Rentiers added that it's unlikely any new properties will be acquired in the near future.

Mr. Rentiers asked members for topics they may be interested in for future meetings and stated he hopes meetings can be held at field locations soon. He said Sean Taylor had arranged a field trip to Congaree Creek HP after today's meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board will be Thursday, February 2, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources in Columbia.

### **2012 Meeting Dates**

The meeting dates for 2012 are as follows: February 2, May 3, August 2, and November 1. The location for the meetings will be decided at a later date.

## **Adjourn**

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

/k