

**MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
BEAUFORT COUNTY INDUSTRIAL VILLAGE
BEAUFORT COUNTY
FEBRUARY 2, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Campbell Coxe (Chairman)
Sonny King
Julia Krebs
Jake Rasor
States Clawson (for Bobby Hitt)
Ken Rentiers
Terry Hurley (for Duane Parrish)
Breck Carmichael (for Alvin Taylor)

OTHERS PRESENT

Sean Taylor
Meg Gaillard
Mareli Sanchez
Ken Prosser
Van Whitehead
Kay Daniels
David Lucas
Tom Swaynham
Phil Maier
Roger Hux
Robert McFee
Van Willis

ABSENT MEMBERS

Julien Springs
Steve Tully
Kevin Hunter
Eric Emerson
Dave Cicimurri (for William Calloway)
Jonathan Leader

Call to Order

Chairman Coxe called the meeting to order and a roll call of attendance was taken.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Coxe asked if there were any changes, additions or deletions to the minutes from the November 3, 2016, teleconference meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB). *Mr. Rasor made a motion that the Board approve*

the minutes of the November 3, 2016, meeting, as submitted. Dr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. King made a motion to amend the agenda to give information only about the Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve Addition and to discuss later as a contractual matter during executive session and also to defer an item about Bald Rock Heritage Preserve until a later date. Mr. Clawson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Board Information Items

Cultural Resources Program Update

Sean Taylor, Heritage Trust archaeologist, thanked Mr. McFee for the hosting the meeting at the Beaufort County facilities.

Mr. Taylor showed slides of the tabby work done on Fort Frederick Heritage Preserve. He reported President Obama signed a proclamation creating a reconstruction era national monument, which includes Fort Frederick. Mr. Taylor stated he would be meeting soon with National Park Service personnel and will report back to HTAB at the next meeting. He stated USC should be forwarding an archaeology report on work they did at Fort Frederick to him within the next week. He also said mitigation for the construction of the boat landing at Fort Frederick is underway and showed members a map of the final plans for all work to be done at the preserve.

Board Action Items

Fort Motte Project

Mr. Taylor reported Heritage Trust was contacted about a 300-acre property in Calhoun County known as Fort Motte. It was an American Revolutionary War site commandeered by the British and fortified as a temporary military outpost. During the Patriot Siege of Fort Motte, the home of Rebecca Motte was intentionally set on fire by General Francis Marion, which drove the British out and led to their surrender at the site. No additional structures remain. Mr. Taylor stated the property is on the Heritage Trust List of 100 Most Important Cultural Sites and he would like to conduct further investigation concerning potential protection of the property.

Dr. King made a motion to conduct due diligence activities on a potential property acquisition in Calhoun County. Dr. Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Vallentine Tract Potential Donation

Mr. Taylor reported there is a potential donation of 900 acres on the North Edisto River in Orangeburg County. He showed photographs of the site and stated it is a great archaeological resource.

Van Whitehead, DNR Assistant Chief Counsel, reported the tract was owned by the late Harry Vallentine and his will included a provision of a remainder life estate to his nephew, Jeff Gleaton. Mr. Vallentine also provided that the remainder interest would come to the Heritage Trust, if accepted. If it is not accepted, the property would next be offered to Congaree Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy. Mr. Whitehead explained it is a unique situation in that DNR is being offered a tangible interest in this property, although it can't be used until Mr. Gleaton passes away. For processing purposes, Mr. Whitehead stated a decision has to be made now if it will be accepted. If so, then the DNR Board would have to approve it and due diligence activities would have to be conducted in accordance with Department of Administration guidelines.

Dr. King made a motion that the HTAB accept the donation of the Vallentine tract property in Orangeburg County. Dr. Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve Addition

Ken Prosser, Assistant Deputy Director of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, stated last year HTAB approved the purchase of 318 acres on the south side of Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve (HP). A tract on the north side of Chestnut Ridge is for sale and federal funds are available to purchase it. The proposed acquisition would adjoin the north side and connect the Greenville Watershed with Chestnut Ridge HP. The subject has rolling hills, mature hardwoods and multiple creeks. Mr. Prosser said more information will be discussed during Executive Session.

Wateree River Heritage Preserve Management Plan

Willie Simmons, DNR Region 3 Wildlife Coordinator, distributed the management plan for the Wateree River Heritage Preserve (WRHP). He reported the property is 17 miles east of Columbia and was purchased by Haile Gold Mine as partial mitigation for a mining operation that was permitted in Lancaster County. Mr. Simmons said the property protects upland, bottomland and managed wetland habitat, and provides recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, hiking,

and wildlife observation for the people of South Carolina. He briefly discussed the plan and requested approval by the Board.

Dr. King made a motion to approve the Water River Heritage Preserve management plan as presented. Dr. Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Other Items

Updates and Comments

Ken Rentiers, DNR Deputy Director, Land, Water & Conservation, reported the good news of the early retirement of the bond debt. On December 28, 2016, the State Treasurer's Office executed a transfer of \$8,290,055.28 from the Heritage Trust Bond Fund to Mellon Bank in New York, holder of the bond. The transfer represented \$8,150,000.00 in outstanding principle and \$140,055.28 in accrued interest through December 29, 2016. The Board, having met the financial obligations of the bond future deed recording fee revenue, is allocated in accordance with the South Carolina Code, is no longer obligated for debt servicing and must be credited to the Heritage Land Trust Fund until further notice. The Board also found the Heritage Trust Revenue Fund has a balance of \$3,905,674.28 and authorized this balance and any unrealized investment earnings be transferred to the Heritage Land Trust Fund. Mr. Rentiers said this puts DNR in very good financial standing and saved over \$900,000 in interest over the course of the bond. He added this has been a team effort and thanked Van Whitehead, Scott Speares, and staff from the State Treasurer's office. Chairman Coxe congratulated everyone for their good work.

Mr. Rentiers distributed the revenue statement and reported the numbers are getting better each year. Assuming it continues to climb, he said we should be able to acquire more properties and manage the ones we have very well.

Executive Session

At this time, Dr. 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

Dr. King made a motion that the Board return to regular session, noting that no actions were taken during Executive Session. Dr. Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. King made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve leasing of the Parker Annex Building in Columbia for the Cultural Resources Program. Dr. Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rasor made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board recommend that the DNR Board approve the acquisition of 48 acres in Greenville County to be dedicated as a South Carolina Heritage Preserve and placed into the corpus of the South Carolina Heritage Trust as part of the adjoining Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve and Wildlife Management Area. Dr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Time and Location of Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board will be held Thursday, May 4, 2017. It was proposed to have the meeting close to the Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve. The exact location to be determined.

Adjournment

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