

**MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
FLORENCE COUNTY MUSEUM
FLORENCE COUNTY
MAY 4, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Campbell Coxe (Chairman)
Julia Krebs
Jake Rasor
Julien Springs
Steve Tully
Terry Hurley (for Duane Parrish)
Breck Carmichael (for Alvin Taylor)
Ken Rentiers
Jonathan Leader
Russell Hubright (for Gene Kodama)

OTHERS PRESENT

Sean Taylor
Meg Gaillard
Van Whitehead
David Lucas
Billy Dukes
Jamie Dozier
Bert Pittman
Bob Perry
Jane Vernon
Damien Triouleyre

ABSENT MEMBERS

Sonny King
States Clawson (for Bobby Hitt)
Eric Emerson
Kevin Hunter
Dave Cicimurri (for William Calloway)

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 February 2, 2017, meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB). *Mr. Rasor made a motion that the Board approve the minutes of the February 2, 2017, meeting, as submitted. Dr. Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

Board Information Items

Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center – Trust Dedication

Van Whitehead, DNR Assistant Chief Counsel, provided a brief update on the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center's status under the Heritage Trust Program. The property was dedicated into the Heritage Trust Program in 1977 and, although the DNR Board and the Yawkey Foundation clearly intended to also place it into the corpus of the Heritage Trust, no instrument doing so was executed or recorded. Consequently, the Department with the concurrence of the Yawkey Foundation intends to execute and record a Declaration of Trust to complete the original plan. Having been approved by the DNR Board previously, no new action is needed by the Heritage Trust Advisory Board or the SC Department of Natural Resources' Board.

Cultural Program Update

Sean Taylor, Heritage Trust archaeologist, reported that the archaeology intern, Mareli Sanchez, researched and put together interpretive panels for Altamaha and Fort Lamar Heritage Preserves. She also scanned approximately 15,000 photographs that had been impacted by the flood. She was awarded a full ride in the Ph. D. program at Tulane, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. She was a real asset to the program last spring and hopefully will return when she has completed her degree.

Mr. Taylor reported that miscellaneous clean-up activities are being conducted at all of the cultural preserves. Staff are working on placing trail markers on the Congaree Creek Heritage Preserve and a USC Geography class compiled a trail map for the Internet that highlights natural and cultural places of interest. They are looking at the Wateree River Heritage Preserve to see what needs to be done for mitigation. The Parker Annex building is almost complete and Mr. Taylor showed the members slides of both floors of the building. If everything is completed by August 3, the next HTAB meeting will be held there.

Board Action Items

Ingram Dunes Preservation

Jane Vernon and Damien Triouleyre reported to the HTAB about a 9.3 acre piece of property at North Myrtle Beach in need of protection. This property, which is in danger of being developed, is 700 feet from the ocean and the highest remaining dunes are 50 feet above sea level. A video was shown of the property and it was

noted 20 acres of wetlands adjoin it. Ken Rentiers, SCDNR Deputy Director of Land, Water and Conservation, stated this is a special place and he would like to have discussions with the owners to gauge their interest in a donation.

Mr. Springs made a motion that the HTAB continue to move forward, investigate the situation further, provide assistance and advise the local land trusts and or other organizations that may be in a better position to preserve the dunes. Mr. Rasor seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Blackout Donation to DNR

Jamie Dozier, Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center Biologist, stated the Blackout Tract is approximately 269 acres and located within the boundaries of the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center Heritage Preserve (YWC) in Georgetown County. This tract is currently owned by the Yawkey Foundation and they are seeking to donate it to the Department under the same stipulations as the original gift by Tom Yawkey in 1977. This property is essential to the management of YWC due to its central location on Cat Island.

The tract was once the main portion of Bell Isle Plantation and still contains the Belle Isle Rice Mill Chimney, a structure that is on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to its historic significance, there are 161 acres of upland pine and a 108 acre brackish managed wetland. The upland pine stands include a portion of the foraging habitat for a red-cockaded woodpecker cluster currently located on the YWC. The brackish managed wetland consistently has high utilization by waterfowl, wading birds and numerous shorebird species. The property also includes two equipment sheds and a residence built in 1990.

The tract has been managed by SCDNR as part of the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center Heritage Preserve under conditions of a Memorandum of Understanding since its purchase.

Dr. Leader made a motion to accept this property as a donation to the SC Department of Natural Resources from the Yawkey Foundation under the same stipulations as the original gift by Tom Yawkey in 1977. Mr. Springs seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

FY 18 Cultural Heritage Trust Budget Amendment

Mr. Taylor requested an amendment to the FY 18 budget. This increase is due to rent for the new Parker Annex Archaeology Center, furniture, display cases and salary increases. The request of \$276,390.00 represents a 28.5% increase.

Mr. Rasor made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the amended FY 18 Cultural Heritage Preserve budget as presented. Dr. Leader seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

FY 18 Natural Heritage Trust Budget Amendment

Billy Dukes, Chief of Wildlife for the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division (WFF), requested an amendment to the FY 18 budget. This increase is for salaries for 4 interns (one for each region), a portion of the bat biologist's salary, two Tech II positions, and salary for a GIS analyst, a portion of the herpetologist's salary, operations money for heritage preserve shorebird work, and a portion of an hourly salary. The request of \$428,000 represents a 30% increase.

Dr. Krebs made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the amended FY 18 Heritage Preserve Management budget as presented. Mr. Rasor seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

FY 18 Coastal Preserves Budget Amendment

There were no amendments requested for the FY 18 Coastal Preserves Budget.

FY 18 Habitat Protection Budget Amendment

Mr. Rentiers reported that the Habitat Protection Budget is a decrease of \$53,308.00 which reflects transferring the data management position to WFF as well as the \$15,000 yearly cost of the NatureServe database. Heritage Trust will still work closely with the person in that data management position.

Mr. Rasor made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the amended FY 18 Habitat Protection Budget as presented. Dr. Leader seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously

Other Items

Mr. Rentiers distributed the revenue statement and reported that we are in a very good position. The bond debt has been retired so the \$1.84 million doesn't come off the budget in October. He commended staff for all the work done to get the new archaeology building. It is a leap forward and has been a real team effort. It will be a showcase for Heritage Trust, especially for lab work to be conducted and to display all the artifacts that have been collected over the years. He thanked the HTAB members for their support.

Chairman Coxe recognized Bob Perry, Director of SCDNR's Environmental Program, and stated he has been with the agency for 39 years. Chairman Coxe stated that Bob would be sorely missed and he had done many great things for the agency. He thanked Bob for his service.

Mr. Perry gave a brief report on the I-73 project. On April 13, 2017, the Department of Health and Environmental Control issued the certifications that it is responsible for on this project, which culminates over a decade's worth of planning on the part of the Department of Transportation. Mr. Perry noted a unique partnership has developed with them by working on advanced mitigation planning, which has brought several projects to the HTAB over the last several years. As the proposed mitigation for I-73, Gunter's Island has 13 miles of the frontage along the Little Pee Dee shoreline, 12 oxbow lakes, unique landforms, high dune ridges, black water swamps, and a cathedral of giant cypress trees. The Army Corps of Engineers is expected to issue the final permit in approximately the next 30 days and DOT should acquire the tract within 90-180 days. There will be a 30-day appeals window. Mr. Perry stated that he would be retired when this is completed, but noted it has been an exciting project to work on. It will be a unique addition to the Heritage Trust inventory. Mr. Perry expressed to the Board his pleasure in working with them. He also thanked them for their dedication to the Trust and help in preserving so many special places in South Carolina.

Steve Tully, HTAB gubernatorial appointee from District 1, reported that Bay Point Island and Saint Phillips Island in Beaufort County are for sale. One is going to be developed and the other is under a conservation agreement. There may be an opportunity to receive a donation. He noted they are the only undeveloped properties between Hilton Head Island and Fripp Island.

Dr. Leader made a motion to conduct due diligence activities on potential property donations in Beaufort County. Mr. Rasor 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, August 3, 2017, at newly acquired Parker Annex Archaeology Center in Columbia.

Adjournment

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

A brief tour of the Florence County Museum will be held after the meeting

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