

**HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING
Thursday, November 12, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.**

Members Present

Kevin Hunter
Sonny King
Campbell Coxe
Dr. Julia Krebs
Julien Springs
Jonathan Leader
Brad Sauls
Tom Patton
Ken Rentiers
Emily Cope
Jake Rasor

Members Absent

Tom Holloway
Robert Hitt
Duane Parrish
Amy Bartow-Melia

Others Present

Abi Prochaska
Alicia Farrell
Anna Smith
Austen Pickhardt
Bill Marshall
Billy Dukes
Blaik Keppler
Dawn Beaver
Felicia Sanders
Gene Johnston
Harry Shealy
James Fowler
Jen Konarski
Joe Lemeris
Jordan Baker
Keith Bradley
Ken Prosser
Norman Pulliam
Meg Gaillard
Robert Clark
Sean Taylor
Van Whitehead
Will Doar

Call to Order

Campbell Coxe called the meeting to order.

Videoconference Guidelines

Blaik Keppler from Marine Resources Division went over a quick rundown on how to use GoToMeeting and went over the rules for attending the videoconference.

Roll Call of Attendance

Dawn Beaver gave a roll call and asked participants to say “here” when called.

Public Comment Period

Chairman Coxe asked if anyone wanted to speak during this time. No comment was made.

Approval of Minutes from August 13, 2020

Chairman Coxe noted that the minutes from the previous meeting had been sent to all Board members. *Mr. Springs made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the minutes from August 13, 2020, meeting as submitted. Mr. Hunter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

Items for Board Information:

- A)** Shorebird Conservation Achievements on SCDNR Heritage Preserves: Felicia Sanders, Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division.
Felicia Sanders gave a brief update on all the of the achievements they have been working on for the shorebird conservation. They are monitoring over 8 species, watching over their nesting sites along the coast at Heritage Preserves and SCDNR bird sanctuaries. They have been using drones to help take photos of the sites and count all the nest. Ms. Sanders also discussed the decline of shorebirds and what is causing the decline. Some of the disturbances include humans, dogs, some of the smaller bird's nest alone which makes it harder to manage. Some ways they are trying to fix the issues is by putting up signs to warn visitors to be careful when visiting the sites. Statistics have shown that these signs having greatly helping. Our state is one of the few that have shown an increase in pelican nest. They have also been raising money to help with the crab bank and using the extra money to hire a bird steward who will also assist in helping educate the public about the birds and how to protect them.
- B)** Heritage Trust Cultural Program Update: Sean Taylor, Senior Archaeologist, Land, Water & Conservation Division
Sean Taylor provided the Board with a highlight of what the Heritage Trust Cultural Program has been up to. Mr. Taylor informed them of a few grants they have been working on getting, one of them is with National Parks for helping Pockoy and Yawkey since they were affected by Hurricane Irma. Another grant is for hiring an hourly employee to help with archives, historic documents, and land managements. Mr. Taylor also gave an update on Pockoy Island; currently the shoreline is eroding quickly. During his presentation, a map was shown, highlighting the extreme changes in the shoreline of the last few years. They are desperately trying to race the erosion and gather as much information they can from the site. Next, Mr. Taylor gave an update on Fort Frederick; there has been huge progress on the site and noted that an onsite visit would truly show all their hard work. On Fort Frederick there has also been a discovery of a house, after an investigation they have decided that the house was not a common field hand due to the fact there was too many artifacts, they may have been a common worker. They have also discovered coins on the site some American and some British from the mid-1700s. Tariq Ghaffar has been in the lab cleaning all the metals found on the site, including the coins to determine their authenticity. Mr. Taylor discussed what Brian Long and his group had been up to; currently they have been busy cleaning Childsbury, it has been a long process, but it is finally coming together. There was also discussion on a future visit to Congaree Creek River site to see all the progress that has been done with the help of Mr. Long. Mr. Taylor also thanked his staff for working hard at home due to COVID-19 and taking on the task of organizing and cleaning artifacts from both Pockoy and Fort Frederick. Lastly, the Goodwill site was also mention and how the team has been

working with Tanner Arrington on this GIS database through their phones, helps provide virtual feedback, locate excavations easier and a good way to make sure information is entered twice. The is database also allows virtual maps and shows areas that need to be dug.

C) Petroglyph Study at Long Ridge on Pinnacle Mountain

Gene Johnston presented an updated request for his desire to have the Board help with the petroglyph study at Long Ridge on Pinnacle Mountain. Mr. Rentiers gave a brief background on what Mr. Johnston wants to discuss with the board and reminded the Board of his last presentation last February. Mr. Johnston states that he has some discoveries that he wishes to determine if they are cultural or natural finds. There are many mixed opinions on the matter, and he hopes to find an answer on the subject. Since 2007, Mr. Johnston has been a part of a group calling themselves Society of Circle Seekers; they search sites in both South Carolina and North Carolina for these rock carvings. Mr. Johnston stated he was aware of the budget planned for the site, but he offered to pay a portion and find someone who can help with these studies and by doing this will help get the research done sooner. A copy of the proposal of Mr. Johnston's recommendation was sent to the Board for review. Mr. Leader spoke during this presentation, stating that he would like the person Mr. Johnston recommends sitting down with the Board and suggests that the Board should all be in agreement on who they choose to work on this site. Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Johnston to outline his goal for this research and what can we benefit from it? Mr. Johnston stated it is to protect these sites from the public and that he claims we should all want to know the purpose of these findings. Chairman Coxe does agree we should come to a final answer but wants to go over budget for the project in detail, he states that the more info we have on budgeting and what exactly Mr. Johnston would be better. Chairman Coxe asked the Board to review the information provided by Mr. Johnston and come to their own conclusion and opinion in two weeks on how the Board should move forward with this project.

Potential Conflict of Interest Statement: Campbell Coxe

Chairman Coxe read the "Potential Conflict of Interest Statement" before going into Executive Session.

Executive Session

Mr. King made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss a property acquisition related to Action Item A. Mr. Hunter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

A) Potential Property Acquisition in Jasper County: Ken Prosser, Assistant Deputy Director, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division

Open Session

Mr. King made a motion that the Board return to public session and let the record reflect that no action was taken in Executive Session. Dr. Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Potential Property Acquisition in Jasper County

Mr. King made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval to evaluate a potential property acquisition of approximately 3,527 acres in Jasper County that would be dedicated as a heritage preserve and placed into the corpus of the SC Heritage Trust, and the expenditure of up to \$20,000 in Heritage Trust funds to conduct due diligence activities. Mr. Hunter seconded the motion and motion carried unanimously.

Other Items

Mr. Rentiers wanted to call attention to the archeology newsletter and what a great job they have done. He also praised staff who have been working through COVID-19 and thanked them for their support.

Time and Place of the February 11, 2021 Board Meeting

Chairman Coxe stated that the next meeting will be most likely be virtual.

Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, Chairman Coxe made a motion that the meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board be adjourned. Mr. Springs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Jordan Baker
Administrative Assistant
SC Department of Natural Resources
Land, Water, and Conservation Division*