

**HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING
Thursday, February 11, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.**

Members Present

Tom Holloway
Sonny King
Campbell Coxe
Julia Krebs
Julien Springs
Jonathan Leader
Brad Sauls
States Clawson
Tom Patton
Ken Rentiers
Terry Hurly
Robert Boyles
Emily Cope
Jake Rasor

Members Absent

Kevin Hunter
William Calloway

Others Present

Abi Prochaska
Alicia Farrell
Andrew Hook
Austen Attaway
Bill Marshall
Billy Dukes
Blaik Keppler
Christy Everett
Corbin Jenkins
David Lucas
Dawn Beaver
Gary Brown
James Fowler
Joe Lemeris
Jordan Baker
Kaley Nevin
Karen Smith
Keith Bradley
Ken Prosser
Lorianne Riggin
Meg Gaillard
Robert Clark
Sam Chappalear
Sean Taylor
Van Whitehead
Will Dillman

Call to Order

Chairman Coxe called the meeting to order.

Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Coxe gave a brief welcome to everyone attending the meeting.

Videoconference Guidelines

Blaik Keppler and Abi Prochaska from Marine Resources Division went over the guidelines and how to participate in the GoToMeeting.

Roll Call of Attendance

Jordan Baker gave the 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 November 12, 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 November 12, 2020 meeting as submitted. Dr. Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

Items for Board Information

A) Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve Overview

James “Trapper” Fowler, Wildlife Biologist with the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division gave an overview on Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve to the Board. Lewis Ocean Bay is made to protect Carolina Bay’s longleaf pine ecosystem. There are 10000 acres in Myrtle Beach. Lewis Ocean Bay (LOB) has tons of rare species such as the Venus flytrap, savannah milkweed, ravens primrose-willow, black bears, and many other plants and animals. Mr. Fowler also showed several photos of wildlife on the property. He stated that you never know you might find and showed a few pictures of bears roaming the property as well as snakes. The source of water for LOB is rain. He also showed a graphic from the 50s to show the orientation of the sand rims and how wave and water movement effects it. Droughts are a huge concern at LOB; these droughts can lead to fires and then, in turn, destroy nearby neighborhoods. Having controlled burns can help fix this threat; it helps keep LOB safe. These controlled burns are also good for some of the plants found in the area as it encourages new growth and builds a better ecosystem. Mr. Fowler lastly showed how much the population has grown in Horry County. Mr. Fowler thanked the Board for taking the time to listen.

B) Botany and Plant Conservation Program Update

Keith Bradley, Botanist, with the Land, Water & Conservation Division informed the Board about the Botany and Plant Conservation Program. The program began a year ago, with the hopes to work on plant conservation, manage data on plants, remain updated on rare and endangered plants, and several other goals. They are currently going through a list of plants located in our state and refining it. By also doing this they are keeping track of what properties need more work, which plants are endangered or rare to our state, and keeping track of new plant species. Some of this data has been collected since 1974 thanks to Heritage Trust. So far there are 521 rare plants on the list, and it is constantly being updated. He also stated that are over 3000 native plant species in our state; some of these plants only grow here and nowhere else. Rare plant conservation benefits wildlife and our ecosystem. By narrowing the list of endangered plants, it helps focus the attention on the rare plants to help save them. They have been working with many agencies in the southeast. Mr. Bradley mentioned that having these Heritage Preserves help benefit plant conservation because they are protected on the property. After adding the Horse Creek HP, they have discovered many unexplored areas with very rare and new plant species as well as a few invasive plant species. Working with Heritage Preserve mangers they have been able to pay closer attention to these rare plant species and remove some of the invasive plants to improve the Heritage Preserves. They have also.

been working on rare plant reintroductions to help regrow the population, doing this with landowners and on Heritage Preserves. Lastly, Mr. Bradley thanked all the Heritage Preserve managers for their hard work and help.

C) Cultural Heritage Trust Program Update

Sean Taylor, Senior Archaeologist with the Land, Water & Conservation Division provided the Board an update on the Cultural Heritage Trust Program. At the previous meeting he stopped at Goodwill HP and picked from there at this meeting. He mentioned that Brian Long and his group have done tons of work to help Goodwill HP, and you can truly see a great improvement. Recently they found lots of pottery at Horse Creek HP. Mr. Taylor mentioned that he hopes the Board will be able to visit the site soon and see all that it has to offer. They are constantly looking for more properties to add to the Heritage Preserves list. Mr. Taylor next showed photos of Fort Frederick HP in Beaufort; he showed how the site is completed and that its grand opening took place on February 12, 2020. He showed many of the buildings on the site as well. Mr. Taylor then showed the staff shovel testing at Goodwill HP; he used a map to show where they have positive and negative tests done on the site, as well as if artifacts were found. He mentioned that thanks to grants they have been able to get a lot done, even with the challenges of COVID-19. They are hoping to return to Pockoy in May to continue the work they have been doing there. Recently they have been working on Congaree Creek and are looking to expand the property; while working on that site they have also discovered pottery that is related to the pottery at Pockoy. They hope to do more research on these findings.

Items for Board Action

A) Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve-Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority: Request Amend Contract for Waterline Easement: Corbin Jenkins, Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood, Inc.

Corbin Jenkins spoke with the Board about Grand Strand Water and Sewer project to add in a 36in water line. The hope of this project is to meet the future water needs of the quickly growing Horry County. They have done several surveys in the area to make sure they are not endangering any wildlife or plants. Next Christy Everett spoke asking if the Board had any questions, she would be happy to answer any of them. Ms. Everett mentioned the mission of the project; to help provide water to more people and have fire protection. They are currently working with DNR on getting around International Drive with the 36in water line. They are working on alternate routes to try and have minimum damage to the area. They have found one clear route and hope that after more surveying this will be the route to take. No action was taken but the Board will review their request.

Potential Conflict of Interest Statement: Campbell Coxe

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

Enter Executive Session

Dr. Krebs made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss Monitoring License Agreement related to Board Action Item B, Property acquisition related to Board Action Item C, and property trade related to Board Action Item D. Mr. Springs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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. Mr. Springs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

License Agreement for Temporary Monitoring for SCDOT, Henderson Heritage Preserve, Jackson Tract

Mr. King made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board recommend to the DNR Board the approval of the proposed license agreement with the SCDOT for temporary monitoring at the Jackson Tract of the Henderson Heritage Preserve as presented. Dr. Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Potential Property Acquisition in Aiken County

Dr. Krebs made a motion the Heritage Trust Advisory Board recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval to investigate a potential property acquisition of approximately 31 acres adjoining Henderson Heritage Preserves/WMA in Aiken 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. Springs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Potential Land Trade in Oconee County

Mr. King made a motion the Heritage Trust Advisory Board recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval to investigate a potential land trade of approximately 1.3 acres of SCDNR land for approximately 1.3 acres of privately-owned land adjoining Stumphouse Mountain Heritage Preserve/WMA in Oconee County, and the expenditure of up to \$20,000 in Heritage Trust funds for due diligence activities. The 1.3-acre property obtained by SCDNR would be dedicated as a heritage preserve and placed into the corpus of the SC Heritage Trust. Dr. Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Other Items

Director Robert Boyles joined the meeting to speak and thank everyone for their hard work with Heritage Trust during COVID-19. He mentioned that it has been a tough year but is happy that everyone is still working just as strongly. He also thanked Keith Bradley for the recent program he has created.

Time and Place of the May 13, 2021 Board Meeting

Chairman Coxe stated the date of the next meeting and will let the Board know if the next meeting will be virtual or in person.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jordan Baker

Administrative Assistant

SC Department of Natural Resources

Land, Water, and Conservation Division