

**Heritage Trust Advisory Board Meeting
Parker Annex Archaeology Center
2025 Barnwell Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Thursday, May 13, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.**

Members Present

Brad Sauls
Campbell Coxe
Emily Cope
Jonathan Leader
Julien Springs
Ken Rentiers
Kevin Hunter
Meredith Nichter
Robert Boyles
Sates Clawson
Sonny King
Terry Hurley
Tom Holloway
Tom Patton

Others Present

Austen Attaway
Beckham Web
Bill Marshall
Billy Dukes
Caylor Romines
Christy Everett
Corbin Jenkins
David Lucas
Dawn Beaver
James Fowler
Jodie Barnes
Jordan Baker
Karen Smith
Kate Schafer
Keith Bradley
Ken Prosser
Lorianne Riggin
Matt Minor
Meg Gaillard
Pat Cloninger
Sam Chappellear
Sam Tessel
Sean Taylor
Tom Swaynham
Van Whitehead

Call to Order

Chairman Coxe called the meeting to order.

Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Coxe gave a warm welcome to everyone attending and was happy see everyone in person.

Roll Call of Attendance

Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves for the roll call.

Public Comment Period

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

Approval of Minutes from February 11, 2021

Chairman Coxe noted that the minutes from the previous meeting had been sent to all Board Members. *Mr. King made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the minutes from February 11, 2021, meeting as submitted. Mr. Hunter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

Items for Board Information

A) Current Management Challenges at Bald Rock Heritage Preserve:

Austen Attaway, Heritage Preserve Biologist, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division informed the Board of the current management challenges at Bald Rock Heritage Preserve in the upstate. Ms. Attaway stated there are about 18 properties in the upstate that are managed with her and two other techs. But there have been some major issues with Bald Rock site that she felt the Board needed to know about. The site runs between two interstates and was acquired in 2001. A small foot bridge helps connect the parking lot to the park, which makes accessing these beautiful views of Greenville easy. With an increase in population in the area more and more people are exploring the site but not respecting the site. The site has become the new backdrop for engagement photos, wedding photos, gender reveals, workout videos, more campers, and even a location for outdoor partying at night. Because of these uses, people are leaving tons of waste left behind such as broken bottles, confetti, cups, needles, and even more types of trash. All this trash can cause serious damage to some of the rare plants located on the site. Even with trashcans on site people are still littering. Another issue with the growing population is people are creating structures, they have found big crosses that are basically cemented into the ground. There have been campfires that are destroying the vegetation on the rocks, these are not prescribed fires so they can be very harmful. Tons of graffiti has also become a big issue on the site, it's all over the rocks and other natural and unnatural surfaces. In the Greenville area there are very few officers who have tried to help stop all the issues, but they are not able to catch everyone due to being short staffed. At night is where most of the damage and illegal activities have occurred, drug use, fires, and drinking are just some of the things. Ms. Attaway and her team are constantly working with law enforcement to help the site but are still having issues daily. They have worked with grants to get more funding for cleaning and have even had some positive feedback with social media post that help bring it to the attention to the public. Feeling outnumbered with all the issues they now turn to the Board for any advice on the situation. Some members suggested a temporary close to help restrict the access of the site or working with DOT to help restrict the access. They also suggested more social media post to let more of the public know of the problem and encourage them to not damage the site. The Board was saddened to hear of the damage done to the site but thanked Austen Attaway and her team for all her efforts on trying to preserve the site.

B) Crab Bank Seabird Sanctuary Update:

Lorianne Riggan, Director, Office of Environmental Programs presented a map to the Board showing the crab bank and plans for the upcoming fall on how to improve the site. Construction will be in September; this new crab bank is an exciting project and has been talked about for four years to help find the perfect plan. Should be finished by the spring of 2022.

C) Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve - Conway Medical Center Rezoning Update: Lorianne Riggan, Director, Office of Environmental Programs showed the Board a map of Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve. The map showed the proposed mitigation bank in yellow, a small teal section showing the rezone for the Conway Medical Center in the area, and the Lewis Ocean Bay was shown in red. In October of 2020 they were contacted about the rezoning of the Conway Medical Center by Horry County. With rezoning happening, it is very important that the habitat be protected, they are working with Horry County to make sure that happens. Open burning is prohibited, DNR must notify the Forestry Commission of any burns and follow the proper guidelines to ensure the preservation of the site. They have also been discussing the gates on the site and the possibility of them being moved which is a big concern. The gates are needed on the site to close them during burns and help keep everyone safe. The agency provided two letters about the closing of the gates and fires. After many discussions they have decided that the mitigation bank would be in the best interest, this new development would limit any burning that needed to be done. The rezoning is still on going.

Potential Conflict of Interest Statement: Campbell Coxe

Chairman Coxe read the "Potential Conflict of Interest Statement" before going over the Items for Board Action.

Items for Board Action

A) Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve – Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority Amended Contract for Waterline Easement: Ken Prosser, Assistant Deputy Director, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries
Prior to any motion, Mr. King asked about the protection of wildlife on the site. Mr. Prosser said that there will be a preserves manager and Mr. Whitehead mentioned that in the contract it states that each phase will be slow and monitored. An inventory will be taken on all animals and plants. A big concern are the woodpeckers; Mr. Jenkins and his team are aware of that issue. GMC will manage the project for GSWA to make sure all requirements are met.
Mr. King made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board recommend to the SCDNR Board approval of the proposed amended Contract for Sale of Waterline Easement with Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority at Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserves. Mr. Clawson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

B) Fort Frederick Heritage Preserve - New Beaufort County and Town of Port Royal License Agreement: Sean Taylor, Senior Archaeologist, Land, Water and Conservation Division
Mr. King made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon recommendation of SCDNR staff terminate the August 28, 2019 Lease and Management Agreement, terminate the June 25, 2019 License Agreement and accept a new Beaufort County & Town of Port Royal License Agreement. Mr. Hunter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

C) Potential Property Acquisition – Acceptance of Donation in Lancaster County, Forty Acre Rock Heritage Preserve/WMA: Lorianne Riggan, Director, Office of Environmental Programs
Mr. King made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board recommend that the DNR Board approve the acquisition, by donation from Haile Gold Mine, of the Flat Creek Corridor Properties, a 2,759.38-acre compensatory mitigation package in Lancaster County to be

dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed in the Corpus of the Heritage Trust Program as a part of the Forty Acre Rock Heritage Preserve, conditional upon the successful completion of all due diligence and approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and authorize expenditure of up to \$20,000 in Heritage Trust Funds to conduct due diligence if needed. Mr. Hunter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Enter Executive Session

Mr. King made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session pursuant to S.C. Code Section 30-4-70(A)(2) to discuss property acquisitions related to Items D, E, F, G and H. Mr. Patton 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. Hunter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Potential Property Acquisition in Beaufort County – Preliminary Approval, Coosaw Island High Marsh Cotton Field

Mr. Sauls made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon recommendation of SCDNR staff and subject to due diligence, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval to investigate one potential property acquisition of approximately 126 acres on Coosaw Island in Beaufort County and the expenditure of up to \$20,000 of Heritage Trust funds for associated due diligence activities for this potential property acquisition. Mr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Potential Property Acquisition in Edgefield County – Preliminary Approval, Horse Creek Heritage Preserve

Mr. Sauls made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and subject to due diligence, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval to investigate one potential property acquisition of approximately 86 acres south of Horse Creek Heritage Preserve in Edgefield County and the expenditure of up to \$20,000 of Heritage Trust funds for associated due diligence activities for this potential property acquisition. Mr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Property Acquisition in Greenville County - Final Approval, Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve

Dr. Krebs made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon recommendation of SCDNR staff and subject to standard due diligence, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant final approval of the acquisition of approximately 17 acres east of Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve in Greenville 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 \$70,000 in Heritage Trust funds. Mr. Hunter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Potential Property Acquisition in Horry County - Preliminary Approval, Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve/WMA

Mr. Hunter made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval to investigate the potential purchase of approximately 394 acres adjoining Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve/WMA in Horry County that would be dedicated as a heritage preserve and place 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. Sauls seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Potential Property Acquisition in Jasper County – Preliminary Approval, Tillman Heritage Preserve/WMA

Mr. Hunter made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval to investigate the potential purchase of approximately 121 acres adjoining Tillman Heritage Preserve/WMA 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. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Other Items

Mr. Rentiers welcomed some of the new staff that Keith Bradley has hired, pointed out Mr. Bradley’s mention in the SC Wildlife Magazine, and thanked him for all his hard work. Mr. Rentiers also introduced a new archaeologist, Jodi Barnes, brought on by Sean Taylor, and mentioned some of the work she has been doing.

Time and Place of the August 12, 2021 Board Meeting

Chairman Coxe stated the date of the next meeting. The location will most likely be at Parker Annex, but we will inform the Board of any changes.

Time and Place of the November 11, 2021 Board Meeting

Chairman Coxe mentioned the date of the November meeting taking place on November 11th will be a State holiday and needs to be rescheduled. He asked the Board to think about it at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, Mr. Clawson made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board be adjourned. Mr. Hunter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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