

**Heritage Trust Advisory Board Meeting
Parker Annex Archaeology Center
2025 Barnwell Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Thursday, November 4, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.**

Members Present

Brad Sauls (for Eric Emerson)
Emily Cope (for Robert Boyles)
Jake Razor (for Norman Pulliam)
Jonathan Leader
Julia Krebs
Ken Rentiers
Kevin Hunter
Norris Thigpen (for Harry Lightsey)
Rob Keck
Russell Hubright (for Scott Phillips)
Sonny King
Terry Hurley (for Duane Parrish)

Members Absent

Tom Holloway
Campbell Coxe
Julien Springs
Meredith Nichter (for Amy Bartow-Melia)

Others Present

Austen Attaway
Billy Dukes
Blaik Keppler
Chris Moore
David Lucas
Dawn Beaver
Hunter Young
Joe Lemeris
Jordan Baker
Karen Smith
Keith Bradley
Ken Prosser
Kiersten Weber
Lalon Swaney
Larry Lane
Meg Gaillard
Megan James
Roger Krebs

Call to Order

Dr. Krebs, sitting in for Chairman Coxe, called the meeting to order.

Welcome and Introduction

Dr. Krebs gave warm welcome to the Board Members and gave a quick introduction.

Roll Call of Attendance

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

Public Comment Period

Dr. Krebs asked if anyone wanted to speak during this time. No comment was made.

Approval of Minutes from August 12, 2021

Dr. Krebs stated 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 the May 11, 2021, meeting as submitted with one name being corrected due to misspelling. Mr. Keck seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

Items for Board Information

A) Cultural Preserves Management Program Update: Sean Taylor, Senior Archaeologist, Land, Water and Conservation Division

Sean Taylor gave a brief update of the Cultural Preserve Management Program. The team has continued their hard work on Poinsett Bridge, working heavily on the Yawkey site as well. Mr. Taylor show Board Members a STP Map for Yawkey, show where exactly they are working on the site but also showing some areas where they have done many shovel test and discussed what they have found. Mr. Taylor mentioned their latest trip Pockoy and showed another map of the site and a STP Map. The map showed Board Members how quickly the site is eroding and that there isn't much left on the first ring due to erosion, they are now working between the two rings. They have found some artifacts between the two rings. Next month staff will be working at Spanish Mount, this site is younger than Pockoy but also severely eroding. Mr. Taylor talked more with Board Members about the Spanish Mount and Pockoy discussing some of the ideas of what the sites were used for and who was living there. Moving into the new year Mr. Taylor stated there were no big upcoming trips for staff. They are hoping to go through all the artifacts they have found in the lab. Mr. Taylor also stated that he would like Board Members to come and visit Poinsett Bridge to see the progress on the site. Lastly, Mr. Taylor gave a few closing staff updates, he thanked Lelia Rice on her all the work she has been doing with virtual learning for Students. He also mentioned how Meg Gaillard has been growing their virtual programs for schools and thanked her for all her hard work. Mr. Taylor introduced Chris Moore to the Board, Mr. Moore will be working on Goodwill. Mr. Taylor also informed the Board that a few of their former interns have recently been moved to full time.

B) Region 3 Heritage Preserves Update: Hunter Young, Region 3 Heritage Preserve Coordinator, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries

Hunter Young gave a brief update to Board Members about Region 3 Heritage Preserves. There are many Heritage Preserve properties in Region 3, most are in Aiken and Lexington County. One of the sites, Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve is known for the many Gopher Tortoises on site. Mr. Young showed the Board a map with pins listing where the tortoises are on the site, he also brought up tortoises from Jacksonville, FL to live on the site. On this same Heritage Preserve they have lots of other wildlife such has Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers and Coral Snakes and a Pine Snake donated by the zoo. The Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers have three active clusters and are looking to add more. In 2021two clusters had fledglings for that breeding season. Some issues on the Heritage Preserve are visitors stealing property signs. This site also had recent property burns to help promote new growth, 120 acres were burned in 2021. The Congaree Bluff Heritage Preserve also had a recent property burn of 100 acres in 2021 as well as 41 acres sprayed in Velpar. This site has also had lots of mulching and cleaning done and new deer stands added in for the SCDNR Youth Hunts. The Cathedral Bay Heritage Preserve had a new hiking trail marked throughout the property, and recently had the property sign replaced due to visitors stealing them. The next property shown, Ditch Pond Heritage Preserve. Mr. Young showed the Board photos of how the site has greatly improved since a property burn and are planning on doing a burn in 2022. The site is also looking to expand in the upcoming future. More updates on the site are stream restoration to help create more of a natural flow of water, Mr. Young show the Board some of the progress photos of the site. The Janet Harrison High Pond Heritage Preserve had some

mechanical treatments done to it such as bushhog and lots of clearing and are hoping to do some property burns in 2022. Next, Long Branch Bay heritage Preserve had their boundaries remarked and are also trying to plan some burns in 2022. Peachtree Rock Heritage Preserve, Mr. Young stated, they are working boy scouts on remarking the trails and color coding them. The site is getting updated signs all around the property and working putting in a new roof at the kiosk. The Nature Conservancy is working on this site to plan some burns in 2022. Shealy's Pond Heritage Preserve had some major issues with erosion on Boiling Springs Road but finally fixed. This replacement took lots of time due to exotic plants that had to be handled properly to not damage them. They created a channel for the water to stop any future erosion. Mr. Young showed lots of photos of the project, and mentioned they are adding guard rails to help keep the public off the area. The last site, Savannah River Bluff Heritage Preserve, notices a recent spike in visitors due to Covid with visitors wanting to get out more and explore. Though the spike is great news it did bring up a lot of parking issues along Old Plantation Road that needs to be fixed. They also had a new foot bridge put in along the trail toward the river. Mr. Young thanked the Board for their time.

Items for Board Action

Potential Conflict of Interest Statement

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

A) Waccamaw River HP – Horry County Temporary Access and Construction License:

Ken Prosser, Assistant Deputy Director, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries

Mr. Leader made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board recommend to the SCDNR Board approval of the proposed Temporary Access and Construction License for Horry County's culvert installation under Ellis Road at Waccamaw River HP as presented. Mr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Mr. Hunter 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 B and C. Mr. Keck seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

B) Final approval to purchase approximately 973 acres in Jasper County: Ken Prosser, Assistant Deputy Director, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries

C) Final approval to purchase approximately 1,020 acres in Horry County: Ken Prosser, Assistant Deputy Director, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries

Return to Regular Session

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

Motions on Items for Action

- B) Final approval to purchase approximately 973 acres in Jasper County:** Ken Prosser, Assistant Deputy Director, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries
Mr. Leader made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and subject to standard due diligence, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant final approval of the acquisition of approximately 973 acres in Jasper County that will be dedicated as a heritage preserve and placed into the corpus of the SC Heritage Trust and the expenditure of \$350,000 in Heritage Trust funds for the purchase. Mr. Keck seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- C) Final approval to purchase approximately 1,020 acres in Horry County:** Ken Prosser, Assistant Deputy Director, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries
Mr. Hunter made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board concur with the SCDNR Board's action on September 16, 2021, subject to standard due diligence, and grant final approval of the acquisition of approximately 1,020 acres in Horry County that will be dedicated as a heritage preserve and placed into the corpus of the SC Heritage Trust. Mr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Other Items

Mr. Rentiers thank Dr. Krebs for stepping in as Acting Chair for this meeting and mentioned his thanks to staff for all their help. Mr. Rentiers also thank the Board for their continued dedication to habitat protection and hopes in the future for staff to do a presentation on all the Heritage Preserves to show all the updates and changes of the sites that have greatly benefited our state.

Time and Place of the November 11, 2021, Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board will be Thursday, February 10, 2022. Other meetings for 2022 are: May 12th, August 11th, and November 10th. The next meeting in February will most likely be held at Parker Annex

Adjournment

Having no further business to be brought before the Board at this time, *Mr. King made a motion that 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*