

**Heritage Trust Advisory Board Meeting  
2762 Wildlife Lane, West Columbia, SC 29172  
Thursday, May 12, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.**

**Members Present**

Brad Sauls (for Eric Emerson)  
Campbell Coxe  
Chisolm Beckham  
Jake Rasor  
Jonathan Leader  
Julia Krebs  
Ken Rentiers  
Kevin Hunter  
Norris Thigpen (for Harry Lightsey)  
Rob Keck  
Terry Hurley (for Duane Parrish)

**Others Present**

Barry Kesler  
Bill Marshall  
Billy Dukes  
Collin Sauls  
Dawn Beaver  
Hunter Young  
Joe Lemeris  
Jordan Baker  
Julie Binz  
Keith Bradley  
Ken Prosser  
Megan James  
Roger Hux  
Sean Taylor  
Van Whitehead

**Call to Order**

Chairman Coxe called the meeting to order.

**Welcome and Introduction**

Chairman Coxe gave a quick welcome to everyone attending.

**Roll Call of Attendance**

Jordan Baker gave a roll call and asked participants to reply “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 February 10, 2022**

Chairman Coxe noted that the minutes from the previous meeting had been sent to the Board Members. *Mr. Leader made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the minutes from the February 10, 2022, meeting as submitted. Mr. Hunter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

**Items for Board Information:**

Botany & Plant Conservation Program: Keith Bradley

Keith Bradley gave a brief update of the Botany and Plant Conservation Program to the Board. Mr. Bradley introduced his team, Sam Tessel, Csilla Czako, and Amanda Harmon, who have all been working on various projects across the state. The Botany and Plant Program works on

collecting data of rare plant species, tracking management of the plants, and collecting data on the other 3000 different plants native to our state. A rare new plant species, the Porcher Ragweed, was named recently thanks to his team. Along with this new discovery, a handful of new plants and wildflowers have also been discovered. Mr. Bradley and his team manage a full list of rare species, and over time his team as combed through the list of over 200 rare plants. Filtering out this list they found Rayner's Blueberry is only found in two Heritage Preserves in the Upstate. They have been working heavily with property managers of these Heritage Preserves to help preserve these rare and endangered plants. On Chestnut Ridge Heritage Preserve, Sam Tessel has been working hard on the federally protected White Irisette. This is the only place this plant can be found. On Peachtree Rock Heritage Preserve, a popular site for University of South Carolina students to visit and study, new data shows about 4 newly discovered plant species there. Some plants found on site are Sandhills Rosemary, Skullcap, Mohr's Three Awn Grass, and Sand Myrtle. Mr. Bradley also discussed how they have received funding from grants to help revise their data and help more with plant conservation. To help with their data they are also using data provided by local citizens through different apps to help locate and identify other plants. Some of their biggest threats include controlling exotic plant species and stopping them from harming other plant species. Mr. Bradley and his team are also working on reintroducing some plants, one of them being Godfrey's Privet, a super rare plant found on South Bluff Heritage Preserve. Another plant to mention in their ongoing work is the Venus Flytrap. Another project they are working on with Cultural Preserves is clearing shrubs from the Shell Rings; in doing this they have discovered more artifacts in the area. The Botany and Plant Program works with other divisions and programs throughout SCDNR, whether it is helping clear shrubs or a project to help relocate plants when rebuilding a bridge, so they do not get damaged. Some of the future plans for the team are the hopes of building a better website, adding more data, building better maps, and more tracking of all plants. They also hope to get more involved in vegetation monitoring, having more volunteers to help, and building a better rare plant guide. Mr. Bradley discussed how he was looking forward to working with more people within the division.

#### **Potential Conflict of Interest Statement**

Chairman Coxe read the "Potential Conflict of Interest Statement" before going into Executive Session. No Statement was made

#### **Motion to Enter Executive Session**

*Mr. Leader 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 A, B, and C. Mr. Thigpen seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Return to Public Session:**

*Mr. Leader made a motion that the Board return to open session, and let the record reflect that no action was taken in Executive Session. Mr. Keck seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

### **Items for Board Action:**

#### **Property Acquisition in Horry County: Final approval on 418 acres adjoining Cartwheel Bay HP.**

*Mr. Hunter 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 418 acres adjoining Cartwheel Bay Heritage Preserve/WMA in Horry County that will be dedicated as a heritage preserve and placed into the corpus of the SC Heritage Trust, and the expenditure of \$610,000 in Heritage Trust funds for the purchase. Dr. Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Potential Property Acquisition in Aiken County:**

*Dr. Krebs made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval to investigate a potential property acquisition of approximately 2,304 acres in Aiken County that would be dedicated as a heritage preserve and placed in 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. Leader seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Property Acquisition in Oconee County – Land Trade:**

*Mr. Sauls 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 to trade 1.27 acres of SCDNR land at Stumphouse Mountain for 1.27 acres of privately-owned adjoining land. The 1.27-acre parcel obtained by SCDNR will be dedicated as a heritage preserve and placed into the corpus of the SC Heritage Trust. Mr. Keck seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

### **Other Items:**

Mr. Rentiers asked everyone to look at the revenue update and mentioned the positive growth it was showing. Mr. Rentiers also took the time to thank Mr. Bradley on his presentation and thanked his team as well. He described how they have expanded and grown the Botany Program and he fully supports all their hard work. Mr. Rentiers informed the Board that later there will be an internal meeting with Mr. Whitehead to set up a workshop for the Board.

### **Time and Place of the next Board Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board will be held Thursday, August 11, 2022. The location of the next meeting is to be determined at later date, but will most likely be held in Columbia, SC.

### **Adjournment:**

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

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