

Heritage Trust Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
260D Epting Lane
West Columbia, SC 29172

Thursday, August 14th, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.

Members Present

Campbell Coxe, Chairman
Kevin Hunter
Rob Keck
Dr. Oswald H. King, III
Dr. Julia Krebs
Julien Springs
Brad Sauls (for Dr. Eric Emerson)
Clarke Thompson (for Harry Lightsey, via phone)
Tom Patton (for Scott Phillips)
Ken Rentiers
Daniel Gambrell (for Duane Parrish, via phone)
Will Dillman (for Dr. Thomas S. Mullikin)
Dr. Mark Hartley (via phone)

Others Present

Allison Morris
Anna Smith
Barry Kesler
Bill Marshall
Billy Dukes
Dawn Beaver
Fran Varacalli
Hannah Berberich
Hunter Young
Jen Konarski
Jordan Baker
Julie Binz
Keith Bradley
Ken Prosser
Lorianne Riggins
Luke Allen
Megan Levinson
Sam Chappellear
Sean Taylor

Call to Order

Chairman Campbell Coxe called the meeting to order and provided the Freedom of Information Statement.

Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Coxe gave a welcome to the Board and everyone attending and confirmed the meeting had reached quorum.

Public Comment Period

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

Approval of Minutes from May 8th, 2025 Meeting

Mr. Julien Springs made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the minutes from the May 8th, 2025 meeting as submitted. Mr. Tom Patton seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes from June 26th, 2025 Conference Call

Mr. Julien Springs made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the minutes from the June 26th, 2025 conference call as submitted. Mr. Tom Patton seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Potential Conflict of Interest Statement

Chairman Coxé read the “Potential Conflict of Interest Statement”. No Statement was made.

Items for Board Action

A) Approval of FY2026 Heritage Trust Amended Budget

i. Habitat Protection-Conservation Property FY2026 Amended Budget

Lorianne Riggan, Director of the Office of Environmental Programs, presented the Habitat Protection-Conservation Property FY2026 Amended Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.

ii. Habitat Protection-Botany FY2026 Amended Budget

Bill Marshall, Program Manager of the Scenic Rivers & Heritage Trust in the Land, Water and Conservation Division, presented the Habitat Protection-Botany FY2026 Amended Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.

iii. Cultural Preserve Management FY2026 Amended Budget

Sean Taylor, Senior Archaeologist in the Land, Water and Conservation Division, presented the Cultural Preserve Management FY2026 Amended Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.

iv. Heritage Preserve Management FY2026 Amended Budget

Billy Dukes, Chief of Wildlife for Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries, presented the Heritage Preserve Management FY2026 Amended Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.

v. Coastal Preserves Management FY2026 Amended Budget

Julie Binz, Director for Coastal Reserves and Outreach in the Marine Resources Division, presented the Coastal Preserves Management FY2026 Amended Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.

Chairman Coxé commended the programs on their fiscal responsibility in the amended budget requests.

B) Approval of FY2027 Heritage Trust Budget

i. Habitat Protection-Conservation Property FY2027 Budget

Lorianne Riggan, Director of the Office of Environmental Programs, presented the Habitat Protection-Conservation Property FY2027 Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.

- ii. **Habitat Protection-Botany FY2027 Budget**
Bill Marshall, Program Manager of the Scenic Rivers & Heritage Trust in the Land, Water and Conservation Division, presented the Habitat Protection-Botany FY2027 Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.
- iii. **Cultural Preserve Management FY2027 Budget:**
Sean Taylor, Senior Archaeologist in the Land, Water and Conservation Division, presented the Cultural Preserve Management FY2027 Budget to the Board.

Board members asked Sean Taylor questions and discussed plans regarding a new building for the Heritage Trust Program.
- iv. **Heritage Preserve Management FY2027 Budget**
Billy Dukes, Chief of Wildlife for Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries, presented the Heritage Preserve Management FY2027 Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.
- v. **Coastal Preserves Management FY2027 Budget**
Julie Binz, Director for Coastal Reserves and Outreach in the Marine Resources Division, presented the Coastal Preserves Management FY2027 Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.

Motions on Action Items A and B

A) Approval of FY2026 Heritage Trust Amended Budget:

Mr. Julien Springs moved that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the FY2026 Heritage Trust amended budget as presented. Mr. Kevin Hunter seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

B) Approval of FY2027 Heritage Trust Budget:

Dr. Julia Krebs moved that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the FY2027 Heritage Trust budget as presented. Mr. Kevin Hunter seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Enter Executive Session

Dr. Sonny King made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session pursuant to S.C. Code Section 30-4-70(A)(2) to discuss a property acquisition related to Action Items C through H, and a license and easement related to Action Item I. Mr. Rob Keck seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Close Executive Session

Dr. Julia Krebs made a motion that the Board return to open session, and that the record reflect that no action was taken in Executive Session. Dr. Sonny King seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motions on Action Items C through I

- C) Property Acquisition Project: Preliminary approval for approximately 17 acres, Colleton County (St. Helena Sound HP/WMA - S. Fenwick Island - Maybank):**
Dr. Sonny King moved that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation from SCDNR staff and the Director, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval to investigate the potential purchase of approximately 17 acres in Colleton County that may be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the Corpus of the Heritage Trust program. Mr. Rob Keck seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.
- D) Property Acquisition Project: Preliminary approval to investigate the potential acquisition of approximately 482 acres, Calhoun County (Congaree Bluffs HP-WMA-Creech):**
Mr. Rob Keck moved that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation from SCDNR staff and the Director, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval and \$30,000 in Heritage Trust Funds to investigate the potential purchase of approximately 482 acres in Calhoun County that may be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the Corpus of the Heritage Trust program. Dr. Julia Krebs seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.
- E) Property Acquisition Project: Preliminary approval to investigate the potential acquisition of approximately 8,000 acres, Florence County (Great Pee-Dee HP/WMA-Duck Ponds):**
Chairman Coxe confirmed this Action Item was being removed. No action was taken.
- F) Property Acquisition Project: Preliminary approval to investigate the potential acquisition of approximately 232 acres, Horry County (Lewis Ocean Bay HP-WMA-Water Tower Road):**
Mr. Julien Springs moved that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation from SCDNR staff and the Director, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval and \$20,000 in Heritage Trust Funds to investigate the potential purchase of approximately 232 acres in Horry County that may be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the Corpus of the Heritage Trust program. Mr. Kevin Hunter seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.
- G) Property Acquisition Project: Preliminary approval to investigate the potential acquisition of approximately 595 acres, Horry County (Little Pee Dee HP WMA - Gunters Island addition):**
Mr. Julien Springs moved that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation from SCDNR staff and the Director, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval and \$50,000 in Heritage Trust Funds to investigate the potential purchase of approximately 595 acres in Horry County that may be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the Corpus of the Heritage Trust program. Mr. Rob Keck seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

H) Property Acquisition Project: Preliminary approval to investigate the purchase of approximately 4,006 acres, Horry County (Waccamaw River HP – Loris-Bellamy-Ellis):

Mr. Julien Springs moved that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation from SCDNR staff and the Director, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval and \$50,000 in Heritage Trust Funds to investigate the potential purchase of approximately 4,006 acres in Horry County that may be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the Corpus of the Heritage Trust program. Dr. Sonny King seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

I) Request for Use: Savannah Bluffs Heritage Preserve, Aiken County – License and Easement for Use of Existing ROW for Waterline:

Dr. Sonny King moved the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff, grant approval to the SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for a license to support the design and construction of a waterline within the existing Georgia Power clearance at Savannah Bluffs Heritage Preserve in Aiken County. Dr. Julia Krebs seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Assistant General Counsel to SCDNR, Luke Allen, requested the Board amend the motion to include the word “easement”.

Chairman Campbell Coxe moved the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff, grant approval to the SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for a license to support the design and construction of a waterline within the existing Georgia Power clearance easement at Savannah Bluffs Heritage Preserve in Aiken County, as amended. Mr. Rob Keck seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Other Items

Ken Rentiers, Deputy Director of the Land, Water and Conservation Division, confirmed the revenue of the Heritage Trust Program was strong and commended staff top to bottom on the work that went in to presenting the items discussed today. He noted the program is taking advantage of new technology, with SCDNR’s new headquarters being state of the art, the Natural Heritage Trust Botany and Plant Conservation Program utilizing drones, and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) methods being used in the Cultural Heritage Trust (Archaeology) program. He thanked staff for all the work that has been done to get to this point and noted that the Heritage Trust Program needs a new building to house its programs in the future.

Fran Varacalli, Conservation Property Coordinator in the Office of Environmental Programs, and Megan Levinson, GIS Analyst in Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, provided the Board with an overview of SCDNR owned and Heritage Trust properties. Ken Rentiers noted that the Heritage Trust Program has acquired a lot over the years, and the agency looks forward to

telling the story through new outreach initiatives. Chairman Coxe also commended the impressive growth.

Dr. Mark Hartley, Chairman of the SCDNR Board, also invited the Heritage Trust Advisory Board to the SCDNR Headquarters flag raising and ribbon cutting ceremony.

Time and Place of the Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board was noted as October 16th, 2025. The location of the next meeting will be determined at a later date.

Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, Chairman Campbell Coxe moved that this meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board be adjourned. Mr. Kevin Hunter seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Morris

Heritage Trust Advisory Board Administrative Assistant

Land, Water and Conservation Division

S.C. Department of Natural Resources