

MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 15, 1991, COLUMBIA, SC

Members Present

Dr. Bruce Rippeteau (Acting Chairman)
Dr. Whitt Gibbons
Dr. Jim Timmerman
Mr. Hugh Ryan
Mr. Jim Crawford
Mr. Joe F. Watson
Mr. Brock Conrad (for Chuck Compton)
Mr. Ed Burgess
Dr. George Vogt
Mr. Ed Drane
Ms. Wendy Parks
Dr. John Mark Dean
Mr. Michael Ray

Members Absent

Senator Sam Stillwell
Representative Robert Barber
Ms. Claudette Cureton
Mr. Wallace Pate

Others Present

Mr. Tom Kohlsaas
Mr. Stuart Greeter
Mr. Steve Bennett
Mr. John Cely
Ms. Mary Edmonds
Mr. Chris Judge
Mr. Pat Ferral
Dr. John Nelson
Mr. Al Stokes
Mr. Todd Ballentine
Mr. Jeff McLemore
Mr. Leighton McLendon
Mr. Bert Pittman
Mr. Greg Lucas
Mr. Glenn Oleland

Chairman Rippeteau opened the August 15 Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) meeting at the Rembert Dennis Building in Columbia. The Chairman introduced Dr. John Mark Dean, who was a new member, and appointed him to the Natural Areas Committee. Dr. Rippeteau appointed Whitt Gibbons as the Chairman of the Natural Areas Committee. The Chairman noted that Senator Nell Smith had been replaced by Senator Sam Stillwell from Greenville.

The minutes of the May 30 HTAB meeting were considered and the following corrections were made. The term "Green's Shell Ring" was changed to "Green's Shell Enclosure," and James Erante and Chris Judge were added to the others present list. The minutes were then approved.

Cultural Areas Committee

Ed Drane introduced Chris Judge who passed out a list of 100 archaeological sites in South Carolina. This list ranked the archaeological sites in order of significance. These are sites that are being proposed for acquisition and can therefore be kept confidential. It was decided that members should return the list at the end of the meeting.

A discussion of the Freedom of Information Act followed and Tom Kohlsaas pointed out that it would be discussed in more detail later in the meeting. Stuart Greeter mentioned that members should

keep our approved projects list and approved budget confidential. Dr. Timmerman proposed that staff formulate written guidelines governing how we handle information on proposed purchases of property. This could be presented at the next meeting for Advisory Board approval.

Chris Judge described the proposed management plan for Nipper Creek Heritage Preserve in Richland County. He recommended changes in public access, hunting, and tours. The management plan was adopted with those changes and recommended for Wildlife Commission approval.

Ed Drane mentioned that the Natural Areas Committee discussed Fish Haul Creek and decided to leave it on the approved budget list. Ed Drane mentioned that work is proceeding on the management plan for Green's Shell Enclosure. He will be consulting with a landscape architect regarding proposed public access facilities on the site.

Natural Areas Committee

Whitt Gibbons introduced Steve Bennett and Bert Pittman who explained three different proposed protection projects. Those protection projects included: 1) Blackwell bunched arrowhead; 2) Glassy Mountain Addition; and, 3) Lynchburg Savanna. A motion was made and passed to accept those properties as protection projects.

Dr. Dean asked about the proposed changes in the federal definition of wetlands. A discussion followed and it was pointed out that any wetland can be ditched and drained, regardless of the wetlands definition, so long as fill is not placed in that wetland. Thus, federal laws do not necessarily protect wetlands like Lynchburg Savanna, that was discussed earlier.

Steve Bennett introduced Todd Ballentine who represents the Victoria Bluff Task Force. The Victoria Bluff Task Force was appointed by the Beaufort County Council to determine the disposition of the 156 acre tract of land adjacent to Victoria Bluff Heritage Preserve. Following discussion, Victoria Bluff Addition was approved as a protection project.

Budget Committee

Stuart Greeter reported that the Chairman of the Budget Committee, Senator Nell Smith, is not longer a member of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board. Thus, the Budget Committee did not meet. Mr. Greeter said that he had three minor changes in the Heritage Land Trust Fund budget and asked that they be considered in Executive Session.

Strategic Planning Committee

Tom Kohlsaas reported that the Strategic Planning Committee has developed a first draft of a strategic plan for the Heritage Trust

Program. Since that was begun, it was discovered that the Wildlife Department has initiated a strategic planning process for the entire Department. Mr. Kohlsaas will work on developing these plans in unison. Major issues pointed out in the Heritage Trust Program strategic plan are: 1) chronic underfunding, and 2) program status within the Wildlife Department. Important strategies to be undertaken include: 1) create a new division; 2) impact fee for land acquisition; and, 3) additional state appropriated funds. The need for state appropriated funds is highlighted by the fact that we are currently paying office rent with donated funds.

Comments from the Executive Director

Dr. Timmerman reported that the Wildlife Department has been forced to absorb several budget cuts. As a result we have cut back on travel and equipment in an effort to accommodate these budget cuts. Dr. Timmerman feels that the interest in biodiversity in South Carolina is increasing. However, if the Heritage Trust Program wishes to expand in the next two years, they will probably have to depend on new sources of revenues rather than state funds. Dr. Timmerman encouraged the HTAB to continue developing a strategic plan as he thought that was very important.

Protection Project Update

Stuart Greeter reported that we expect to acquire Windmill High Pond and the Ward Lumber Company property on the Little Pee Dee River in the near future. Hopefully, we will also acquire the Vaughn property, McCall property, and the ACE Basin Islands before the end of the year. If that is accomplished, our annual report should show acquisition of approximately 6,500 acres at an average cost of \$250 per acre. That would result in an admirable Heritage Land Trust Fund annual report to the Legislature for 1991.

Publicity on Property Donations

This topic was deferred for discussion at the HTAB meeting.

Freedom of Information Act Opinion

This topic was deferred for discussion at the HTAB meeting.

Executive Session

A motion was made and passed to go to Executive Session to discuss proposed acquisition of properties. Following the Executive Session the Board passed a motion to adopt several changes to the Heritage Land Trust Fund budget. Those changes including paying 67% of fair market value for the Ward Lumber Company property, adding \$5,000 to appropriation for the Vaughn property, appropriating \$1,000 for gates at Nipper Creek Heritage Preserve, and approving the Huggins property for acquisition.

Next Meeting

The next Heritage Trust Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for November 7 and will be planned to be held in the vicinity of Caesar's Head.

The meeting was adjourned.

Heritage Land Trust Fund Budget summary for 1991

8/13/91

Project Name	County	Expenditure
1991 Expenditures		
Ashmore Addition (Padgett)	Greenville	75,000
Deveaux Bank	Charleston	
Green's Shell Ring	Beaufort	83,000
Waccamaw Bridges	Horry	234,000
Milford Plantation Appraisal	Sumter	5,000
Ashe, Beet Islands Acq Cost	Beaufort	18,000
Cultural Areas Protection Plan	Statewide	30,000

		445,000
1991 Commitments		
Bennett's Bay Addition	Clarendon	80,000
Cartwheel Bay Addition	Horry	145,000
Sandhills Bay	Clarendon	159,000
Saluda County Highponds	Saluda	54,000
Mt. Pleasant Church Bay	Lee	82,000
Lewis Ocean Bay Addition	Horry	793,000
Ashe, Beet, Big, Boler Is.	Beaufort	50,000
Hazel Lake	Aiken	939,000
Windmill Highpond	Aiken	29,000
* LPD River Addn. (Ward)	Marion	107,000
LPD State Park Bay	Marion	120,000
Tilghman Addition	Marion	7,000
Savage Bay Addn. (Trivett)	Kershaw	14,000
* LPD River Addn. (Vaughn)	Horry	982,000
Black Creek	Darlington	37,000
GPD River (McCall)	Darlington	772,000
Savage Bay Addn. (McPhatter)	Kershaw	19,000
Steven's Creek Addn. (FPB)	McCormick	141,000
LPD River Addn. (GP)	Marion	4,650,000
Statewide Archeaol. Survey	Statewide	30,000
Buzzard Roost H.P. Road Work	Oconee	5,000
Large Areas Planning Grants	Statewide	5,000
Flat Creek Gates/Road Work	Lancaster	2,000

	TOTAL	9,222,000
Proposed Additions:		
Victoria Bluff Addn.	Beaufort	100,000
LPD River Addn. (Huggins)	Horry	236,000
Nipper Creek HP Gates	Richland	1,000

		337,000
Reserved Approp. Sav. R. Bluffs		195,000
Approx. Jan. 1991 Cash Balance:		3,405,000
Anticipated Revenue in 1991		2,200,000

Total Cash Available in 1991		5,800,000

HLTF Budget summary, page 2

Approved Expenditures - No Time Frame

Dukes Bay	Hampton	363,000
Long Branch Bay	Barnwell	80,000
Savannah River Bluffs Addn.	Aiken	332,000
York Subdivision Outcrop	York	30,000
Branchville Bay	Orangeburg	50,000
Dalzell Bay	Sumter	50,000
Halfway Gut Branch Bay	Dorchester	30,000
Reevesville Bay	Dorchester	20,000
Fish Haul Creek	Beaufort	100,000
Barton Bay	Allendale	255,000

		1,310,000

NOTE: All expenditures must meet State approval requirements and accounting standards.

HLTF PRIORITY BUDGET

8-13-91

January 1, 1991 Balance:		3,405,000
Expenditures to Date		(445,000)
Definite Commitments		
LPD River Addn. (Ward)	107,000	
Ashe, Beet, Big, Boler Is.	50,000	
Windmill Highpond	29,000	
Tilghman Addition	7,000	
Savage Bay Addn. (Trivett)	14,000	
LPD State Park Bay	120,000	
Savage Bay Addn. (McPhatter)	19,000	
Black Creek Property	37,000	
GPD River (McCall)	772,000	
LPD River Addn. (Vaughn)	982,000	
Facilities and Plans	42,000	
	-----	(2,179,000)
Other Commitments		
Glassy Mtn. Addn. (Padget)	95,000	
Glassy Mtn. Addn. (Mauldin est)	90,000	
Steven's Creek Addn. (FPB)	141,000	
Sav. Riv. Bluffs (parking)	20,000	
	-----	(346,000)
Revenues Expected by Dec. 30, 1991		2,200,000
Projected Balance, Dec. 30, 1991		2,635,000

Potential Large Area Projects		
LPD River Addn. (GP)*, 20,546 Ac.	4,650,000	
F. Beidler Forest Addn., 13,500 Ac.	5,000,000	
Pocotaligo Swamp, 12,000 Ac.	3,000,000	
	-----	(12,650,000)
Additional Funds Needed:		10,015,000
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