

Minutes
S.C. Heritage Trust Advisory Board
August 3, 1995
Savannah River Ecology Lab
Aiken, S.C.

Members Present

Dr. Whit Gibbons, Chairman
Dr. John Dean
Mr. Chris Judge (for Terry Ferguson)
Mr. Bruce Sahlman
Dr. George Vogt
Mr. Jeff Baughman (for Hugh Ryan)
Mr. Richard Price (for Russ McCoy)
Mr. Harry Doswell (for Cary Chamblee)
Mr. Billy McTeer (for Brock Conrad)
Dr. James Timmerman
Mr. Mike Foley (for Grace McKown)

Others Present

Mr. Stuart Greeter
Mr. Steve Bennett
Mr. Chris Rigby
Mr. Ken Prosser
Mr. John Watford
Ms. Beth LeMaster
Mr. Neils Taylor
Mr. Greg Lucas

Members Absent

Mr. Jack Lunn
Mr. Tony Merck
Dr. Bruce Rippeteau
Dr. Tony Ganong

Dr. Gibbons called the meeting to order and called the roll.

Approval of May 4 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the May 4, 1995 Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) meeting. The motion was approved.

Comments from the Director

Dr. Timmerman discussed the budget situation and stated that Governor Beasley had vetoed all new appropriations and cut all state agency budgets five percent. As a result, the Department's base budget decreased \$1.7 million from last year.

On the federal side, Dr. Timmerman said the general consensus among the new Congress is that government should be downsized, responsibilities should go back to the states and property rights should be protected.

In regard to wildlife management activities, Dr. Timmerman stated that we are now reaching a crossroads. He said the sales of hunting licenses have leveled out and are not keeping pace with the growth of the population. As a result, additional revenues will have to come from other sources.

In contrast, Dr. Timmerman said more people are participating in bird watching, hiking and canoeing activities. In an effort to enhance these activities, Dr. Timmerman said he is excited about the possibility of establishing a federal biodiversity funding initiative for preservation and management of nongame areas. The initiative would operate in the same manner as the Pittman-Robertson bill that requires a state match for funding of game management activities. The biodiversity funding initiative would derive revenue from taxes on bird seed, binoculars and other items that relate to biodiversity.

Dr. Timmerman also mentioned the S.C. Legacy Fund as a new source of possible funding for biodiversity projects.

Dr. Dean stated that the required state match for the funding initiative could be met through the Heritage Land Trust Fund. He said that currently over \$2 million a year is put into new projects and it would be important that federal legislation let us qualify for the match in this manner.

Billy Mcteer stated that if the bill passed in its present form, the Wildlife Diversity Section would receive 2 - 4 million federal dollars a year.

Finally, Dr. Timmerman said the new incoming DNR Board Chairman has recommended that new board member Joe Edens represent the Section by serving on the Heritage Trust Advisory Board. Dr. Timmerman added that Mr. Edens could be very helpful with his background in real estate.

Other Business

After the mid-day presentation by Dr. Mario Fiori, Dr. John Dean said the Natural Areas Committee reconvened and agreed that Dr. Fiori's presentation was consistent with the long-term objectives of the HTAB. As a result, Dr. Dean stated that the Committee recommends as a motion that HTAB endorse creation of the Savannah River National Environmental Park. Dr. Dean said a letter of support should be sent from the Board to Dr. Fiori, the Governor and the Congressional Delegation urging that they take positive action on this matter. The motion was seconded and approved. Dr. Gibbons said he would write the letter representing the Board. Dr. Timmerman said he would also write a letter of support.

Next, Stuart reported that the S.C. Department of Transportation has requested an access easement through the corner of one of our properties. He displayed a map and described the subject area as being a dirt road in the western corner of the Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve in Horry County. Stuart pointed out a 1,000 acre tract on the western side of the preserve and stated that the DOT is likely to acquire this site as mitigation for construction of the Conway By-Pass. In a letter received from DOT, Stuart said they expressed a willingness to transfer the property to the DNR as an addition to the Waccamaw River Preserve once restoration of the

floodplain on the site is completed. Stuart said the request is for a 300' long by 66' wide strip along the dirt road. He added that staff recommends approval of the easement.

Dr. Dean suggested adding a condition in the easement to ensure that DNR will receive the land. He then made a motion that DNR grant DOT an access easement along the dirt road on the condition that DOT transfer the mitigation property to DNR once restoration of the floodplain is completed. Stuart said he would work with the legal staff to finalize the agreement. The motion was seconded and approved.

Cultural Areas Committee

In regard to the Palmetto Fort project, Dr. Vogt reported that the Resolution Trust Corporation is offering an easement on the site, which was one of the northernmost lines of defense during the Civil War in Charleston. Chris Judge said the RTC is in a hurry to complete this and he anticipates sending out copies of one easement for protection of archaeological resources, and another for protection of 80 acres of wetlands. Chris added that a mail vote by HTAB members may be needed to approve the easements before the next regularly scheduled meeting. Dr. Vogt said the committee recommends proceeding with the easements, but wants to ensure that the language is in the proper form before executing the documents.

Natural Areas Committee

Dr. John Dean said the committee had no action items, but did review the Edisto River Basin project that was presented earlier in the day. Dr. Dean said this led to a discussion about long range planning and large area projects. He added that some of the concerns that emerged from the discussion included financial climate, location and the fact that we operate at fair market values.

Other Business

Dr. Vogt distributed copies of Federal Archaeology to Board members and noted that an article about Buzzard's Island was included in the magazine.

Next, Billy McTeer said a slide presentation about the biodiversity funding initiative is available portraying both a state and national perspective. Billy urged members to view the presentation.

Finally, Dr. Gibbons distributed copies of articles written about the Heritage Trust Program. Stuart commended Greg Lucas for his work in writing articles about the program and inviting the media to attend press conferences.

Budget Committee

HTAB entered executive session and Stuart presented the budget. HTAB returned to regular session and a motion was made to approve the budget as presented to include acquisition of the Gopher Tortoise Addition, Brasstown Creek and Daws Island. The motion was seconded and approved.

As a final note, Dr. Dean stated that once the S.C. Legacy Fund gets underway, he would advise the Board to get together and form a priority list of acquisition projects. Dr. Gibbons stated the Board will stay in touch with Ken Driggers and call a meeting if needed.

Adjourn.

Heritage Land Trust Fund Approved Expenditures:

July 3, 1995

Approx. January 1, 1995 Cash Balance:	1,703,000
1986-90 Interest Accumulations:	504,000
Revenues Expected by December 30, 1995:	1,600,000

Less:

1995 Expenditures and Obligations:

Craig Pond Conserv. Ease.	Aiken	0
Rock Hill Blackjacks-Albright	York	(167,000)
Waccamaw River Addn.-Burroughs	Horry	(7,000)
Waccamaw River Addn.-Schultz	Horry	(411,000)
Dungannon Plantation	Charleston	(528,000)
Aiken Co. Gopher Tortoise	Aiken	(213,000)
Rock Hill Blackjacks Addn.-City	York	(9,000)

Fixed Costs:

Preserve Management	(160,000)
Archaeology Contract	(35,000)
Land Protection Asst.	(35,000)
Roadwork and Gates (Pacolet)	(14,000)

(1,579,000)

Total Cash Available in 1995:

2,228,000

Less Commitments:

Cathedral Bay Addn.	Bamberg	(33,000)
Stoney Creek Battery	Beaufort	(28,000)
South Williman Island	Beaufort	0
Captain Cannons Sheep Pasture	Darlington	(263,000)
Buzzard Roost Addn.-Radar	Oconee	(122,000) (-153,000)
Hitchcock Woods	Aiken	(15,000)
Henderson HP Addn.-Boyleston	Aiken	(57,000)
LPDHP Addn.-White	Horry	(48,000)
Dargan HP Addn.-IP	Horry	(900,000) (-123,000)
Lynchburg Savannah-Clark	Lee	(625,000)
Old Island-TNC	Beaufort	0
Gopher Branch	Aiken	(29,000)
Rock Hill Blackjacks-Marshall	York	(162,000)

Fixed Costs:

Segars HP Footbridge	Darlington	(15,000)
Access Facilities	Statewide	(40,000)
Bennett's Bay Reforestation	Clarendon	(15,000)

(2,352,000)

Proposed Additions (8-3-95):

Aiken Gopher Tortoise HP Addn.	Aiken	(356,000)
Brasstown Creek	Oconee	(481,000)
Daws Island	Beaufort	(66,000)

(903,000)

CURRENT ESTIMATED BALANCE ON January 1, 1996

(1,027,000)

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
Barton Bay	Allendale	255,000
Mt. Pleasant Church Bay	Lee	82,000
Hazel Lake	Aiken	939,000
Sandhills Bay	Clarendon	159,000
Saluda County Highponds	Saluda	54,000
Cartwheel Bay Addn.	Horry	145,000
Glassy Mountain Addn.	Pickens	395,000
Fort Lamar	Charleston	318,000
Little Pee Dee River-IP	Marion	2,546,000
Fish Haul Creek	Beaufort	100,000

	TOTAL:	5,948,000

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

HERITAGE LAND TRUST FUND PROJECTED BUDGET

7-3-95

January 1, 1995 Balance:	1,703,000
1986-90 Interest Accumulations:	504,000
Expected 1995 Revenues:	1,600,000
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	3,807,000

Less Definite Commitments:	Acres	
Craig Pond	264	0
Rock Hill Blackjacks	95	167,000
Waccamaw River Addn.	8	7,000
Waccamaw River Addn.	192	411,000
Dungannon Plantation	643	528,000
Aiken Gopher Tortoise	366	213,000
Rock Hill Blackjacks Addn.	73	9,000
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	1,641	1,335,000

Less Fixed Costs:	
Preserve Management	160,000
Archaeology Contract	35,000
Land Protection Asst.	35,000
Pacolet HP Parking	14,000
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TOTAL	244,000

1995 Revenues Available:	2,228,000
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Expected 1995 Expenditures:	Acres	
Hitchcock Woods	2,000	15,000
Old Island-TNC	400	0
Gopher Branch	11	29,000
S. Williman Is.	2,760	0
Buzzard Roost Addn.	216	122,000
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TOTAL	5,387	166,000

7,028 Ac @ \$1,746,000 = Average Cost of \$248 / Acre

Total Expected 1995 Expenditures:	1,745,000
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Projected Balance, Jan. 1, 1996	<hr/> <hr/> 2,062,000
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