

MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
August 6, 1998
Columbia, S. C.

Members Present

Dr. Terry Ferguson (Chair)
Mr. Bruce Sahlman
Mr. Jon Leader (for Bruce Rippeteau)
Mr. Rodger Stroup
Mr. Joe Mills (for Hugh Ryan)
Mr. Dick Scott, III
Mr. Freddy Vang
Mr. Corky Lee
Dr. Paul Sandifer
Mr. Jim Knight (for Tony Ganong)
Mr. Mike Foley (for Buddy Jennings)

Members Absent

Mr. Tony Merck (Vice-Chair)
Mr. Michael Todd Smith
Dr. Julius Leary

Others Present

Mr. Butch Clay
Ms. Rebecca Parke
Dr. Harry Shealy
Dr. Bert Pittman
Mr. Mike Thomas
Mr. Mike Willis
Mr. Benny Reeves
Mr. Stuart Greeter
Mr. Chris Judge
Mr. Johnny Stowe
Mr. Ken Prosser
Mr. Steve Bennett
Mr. Dan Dobbins
Mr. Tim Smith
Mr. Jeff Wilkinson
Mr. Jeff Parker
Mr. Cary Chamblee
Ms. Kathy Boyle
Mr. Bob Bailey
Mr. Brock Conrad

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

Approval of May 7 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the May 7, 1998 Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) meeting. The motion was approved.

Requesting Bids on Appraisals and Surveys

To answer questions concerning the selection of appraisers and surveyors, Benny Reeves introduced Mike Thomas, the State Engineer from the Budget and Control Board. In the past, Corky Lee stated that staff solicited bids for services such as appraisals and surveys. Then, he said they were informed that the practice was no longer acceptable. Mr. Thomas explained that according to the law, engineers, architects and surveyors are forbidden to participate in solicitation based solely on a fee. He said the selection should be based on the firm's qualifications to meet the requirements of the job. If the first firm of choice cannot meet the requirements, Mr.

Thomas said that selecting the second firm of choice who can fulfill the requirements was acceptable. Although Mr. Lee and Mr. Sahlman expressed their displeasure with this procedure, Mr. Reeves commented that the system did work and his office tries to make the land acquisition process move as smoothly as possible.

Comments from Members of the Public

Butch Clay, from S.C. Forest Watch, informed HTAB that he wanted to convey to them the results of a biotic assessment conducted on Jocassee Gorges. He added that his organization financed the study. Mr. Clay also introduced his colleague, Ms. Rebecca Parke.

He distributed the report and some related information to HTAB members and stated that L. L. "Chick" Gaddy conducted the assessment. Mr. Clay noted that it revealed that the gorges contain more rare species than those listed in the Heritage Trust database. In view of this study, Mr. Clay stated that the tract is still largely unexplored and needs to be further inventoried. He asked that a final determination regarding the status of the area be delayed for at least three years. During that time, Mr. Clay said a full scientific review of the property and the management plan could be completed. Within approximately one year, he stated that S.C. Forest Watch and the Chatooga River Watershed hoped to hold a conference by which they would invite nationally eminent conservation biologists to examine and publicize the area. Mr. Clay said he would personally like the entire Jocassee Gorges designated as a heritage preserve.

Mr. Lee applauded Forest Watch for financing the study; he and Mr. Clay briefly discussed the management implications of the report.

Tom Kohlsaas thanked Mr. Clay for his work and asked if they could incorporate his occurrence records into the Heritage Trust database. Mr. Clay agreed.

Dr. Paul Sandifer also thanked Mr. Clay and stated that the management plan does call for additional studies and surveys of the area. He added that it will take some time to complete this work and DNR is not going to do anything that will jeopardize the property. Dr. Sandifer said he had no problem with the three-year waiting period. He reminded everyone that the taxpayers contributed 11 million to this project, which entitles them to reasonable access to the site. Concerning a forestry plan, he stated they have not yet written one. When a plan is written, Dr. Sandifer said the public would have a chance to comment on it. Regarding placing the property under Heritage Trust, Dr. Sandifer mentioned the 100,000 acreage cap and said that raising the cap at this time would be difficult. He added that the areas within the gorges that need to be safeguarded should get the highest level of protection available.

Other Comments from the Public

Bob Bailey, from the Sportsman's Coalition, stated that their primary interest is outdoor

recreation. He expressed their support of DNR and the management plan for the area. Mr. Bailey added that they are confident the management plan will continue to improve. He asked that the department not lose sight of the fact that the area is and has been a working forest for more than a century. Mr. Bailey expressed the group's pleasure in learning about the discovery of new species and said that the findings meant that management works.

Natural Areas Committee

Joe Mills reported the Committee discussed three management plans and three additions to the budget. He stated that they would defer the budget additions to Executive Session.

1) Bennett's Bay HP Management Plan: Johnny Stowe discussed several minor changes in the plan. Then, a brief discussion was held on lightening strikes on heritage preserves.

2) Henderson HP Management Plan: Composed of a longleaf pine ecosystem, Mr. Stowe informed members that the preserve was first burned two years ago and will continue to be burned regularly. Although hunting is prohibited on the property, he reported that the public does enjoy using a fish pond on the site.

3) Lynchburg Savanna HP Management Plan: Mr. Stowe described the preserve as a botanically diverse site in Lee County composed of rich soils. Although Hugo destroyed most of the timber, he said regeneration was underway. Mr. Stowe also explained that a five-acre stand of loblolly pine will be thinned to provide future RCW habitat.

Mr. Mills said the committee as a motion recommends approval of the management plans. The motion was approved.

Bruce Sahlman commented that controlled burning was becoming a critical issue in the management of heritage preserves. In view of recent events in Florida, he stated it would be a good time for the Forestry Commission and Forestry Association to acquaint the public about the positive aspects of controlled burning. Mr. Lee made a motion that a committee be formed to come up with a plan on the best way to promote acceptance of controlled burning. He suggested the committee will include Bruce Sahlman representing Heritage Trust, Joe Mills representing the Forestry Commission, Bob Scott representing the Forestry Association, and possibly a representative of The Nature Conservancy. The motion to approve the committee was seconded and approved.

Cultural Areas Committee

Rodger Stroup reported the committee discussed two items.

1) Morris Island Lighthouse: Because of high maintenance costs, Mr. Stroup stated the committee recommends as a motion that Heritage Trust not take control of this resource.

2) North Island Lighthouse: Mr. Stroup said this structure was surrounded by DNR property at the Yawkey Center. He added that there may be an outside source of funding for upkeep. Mr. Stroup said the committee recommends as a motion acceptance of the North Island Lighthouse as a donation from the US Coast Guard if the Yawkey Foundation will agree to protect and maintain it in perpetuity.

Both motions were approved.

Freddy Vang asked why a mitigation bank did not exist for cultural areas as one did for natural areas. Chris Judge replied that work is underway on a strategy to set up a mitigation bank and Sandy Island is a pilot project to decide that strategy. Dr. Ferguson stated this is a national issue that is being discussed, although little is happening. Mr. Judge said that Sandy Island is the first place in the nation (to his knowledge) for archaeological mitigation. Dr. Ferguson asked the Board to consider this subject and come up with ideas to promote archaeological mitigation.

Budget Committee

HTAB entered Executive Session to discuss budget issues. HTAB returned to a regular session and voted to approve the capital improvement budget, the budget for approved expenditures and the preserve management budget.

Other Business

A) Bylaws: Stuart presented a final copy of the Bylaws and informed members that the document includes a provision for telephone voting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Bylaws. The motion was approved.

B) Committee Appointments: Dr. Ferguson stated that Mr. Vang would be appointed to the Natural Areas Committee. Regarding the Cultural Areas Committee, he proposed adding archaeologists Bill Green and Valerie Marcil from the Department of Archives and History, who would replace departed members Neils Taylor and Ken Sassaman. Dr. Ferguson reported that Vice-chair Tony Merck, whose term expires at the end of the year, does not wish to continue serving the Board. Regarding the Budget Committee, he proposed appointing Joe Mills, Rodger Stroup, Corky Lee and Toddy Smith as members along with Dr. Sandifer and the HTAB Chair. A motion was made and seconded to approve the committee appointments. The motion was approved.

Mr. Lee asked for a legal opinion on HTAB members voting by proxy.

C) Stewardship: Johnny Stowe distributed copies of the heritage preserve work plan for

the 1999 fiscal year. He summarized last year's accomplishments and outlined the tasks planned for the coming year.

D) Nominating Committee: Dr. Ferguson stated that his two-year term as HTAB Chair will expire at the end of the calendar year, as will the term of Vice-Chair Tony Merck. Therefore, he appointed Rodger Stroup, Brock Conrad and Toddy Smith to nominate a new HTAB Chair and Vice-Chair at the next meeting. Mr. Stroup will chair the committee.

E) Evaluation of HTP needs: Due to a lack of time, Dr. Ferguson said he would defer discussing this topic until the next meeting. However, he stated that Tom Kohlsaat would briefly comment on it. Mr. Kohlsaat gave out copies of a strategic plan and explained that the starting point evolved from the 1994 Strategic Plan. He said that this document includes developments that have occurred since then and ties into the DNR Strategic Plan. Mr. Kohlsaat said the plan suggested we take an ecoregional approach to planning and include outcome and performance measures. Dr. Ferguson asked members to review the plan and provide comments to Mr. Kohlsaat before the next meeting. He requested that the Board further examine and discuss it then.

Mr. Stroup offered the use of the Archives and History Center for the November HTAB meeting.

Besides the strategic plan, Dr. Ferguson stated that HTAB will discuss the nature of the acreage cap and the issues associated with Jocassee Gorges at the next meeting.

Regarding the use of grant funds for duck boxes at Congaree Creek, Mr. Lee said he thought the department could provide them at no charge. Mr. Conrad agreed.

Adjourn.

"PROPOSED"

Heritage Land Trust Fund Approved Expenditures:

August 6, 1998

Approx. January 1, 1998 Cash Balance:	1,462,365
Revenues Expected by December 30, 1998:	2,200,000

Total Funds Available:	3,662,365

Other Expenditures:

Pres Mgt (includes \$90,000 carryover)	(311,000)
Land Protection	(80,000)
Capital Improvements (\$42,892 Spent)	(459,900) (+312,500)
HP Artifact Cataloguing	(8,000)
NAP Photography Contrib.	(5,000)

	(863,900)

Less Commitments:

Bird Mtn. Coserve. Ease. N	Spartanburg	(1,000)
North Williman Is. (75)N	Beaufort	(14,000)
Fort Frederick (30)C	Beaufort	(21,000)
Greens Shell Encl. C	Beaufort	(118,000)
Aiken Gopher HP Addn.-Hurt(21)N	Aiken	(65,000)
Peters Creek HP Addn.-Hough(89)N	Spartanburg	(81,000) (+1,000)
Woods Bay HP Addn.-Moore(80)N	Sumter	(60,000)

		(360,000)

Additions:

Blackwell B A HP Addn. (54)N	Greenville	(725)
Rock Hill BJ HP Addn. (5)N	York	(58,850)
Lewis O B HP Trade-BBA(24)N	Horry	(13,675)
Lewis O B HP Trade-Vaught(24)N	Horry	(8,575)

		(81,825) (+81,825)

CURRENT ESTIMATED BALANCE ON January 1, 1999

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2,356,640 (-395,325)

(N) Natural Areas Project
 (C) Cultural Areas Project
 (#) Rank

**HERITAGE LAND TRUST FUND
PRESERVE MANAGEMENT BUDGET**

1 July 1998 - 30 June 1999
Fiscal Year 1998 (FY99)

1. PERSONAL SERVICES

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
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A. Classified Personnel

J. Stowe	36,000
J. Sorrow	16,000
M. Strayer	<u>12,500</u>

64,500 ----->	\$ 64,500
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B. Temporary Grants/Temporary Personnel

New Biologist	28,000
A. Dye	8,000
C. Robinson	9,000
T. Welsh	8,000
Bara's Tech	<u>4,000</u>

57,000 ----->	\$ 57,000
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SUBTOTAL FOR PERSONAL SERVICES	\$121,500
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2. CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

A. Prescribed Burns ----->	\$48,000
B. Monitoring/Bio-surveys ----->	\$ 8,500
C. Tractor Work ----->	\$ 2,000
D. Boundary Marking ----->	\$ 3,000
E. Education/Training/Registration Fees ----->	\$ 2,000
F. Repair/Maintenance ----->	\$ 4,000
G. Invasive Plant Control ----->	\$ 7,000

SUBTOTAL FOR CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	\$74,500
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3. SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

A. Herbicides/Sprayers/Seed/Fertilizer/Lime ----->	\$5,000
B. Maps/Photos/Film ----->	\$2,000
C. Printing ----->	\$4,000
D. Tools ----->	\$5,000
E. Prescribed Burning Supplies ----->	\$1,000
F. Vehicle Supplies ----->	\$1,000
G. Field Supplies ----->	\$4,000
H. Food/Drinks for Volunteers ----->	\$2,000

SUBTOTAL FOR SUPPLIES	\$24,000
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4. FIXED CHARGES

A. Rent ----->	\$5,000
B. Membership Fees ----->	\$ 500
C. Insurance ----->	\$4,000
SUBTOTAL FOR FIXED CHARGES	\$9,500

5. <u>TRAVEL</u> ----->	\$5,000
SUBTOTAL FOR TRAVEL	\$5,000

6. EQUIPMENT

A. Computer Set-Up for New Biologist ----->	\$ 4,000
B. Vehicle ----->	\$23,000
C. Camera ----->	\$ 500
D. Trailmaster Surveillance Camera ----->	\$ 3,500
D. Chain Saws ----->	\$ 1,000
E. Radios ----->	\$ 4,000
F. Brushmower ----->	\$ 1,500
G. Canoes ----->	\$ 2,500
SUBTOTAL FOR EQUIPMENT	\$40,000

7. <u>GASOLINE</u> ----->	\$ 4,000
SUBTOTAL FOR GASOLINE	\$ 4,000

8. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

A. Classified Salaries X 28% ----->	\$18,100
B. Temporary Grant Salaries X 28% ----->	\$10,100
C. Temporary Salaries X 9% ----->	\$ 1,900
SUBTOTAL FOR EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS	\$30,100

9. <u>CONTINGENCY</u> ----->	\$ 1,400
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GRAND TOTAL

310,800

1998 Heritage Preserve (HP) Capital Improvement Budget Additions
(Calendar Year Basis)

Aiken Gopher Tortoise HP:	
gates (8)	\$ 8,000*
longleaf pine seedlings	\$ 50
Bear Branch HP:	
gates (2)	\$ 2,000
Bennett's Bay HP:	
gates (2)	\$ 2,000
Brasstown Creek HP:	
gates (3)	\$ 3,000
trail	\$10,000
roadwork	\$ 6,000
parking area	\$ 1,500
Capers Island HP:	
dam repair	\$50,000
Chandler HP:	
parking area	\$ 4,000
Congaree Creek HP:	
gates (4)	\$ 4,000
interpretive improvements	\$ 2,000**
Dungannon HP:	
dam repair	\$50,000
boardwalk	\$20,000
interpretive improvements	\$ 4,000
roadwork	\$ 4,000
Fort Lamar HP:	
gates (2)	\$ 2,000
Forty Acre Rock HP:	
survey	\$15,000
wildlife observation platform	\$ 3,000

Great Pee Dee HP:	
barricades	\$ 5,000
roadwork	\$15,000
interpretive improvements	\$ 5,000
Green's Shell Enclosure HP:	
interpretive improvements	\$ 2,000
Lewis Ocean Bay HP:	
roadwork	\$20,000
Little Pee Dee HP:	
roadwork	\$10,000
Longleaf Pine HP	
gates (4)	\$ 4,000
roadwork	\$20,000
parking area	\$15,000
longleaf pine planting	\$10,250***
Lynchburg Savannah HP	
gates (2)	\$ 2,000
Pacolet River HP:	
kiosks (2)	\$ 2,000
parking area	\$ 4,000
Peter's Creek HP:	
parking area	\$15,000
Rock Hill Blackjacks HP:	
bridge	\$ 1,000
Savage Bay HP:	
Observation Tower	\$12,000
Savannah River Bluffs HP:	
parking area	\$20,000
Segars-McKinnon HP:	
boardwalk	\$10,000
Shealy's Pond HP:	
survey	\$10,000
parking area	\$15,000

Waccamaw River HP:

hardwood seedlings for mitigation site	\$ 100
roadwork	\$ 5,000
boatramp	\$35,000

Watson HP:

roadwork	\$10,000
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Wood's Bay HP

gates (4)	\$ 4,000
intepretive info	\$ 2,000

General Expenditures for Items to be used on Various HPs:

Boundary Paint:	\$ 3,000
Signs:	\$10,000
Locks:	<u>\$ 3,000</u>

GRAND TOTAL: **\$459,900**

* Gate prices include estimates for associated barricades on either side of gates. Gate prices will vary according to size of gate, and whether DNR or outside contractor constructs and installs them.

** Interpretive Improvements = kiosks, interpretive signs, safety rails, etc.

*** Longleaf planting includes site prep, trees, planting, and 2 post-planting herbicide applications.

Amount Spent from

<u>1 January 1998 - 21 July 1998:</u>	\$42,892
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