

MINUTES
Heritage Trust Advisory Board
Wednesday, February 1, 1984
Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia

Members Present

Sid Gauthreaux (Chairman)
Walt Ahearn (Vice Chairman)
Arthur Ravenel
Wade Batson
Christie Fant
Ed Drane
Claudette Cureton
Gurdon Tarbox
Robert Stephenson
Pat Walker
Joe Watson
Rudy Mancke
Jim Timmerman

Other Attendees

Tom Kohlsaat
Stuart Greeter
Steve Bennett
John Cely
Doug Rayner
Steve McCalla
Jim Sorrow
John Nelson
Mike Foley

Members Absent

Ed Burgess
Bob Lumpkin
Henry Savage

Dr. Gauthreaux called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM in Room 335 of the Rembert C. Dennis Building. Chairman Gauthreaux introduced Steve McCalla (PRT), Mike Foley (PRT), and John Nelson (SCW&MRD) and welcomed them to the meeting. The Board then voted to approve the minutes of the October 28th meeting.

Old Business

Tom Kohlsaat reported on the status of the "Check for Wildlife" advertising campaign. Products developed and being distributed under the campaign include: TV spots, written and recorded radio spots, billboards, a camera ready ad for newspapers, a free calender for accountants who volunteer to help, a pelican poster, and a "Fun Book." The Nature Conservancy film entitled "Garden of Eden" was then shown to the group and Tom noted that the film could be used with a trailer at the beginning or end noting preservation work accomplished by the S. C. Nature Conservancy or the Check for Wildlife program. Several members noted the need for a short slide show of preservation accomplishments in South Carolina. Mr. Kohlsaat agreed to provide one.

Budget Committee

Tom Kohlsaas reported that approximately half the budget year has expired and approximately 40% of the annual budget has been spent. Federal funding will probably be \$10,000 less next year and continue to decline. Hopefully five federally funded positions will be included under state appropriations next year.

Natural Areas Committee

Dr. Batson recommended that the Board approve a grant program to assist with inventory work. The grants would come from "Check for Wildlife" revenues. A motion was made and passed to approve the program. Dr. Batson recommended that the Board approve the Anderson Hardwoods and Congaree Bottomlands as official protection projects. The Board passed motions to approve the projects.

Cultural Areas Committee

Ms. Fant reported that the Committee discussed how to integrate protection of cultural sites into the Heritage Trust Program. She recommended that Marion Edmunds, with Fred Brinkman's approval, be appointed to the Cultural Areas Committee and be asked to look into possible tax benefits to property owners who dedicate easements under the Heritage Trust Program. The recommendation was made in the form of a motion and passed. The next Cultural Areas Committee meeting was scheduled for March 28th.

Protection Projects Update

Stuart Greeter commended LaBruce Alexander for obtaining a commitment from Georgia Pacific to donate ~~200 acres of Gopher Tortoise habitat~~ for ^{750 acres} protection. Ms. Alexander also obtained a commitment from Ted Turner for the donation of a conservation easement on St. Phillips Island. The last remaining owner of 40 Acre Rock has been contacted and The Nature Conservancy should obtain ownership of the rock soon. Clemson University has been contacted about registration of Clemson Forest and seems favorable. Georgia Power has been contacted about registering the only site for persistent trillium in South Carolina and seems favorable. The Oxypolis site should be transferred from The Nature Conservancy to the Wildlife Department by the next Board meeting. Lastly, spoiling is currently taking place on Bird Key-Stono and the spoil bank will hopefully provide suitable nesting habitat for the Brown Pelican in two years.

Other Business

Mr. Walt Ahearn reported that the Society of American Foresters have designated Stevens Creek and Victoria Bluff as natural areas and suggested that arrangements be made to present the awards to the Wildlife Commission.

Jim Sorrow presented the Victoria Bluff Management Plan to the Board. The Board approved the plan with a minor amendment allowing activities to prevent the spread of wildfire.

Jim Sorrow gave the Board background information on a request for improvement of an access road over the Watson property. An adjacent landowner currently has the to right to use the road to reach his property, but would like to improve the road. He is willing to impose some type of conservation easement on his property in turn for the access road improvement. Some of the Board members asked about the possibility of using an informal written agreement as opposed to an easement recorded with the county clerk's office. The Board withheld action until this question could be answered.

Dr. Timmerman asked that the Board list major goals and objectives for future years to help him in planning for Wildlife Department needs and priorities.

Tom Kohlsaat described Tommy Wyche's proposed legislation to control high rise developments on mountain ridges. The Board members generally agreed that such a proposal to introduce legislation should come from the Greenville County Legislative Delegation.

Tom Kohlsaat reported that a new house member, Rep. H. E. Pearce, Jr. may be appointed to the Board by the next meeting. Rep. Pearce is from the Grand Strand area.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 3rd at 10:00 AM in Columbia.

The meeting was adjourned.