

MINUTES

S. C. Heritage Trust Advisory Board Meeting  
Thursday, February 17, 1983  
Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia, SC

Members Present

Dr. Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr.  
Senator Arthur Ravenel  
Mr. Pat Walker  
Mr. Joe Frank Watson  
Mr. Rudy Mancke  
Mr. Walter T. Ahearn  
Mrs. Claudette Cureton  
Mrs. Christie Fant  
Dr. Wade T. Batson  
Dr. Robert L. Stephenson  
Dr. Robert L. Lumpkin  
Mr. Henry Savage  
Mr. Gurdon Tarbox  
Dr. James A. Timmerman  
Mr. Robert Marriott (for Ed Burgess)

Others Present

Mr. Jeff Fuller  
Ms. Kaye Dial  
Mr. Stuart Greeter  
Mr. Thomas Kohlsaas  
Mr. Robert Clark  
Mr. Mike Foley  
Mr. Doug Rayner  
Mr. Steve Bennett  
Ms. LaBruce Alexander  
Mr. Roger Jones

Members Absent

Rep. Daniel E. Winstead

Chairman Gauthreaux called the February 17th Heritage Trust Advisory Board Meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The September 30th meeting minutes were approved without change. Dr. Gauthreaux introduced Bob Marriott who was representing Ed Burgess, Mike Foley from PRT, and Roger Jones from TNC.

Budget Committee

Dr. Timmerman presented a slide/tape show on S. C. Wildlife Department activities and their economic impact. He stated that the Wildlife Department gets an annual appropriation of \$11 million which is less than 1/2 of 1% of the total State budget. Yet over half of the population in South Carolina enjoys hunting, fishing or wildlife observation. There is a return on the dollar of state money invested on the order of 80 to 1. Total private expenditures in the State for wildlife related activities is \$702 million.

Dr. Timmerman is the President of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and has met recently in Washington concerning Federal budget cuts. He stated that all wildlife agencies are being forced to cut their budgets. The total budget for the S. C. Wildlife Department is \$24.5 million with 46% of that State appropriated and the remainder Federal.



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Tom Kohlsaas handed out copies of the Nongame and Heritage Trust Program Budget for 1982-83. Senator Ravenel stated that money obtained under the tax checkoff program should be reserved for acquisition of land and not used for operations. He cited the State appropriation for research at the Marine Center in Charleston as a possible source of money for operations. Dr. Gauthreaux said he understood checkoff money could be used to conduct research on State designated endangered species, especially where Federal money could not be used. Rudy Mancke suggested stating all possible uses for checkoff funds when donations are requested. Senator Ravenel pointed out that no money will be available for acquisitions if it is continually utilized for operations. He recommended adoption of the present budget and stated that he will try to find additional funds for the Heritage Trust Program so checkoff money can be reserved for acquisition. The following motion was made and passed:

The Budget Committee will formulate guidelines for the expenditure of the tax checkoff funds.

Dr. Gauthreaux stated it is understood that the guidelines will be developed in coordination with the priorities and desires of the Natural Areas Committee. The guidelines will be presented to the HTAB and the Wildlife Commission.

A motion was made and passed to approve the budget that was presented at this meeting.

Natural Areas Committee

Dr. Batson presented documentation on three proposed protection projects and indicated that the Natural Areas Committee recommends HTAB approval of all three areas. Approval was given for: 1) Saluda County Highponds; 2) Canby's Cowbane Bay; and 3) Peak Natural Area (Frasera caroliniensis). These three projects will be added to the Approved Projects list.

Dr. Rayner reported that he had applied for funds from the Coastal Energy Impact Fund for survey work in four coastal counties. He indicated that the program will be receiving \$17,500 to undertake this project.

Steve Bennett reported that the staff is undertaking a survey of Carolina Bays in the State. Aerial photos will be used to determine vegetative cover and degree of disturbance. The survey will select several Carolina Bays which warrant protection under the Heritage Trust Program. Steve is also undertaking a herpetological survey. Various researchers around the State have volunteered time if they can be reimbursed for travel expenses.

Cultural Areas Committee

Mrs. Fant stated that the Cultural Areas Committee had nothing to report. Chairman Gauthreaux noted that Mrs. Bunting was Chairman of that committee and suggested that the committee appoint ~~at~~ ~~the~~ Chairman.



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Update on Protection Projects

Stuart Greeter presented a signed registration agreement on Craig Pond which was approved. Mr. Greeter then gave brief updates on current protection activities concerning Sugarloaf Mountain, a Pine barrens Treefrog site, and Sarracenia jonesii. LaBruce Alexander reported that the Cat Island tract will be transferred to the Yawkey Center in the near future and negotiations to protect an Oxypolis canbyi site are progressing favorably.

Mr. Greeter reminded Board Members that the approved protection projects list in their notebook can be updated. Simply discard the last page in the notebook and insert the pages included in each mailing.

Other Business

Steve Bennett distributed a report on the environmental effects of harvesting peat in South Carolina. The impact on rare and endangered species would be significant. The Department of Energy funded the feasibility study for harvesting peat in our state. Dr. Gauthreaux asked Steve to prepare a statement regarding peatland development for the Board to consider at the next meeting. The statement may include recommendations for regulatory authority.

Mr. Walt Ahearn was nominated for Vice Chairman to the Heritage Trust Advisory Board and was elected with a unanimous vote.

Tom Kohlsaas informed the Board that Mrs. Carolyn Hutson and Mr. Edwin Drane have been suggested to the Governor as appointees to the Advisory Board from Congressional District #1. He asked for other suggestions from Board members.

Mr. Kohlsaas reported that the section has recently printed two reports. They are as follows: 1) "Man's Impact on the Vegetation, Avifauna, and Herpetofauna of South Carolina's Barrier Islands: A Habitat Approach to carrying Capacity"; and 2) "American Alligator Investigations, Management Recommendations and Current Research - 1982".

Schedule Time and Date for Next Meeting

Mr. Kohlsaas informed the Board that Mrs. Bunting had invited the members to Charleston for the next meeting and suggested a field trip to Ashley River Road. A meeting was tentatively scheduled for April 29th.

The meeting was adjourned.

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