

**Minutes
Heritage Trust Advisory Board**

**February 20, 1997
Columbia, S. C.**

Members Present

Dr. Terry Ferguson (Chair)
Dr. John Dean (Vice-Chair)
Dr. Julius Leary
Mr. Tony Merck
Mr. Bruce Sahlman
Ms. Mary Edmonds
Mr. Joe Mills
Mr. Dick Scott, III
Mr. Mark Corley (for Cary Chamblee)
Mr. Corky Lee
Mr. Brock Conrad (for Dr. Timmerman)
Mr. Jim Knight (for Dr. Ganong)

Others Present

Mr. Tom Kohlsaat
Mr. Stuart Greeter
Mr. John Cely
Mr. Chris Judge
Dr. Bert Pittman
Mr. Steve Bennett
Mr. Tim Ivey
Sen. Dick Elliott
Rep. Billy Witherspoon
Mr. Ken Prosser
Mr. Willis Yarberry
Mr. Ed Duncan
Mr. Hank Stallworth
Mr. Buford Mabry
Mr. Gerritt Jobsis

Members Absent

Mr. Jack Lunn
Dr. Bruce Rippeteau
Ms. Grace Young

Dr. Terry Ferguson called the roll and introduced new Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) members Corky Lee and Julius Leary. He announced that Mr. Lee represents the DNR Board and Dr. Leary will be representing District Three. Next, Dr. Ferguson introduced Senator Dick Elliott and Representative Billy Witherspoon, members of the Horry County legislative delegation.

Representative Witherspoon stated that he and Senator Elliott are concerned about access to properties in Horry County, especially along Highway 9. He noted that several existing access points to the river are in poor shape, privately owned, and offer little parking. He added that they need access from the highway and he is asking for our assistance to construct a boat ramp and a parking area beside Highway 9 and the Waccamaw River.

Senator Elliott reiterated Representative Witherspoon's remarks and said that Highway 9 is the only passageway that will serve citizens on the upstream side of the Waccamaw. Approximately five years

ago, the senator said that they conducted a study with DNR to find out the costs of providing access to the river. The study revealed that a boat ramp and parking area at the proposed location was the most critical need for the county. Senator Elliott said the estimated cost to construct the facility is \$440,000. He reported that funding sources for the project would include \$25,000 from a trust established by Ms. Emily Schultz, \$118,000 from the Horry County Water Recreation Fund, \$10,000 from the Horry County Council, and \$100,000 from the County Transportation Committee. The senator added that County Council will probably contribute an additional \$50,000 and he anticipates the accumulation of another \$72,000 in the County Wildlife Fund. To complete the loop of many agencies coming together to make this facility a reality, he requested that Heritage Trust provide \$75,000 to the project.

Dr. Dean asked for clarification on construction of the parking area. Brock Conrad informed him that the project will involve mitigation and a large amount of wetland filling. He added that the area will provide 36 parking spaces for boats and trailers and spaces for other vehicles as well. Stuart Greeter displayed a diagram of the proposed area and described the site. Dr. Dean commented that Heritage Trust has already made a significant commitment to the project. He also noted that the enabling legislation uses the word "minimal" when referring to access facilities and property management. Dr. Ferguson thanked the legislators for appearing before the board and said the issue would be considered in Executive Session.

Approval of November 14 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 14, 1996 HTAB meeting. The motion was approved.

Comments from the Director

Brock Conrad announced that Dr. Timmerman was in Washington working on funding sources for several areas, including the Jocassee Gorges project.

Other Business

Heritage Preserve List: Ken Prosser distributed copies of new heritage preserve lists and announced that we now have 51 heritage preserves in 25 different counties totaling 73,851 acres.

News Articles: Stuart passed out copies of several newspaper articles highlighting recent accomplishments of the program.

Annual Report: Ken distributed copies of the 1996 Annual Report to the General Assembly. He briefly discussed the report and noted that, during the calendar year, we acquired 4,911 acres of property that served to protect 68 rare elements, establish five new heritage preserves and expand

three existing preserves. In addition, he said a conservation easement was signed protecting an important archaeological site.

Jocassee Gorges Update: Tom stated that Governor Beasley fully supports placing \$10 million in the state bond bill to help with the purchase of the property. Several weeks ago, he said the Governor toured the property and publicly endorsed the project. Tom added that the possibility of a major donation exists through a donor working with the Conservation Fund.

Cultural Areas Committee

Mary Edmonds announced that Governor Beasley has awarded a grant from the Legacy Trust Fund for \$313,833 to purchase the Congaree Creek site in Richland County. She also reported that two items came before the Committee.

1. **Fort Frederick:** A proposed 2.66 acre donation from the Department of the Navy. Due to the proximity of the Fort to an existing boat ramp, Mary said Chris Judge expressed some concern about erosion of the site and she noted that the committee discussed the possibility of closing the ramp. Other members expressed concerns about the liability associated with a boat landing on Heritage Trust property. Brock stated there is a degree of risk, but he is willing to accept it and take the property. A motion was made to accept the Fort Frederick property and keep the boat ramp open. Further, the motion would include the understanding that long-term maintenance of the boat ramp not lie solely with Heritage Trust. The motion was approved.
2. **Green's Shell Enclosure:** Chris said that the Town of Hilton Head Island is interested in purchasing property beside the preserve, which includes part of the protected archaeological site. He explained that Hilton Head is submitting a grant to PRT and they would like to know if we would commit to funding 50 percent of the fair market value of the property. Chris said the site consists of 3.3 acres, but he does not know the appraised value. He said the town manager would like us to send a letter of support before the grant deadline of February 28. A motion was made that we respond by letter before the deadline expressing our support, but not committing any funds to the project. The motion was approved.

Natural Areas Committee

Dr. Dean reported that the Sandhills State Forest mitigation is no longer an agenda item. Next, he deferred to Steve Bennett for an update on Botany Bay. Steve explained that the department owns the 3,000 acre plantation, but it has a life estate through Ms. Margaret Pepper. He said she has asked us to devise a management plan that will begin after expiration of the life estate. Steve said work is underway to develop a management strategy for the property. He added that the site will eventually

be dedicated as a heritage preserve.

Budget Committee

HTAB entered executive session and Stuart presented the budget. HTAB returned to a regular session and voted to approve the budget.

Regarding HTAB appointments, Dr. Dean noted that the departure of Dr. Whit Gibbons leaves a void in the number of professional scientists serving on the board. He expressed concern that new appointments are not meeting legislative mandates set forth for the program. Dr. Ferguson asked staff for a report on this at the next meeting.

Finally, Tom Kohlsaas announced that the department requested a recurring state budget appropriation of \$300,000 for the section. However, he said that amount is now \$100,000. Tom said this issue will be likely be decided in the House within the next week. He asked HTAB members to please contact their representatives and urge them to support this appropriation.

Adjourn.