

**MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
FEBRUARY 2, 2006
WEBB WILDLIFE CENTER
GARNETT, SC**

Members Present

Julia Krebs (Chair)
Mike McShane
John Frampton
Irvin Pitts (for Chad Prosser)
Beth Grace
Freddy Vang
Henry Fair
Fritz Hamer (for William Calloway)
Rodger Stroup
Jake Rasor
Sonny King
Jon Leader
Joel Felder (for Robert Schowalter)
States Clawson (for Robert Faith)

Others Present

Barry Beasley
Stuart Greeter
Chris Judge
Ken Prosser
Bert Pittman
Hank Stallworth
Kathy Boyle
Buck Vaughan
Tim Ivey
Emily Cope
Marvin Davant
Norman Brunswig
Eric Poplin
Kay Daniels
Jason Johnson

Members Absent

Campbell Coxe

Julia Krebs called the meeting to order and called the roll.

Approval of November 3 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2005 Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) meeting. The motion was approved.

Comments from the Director

Barry Beasley introduced Marvin Davant, Director of the SC Conservation Bank. Mr. Davant said since its inception, the bank has funded 31 projects to protect 33,000 acres across the state. He stated that several significant tracts of land are currently available and he looked forward to working with DNR and Heritage Trust to protect them.

Mr. Beasley informed members of all land acquisitions made by the department during calendar year 2005.

Natural Areas Committee

1. Wadakoe Mountain Management Plan: Tim Ivey discussed the plan for this preserve in Pickens County and Freddy Vang stated the committee as a motion recommended approval. The motion was approved.

Cultural Areas Committee

1. Castle Pinckney: As a matter of information, Rodger Stroup informed members that this Civil War site in Charleston Harbor may be transferred to the War Between the States Heritage Trust.
2. Stabilization of Comingtee: As a matter of information, Dr. Stroup said the department is looking for ways to stabilize two structures on this DNR property in Berkeley County. He added that the Historic Charleston Foundation has offered a summer intern to survey the site and provide recommendations.
3. Morris Island: Dr. Stroup reported that staff attended a meeting with the Charleston Legislative Delegation regarding protection options for Morris Island. John Frampton stated an announcement was made earlier in the day that the island will be protected by the Trust for Public Land. He added that many funding sources will be used and DNR may be a participant. Also, Mr. Frampton said the Heritage Trust bond legislation should get final approval by the Senate soon and then move to the House of Representatives for debate.

Other Business

1. Natural Heritage Survey: Bert Pittman updated members on the inventory process and stated interns from state universities could assist with survey work. Mr. Beasley stated he would investigate the issue further and report back to the board with monetary figures regarding maintenance and survey work on all Heritage Trust properties.

Fritz Hamer suggested the need for more staff to conduct inventory work and stated that Heritage Trust funds could be used to fund both part-time and full time employees.

2. Coastal Seabird Rookeries: Mr. Vang reported that over the last 25 years, bird nesting has declined significantly because of loss of habitat. He stated three heritage preserves, Bird Key, Deveaux Bank and Crab Bank, provide critical nesting areas for seabirds, but are being damaged by visitors. After some discussion, Mr. Vang stated the committee as a motion recommended that Bird Key, Deveaux Bank and Crab Bank be closed to humans and dogs year round (from high water to high water) and DNR seek a sanctuary agreement from the Budget and Control Board to address the low water. The motion was approved.

A motion was made to amend the existing one to exclude humans only during the nesting season (April 1-October 15). They would be allowed to visit the preserves the remainder of the year. The motion was approved.

Norman Brunswig addressed the board and spoke in favor of restricting access to the preserves to protect the seabirds.

Mr. Ivey updated members on management activities regarding natural areas preserves and Chris Judge reported on cultural preserves. Mr. Judge reminded members that the annual Kolb site BBQ would be March 11, 2006 at the Great Pee Dee Heritage Preserve in Darlington County.

Mr. Beasley reported that revenue to the Heritage Land Trust Fund approached almost \$8 million in 2005 and noted revenues had increased 86 percent since 2003. He reviewed the budget and a motion was made to approve it. The motion was seconded and approved.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 3, 2006 in Columbia at the SC Department of Archives & History.

Adjourn.

/k