

MINUTES
Heritage Trust Advisory Board
Thursday, February 22, 1985
Dennis Building, Columbia, S.C.

Members Present

Sid Gauthreaux (Chairman)
Arthur Ravenel
Fred Brinkman
Wade Batson
Christie Fant
Robert Lumpkin
Gurdon Tarbox
Pat Walker
Dave Sennema
Walt Ahearn
Bruce Rippeteau
Claudette Cureton
Ed Burgess
Doug McTeer
Jim Timmerman

Other Attendees

Stuart Greeter
Tom Kohlsaas
Al Goodyear
Joe Watson
Langdon Edmunds
Trish Jerman
Roger Jones
Doug Rayner
John Nelson
Marion Edmunds
Charlie Sweatt

Members Absent

Ed Drane
Henry Savage

Chairman Gauthreaux called the February 22 meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board to order at 10:00 AM in Columbia, S.C. He welcomed Representative Doug McTeer and Mr. Charles Sweatt to the meeting. The minutes for the November 29 meeting were approved without amendment.

Budget Committee

Senator Ravenel and Tom Kohlsaas reported that legislation establishing a Heritage Land Trust Fund is progressing through the legislature. The legislation would establish a fund for land acquisition. Tom reported that "Check for Wildlife" revenues will probably be \$70,000 less this year. This is the result of competition with the "Children's Checkoff" on the tax form. Senator Ravenel moved that HTP approach the S.C. Wildlife Federation about getting businesses to sponsor advertisements for the "Check for Wildlife." The motion passed. Tom Kohlsaas passed out copies of the "Check for Wildlife" poster, fun book, and HTP annual report. Dr. Timmerman mentioned that there will be a "Check for Wildlife" display at the Palmetto Sportsman's Classic and that he is asking the legislature to appropriate \$102,000 to the program next year for alligator management.

Cultural Areas Committee

Christie Fant reported that the Cultural Areas Committee met and is working to employ an intern to study historic preservation easement efforts in South Carolina and other states. Al Goodyear presented information and slides on the Sandoz Chert Quarries in Allendale County. A number of small outcrop areas totalling 56 acres were proposed as a protection project. A motion to approve the Sandoz Chert Quarries as an HTP protection project was approved.

Dewees Island

Senator Ravenel reviewed the history of the Capers Island acquisition and the conservation easement on Dewees Island. The owners of Dewees Island have requested a permit to dike an impoundment on the island and that permit is currently under appeal. An amendment to the conservation easement is also being considered. Senator Ravenel pointed out that he and his constituents are very interested in the environmental ramifications of these issues.

Natural Areas Committee

Dr. Batson explained the significance of Givhan's Limestone Bluffs and Money Pond and proposed these two areas as registration projects. A motion to approve these two projects passed. Dr. Batson and Doug Rayner reviewed details on the Lewis Ocean Bay Complex, Otter Islands, and Forks Lake Bluff. These areas were approved as protection projects. Ed Burgess stated that he wanted to review the Forks Lake Bluff project with staff in relation to a proposed paper mill in that area.

Walt Ahearn pointed out that the Public Service Authority (PSA) had purchased gopher tortoise habitat in Jasper County with plans to build a power plant. The Board passed a resolution requesting that PSA work with SCW&MRD to do everything feasible to protect the gopher tortoise habitat.

Executive Director's Comments

Dr. Timmerman pointed out that he is requesting funds to pay for alligator management next year. HTP will be represented with a display at the upcoming Palmetto Sportsman's Classic. The Wildlife Department will co-host a press outing with PRT at Hunting Island State Park and that would be a good opportunity to distribute a "Check for Wildlife" press kit. Dr. Timmerman suggested the possibility of an HTP exposition or symposium to help publicize the "Check for Wildlife." He indicated that the Land Procurement Committee might be helpful in the areas of land acquisition.

Protection Projects Update

Roger Jones informed members that TNC had obtained options on 110 acres at Savannah River Bluffs and he expects to close on those properties in one month. The cowbane site in Bamberg County may soon be donated to TNC by Westvaco. Stuart Greeter informed members that the National Park Service had approved the expenditure of \$75,000 to purchase properties at Flat Creek Natural Area. The dedication agreement for the Colleton County Cowbane Site was explained and the Board voted to recommend that the Wildlife Commission dedicate the property under the Heritage Trust.

Other Business

Fred Brinkman reported that PRT is requesting additional appropriations to the Recreation Land Trust Fund which has been used to acquire additions to State parks and natural areas. Sid Gauthreaux stated that HTAB supports that effort with regard to Heritage Trust projects and pointed out that PRT has done a marvelous job. Mr. Brinkman pointed out that PRT receives requests for alternative uses of park lands continually. One of PRT's main objectives is to preserve the natural character of their parks and a limit must be put on such development proposals. A motion was made to support PRT's recommendations regarding protecting the natural integrity of Sesquicentennial State Park (copy attached). The motion passed.

Trish Jerman explained the formation of the Governor's Council on Natural Resources and the Environment, and establishment of the Heritage Land Trust Fund. She suggested that members contact their legislators in support of these bills if they feel strongly about it. A motion was passed to draft an HTP position statement to send to legislative committees.

→ see correction on next minutes

Mr. Brinkman suggested putting Huntington Beach State Park and the Santee Lime Sinks on the agenda for the next meeting.

Tom Kohlsaas reported that Dr. Batson and Dr. Gauthreaux were reappointed to the HTAB.

Dr. Rippeteau recognized David Sennema who will be attending meetings since Rudy Mancke has transferred to ETV.

Stuart Greeter commended Dr. Rippeteau for an informative and well organized field trip to Wachesaw Plantation.

Walt Ahearn pointed out that Fred Brinkman had received the Wildlife Federation award as Land Conservationist of the Year.

The next HTAB meeting was scheduled for May 23 in Columbia.

The meeting was adjourned.

Recommendation #1:

No additional consideration should be given to any request that would adversely impact the unique natural significance of Sesquicentennial State Park. Therefore, consideration of possible future office space for PRT at Sesqui should be abandoned as well as office space for any other state agencies. A future PRT headquarters site would still be a possibility on recently-acquired PRT property adjacent to the State Park Service and Supply Center that would involve no encroachment or adverse impact on the State Park.

Recommendation #2:

In keeping with further enhancement of Sesquicentennial State Park, the staff is requested to investigate the possible acquisition of in-holdings that would improve protection for the park.

Recommendation #3:

Approximately 25 acres at Sesquicentennial State Park is approved as an addition to the 68.9 acres now being used by the Richland County Recreation Commission for a public recreation area known as Polo Road Park, with the additional acreage to be provided immediately adjacent to the existing Polo Road Park and along Polo Road. The additional acreage should permit the Recreation Commission to develop recreation facilities that represent the most important need within the larger request, and with minimal adverse impact on the natural areas of the State Park.

Recommendation #4:

A new land-use agreement shall be prepared between PRT and the Richland County Recreation Commission, to include all existing conditions, and to add provisions for PRT review and approval of design plans and specifications prior to construction of any new facilities, provisions to ensure adequate sanitary facilities, and formal yearly inspections of all facilities by PRT.

Recommendation #5:

It is understood that PRT's responsibility to provide assistance to local recreation agencies throughout the state will continue to apply to the Richland County Recreation Commission's program to serve recreation needs. Recreation facilities within the Commission's 10-year plan that cannot be accommodated at Sesqui on the Polo Road Park will need to be provided at other appropriate locations. The area's rapid growth will continue to create additional demands for recreation facilities and services. The State Recreation Plan clearly shows this existing need and future trend. This means that some of the lands and facilities required for the Richland Recreation Commission's program are likely to rate high in priority and will therefore justify PRT's future support for technical and funding assistance through mechanisms such as the Recreation Land Trust Fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Harvey, seconded by Commissioner Sigmon, and unanimously carried, the Commission voted to approve the staff recommendations.