

MINUTES
Heritage Trust Advisory Board
February 4, 1999
Columbia, SC

Members Present

Dr. Terry Ferguson, Chair
Dr. Julius Leary, Vice-Chair
Dr. Jon Leader (for Bruce Kippstein)
Dr. Rodger Stroup
Mr. Joe Mills (for Hugh Ryan)
Mr. Dick Scott, III
Mr. Freddy Vang
Mr. Corky Lee
Mr. Brock Conrad (for Paul Sandifer)
Dr. Fritz Hamer (for Tony Ganong)
Mr. Keith Hinson

Members Absent

Mr. Michael Todd Smith
Mr. Bruce Salhman
Mr. Buddy Jennings

Others Present

Mr. Tom Kohlsaat
Mr. Stuart Greeter
Mr. Steve Bennett
Dr. Bert Pittman
Mr. Chris Judge
Mr. Ken Prosser
Ms. Kathy Boyle
Ms. Sally Murphy
Ms. Bethany Narboni
Ms. Mary Edmonds
Mr. Buford Mabry
Mr. Bob McCartney
Mr. Harry Foy
Mr. Donald Hook
Dr. Harry Shealy
Mr. Breck Carmichael
Mr. Dan Dobbins

Dr. Ferguson called the meeting to order and called the roll. He introduced new HTAB member Keith Hinson.

Mr. Kohlsaat introduced Bethany Narboni as DNR's new Director of Audit Services. Ms. Narboni stated that her office is examining Heritage Trust's land acquisition process and seeking ways to refine it. She asked for members to provide ideas and comments to her on ways to improve the process.

Approval of November 5 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 5, 1998 Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) meeting. The motion was approved.

Comments from the Director

Brock Conrad reported that Dr. Sandifer recently presented the DNR budget before the House Ways and Means Committee. He reminded members that Wildlife Diversity is the number one priority in the budget with a request of \$300,000 in recurring funds. Mr. Conrad asked members to contact any legislators they know on this committee and ask them to support the budget. Also, he reported that Governor Hodges presented the Environmental Awareness Award to Yancey McLeod for his work in developing educational programs on Cooks Mountain. Freddy Vang stated that the Governor

announced the formation of an environmental council that will be represented by personnel from all state agencies and many private sector organizations. Dr. Ferguson requested that information about the environmental council be included in the next HTAB mailing packet.

Natural Areas Committee

Joe Mills reported that the committee discussed five items, two of which would be presented in Executive Session.

1) Croft Mill Tract: Steve Bennett explained that the 168-acre site is downstream from Henderson Heritage Preserve along Bridge Creek. He said the site was brought to his attention by Bob McCartney. Mr. Bennett stated that the area may contain the world's largest population of Linderra subcoriacia, a rare G2 plant species. He added that other elements of concern on the property include seepage pocosin, pine scrub-oak sandhill, xeric sandhill scrub and vaucluse udorthent slopes. Mr. Bennett said the Croft Mill Tract could be connected to the Henderson Preserve by two other available parcels. He explained that one parcel has already been brought before the board and the other is owned by a church and comprises approximately 10 acres. Bob McCartney showed slides of the area and expressed his support for the project. Rodger Stroup volunteered his agency's personnel to examine any potential cultural sites on the property. Mr. Mills said the committee as a motion recommends Level I approval for Croft Mill and the adjoining 10-acre property. The motion was approved.

2) Bay Point Island: Sally Murphy showed slides of the area and stated that the 1,265 acre barrier island is found north of Port Royal Sound. She explained that the island contains 1.3 miles of beachfront with a highly unstable shoreline. Ms. Murphy added that the island is privately owned and assessable only by boat. Further, she stated that the island contains archaeological features, rare plant and animal species and rare plant communities. Ms. Murphy stated that development plans have been submitted to the Beaufort County Zoning Administrator by a Beaufort realtor. She added that development would disturb archaeological sites, disrupt and disorient sea turtle nesting, and displace seabird nesting and roosting sites.

Mr. Mills stated the committee as a motion recommends Level I approval for Bay Point Island. The motion was approved.

3) Aiken Gopher Tortoise Management Plan: In Johnny Stowe's absence, Mr. Mills said the committee reviewed the plan and as a motion, recommends its approval. The motion was approved.

Cultural Areas Committee

Dr. Stroup reported that the committee had one item to present to the Board.

1) Congaree Creek Management Plan: Chris Judge briefly discussed the plan and stated that the committee requested they delete number two on page five under

"Forestry Management Objectives." He said the language in question states "converting planted pines to mixed pine and hardwood stands so as to restore a more natural forest type." Mr. Judge reported that the committee objected to any timbering of pines on the preserve for any purpose. Dr. Ferguson stated the committee's main concern was the potential impact of logging on the archaeological resources. Mr. Mills said if harvesting is prohibited, the pine plantations will eventually become thick, look unnatural and possibly die. He added that proper logging techniques would minimize damage to the property. Mr. Lee stated that a liquid asset exists in the pine plantations and proper management will generate funds for current and future preserve management activities. Dr. Ferguson referred the plan back to the Natural Areas Committee to address these concerns and formulate a plan that will be acceptable to both parties.

Budget Committee

HTAB entered Executive Session to discuss budget issues. HTAB returned to regular session and voted to approve the Heritage Land Trust Fund budget with one exception. Instead of approving additional preserve management funds, a budget of \$300,000 will be used on projects as approved at the discretion of the staff. If any charges are made, staff will notify the HTAB Chair. Any major changes must be brought back to HTAB for approval. Budget additions approved for land acquisitions included Long Branch Bay and an addition to Henderson Heritage Preserve.

Other Business

A) Stewardship: Mr. Judge updated members on stewardship activities on cultural and natural areas preserves.

B) Strategic Plan: Mr. Kohlsaar stated that he incorporated the comments he had received about the plan into a synopsis, which was distributed to both committees for discussion. Concerning the Cultural Areas Committee, Dr. Stroup reported that they discussed the acreage cap and the issue of management. He said the committee felt that the acreage cap should be raised and the 10 percent limit on preserve management increased. Dr. Stoup added that additional personnel are needed to increase interpretation, education, and accessibility on preserves. He said these things could be accomplished through partnerships with other individuals and agencies. Further, he stated that Mr. Judge needed three more employees to help identify and survey archaeological layers in the state and to carry out public educational programs on preserves. Mr. Lee said we needed a comprehensive list of what everyone is protecting in the state. Dr. Leary suggested a retreat to complete the strategic plan. Dr. Leader recommended inviting legislators and other agency directors to solicit their opinions. Dr. Ferguson agreed and asked staff to schedule an outing before the next HTAB meeting. Then, a final draft of the plan can be presented at the May meeting.

Adjourn.

"PROPOSED"

Heritage Land Trust Fund Approved Expenditures:

February 4, 1999

Approx. January 1, 1999 Cash Balance:	3,755,452
Revenues Expected by December 30, 1999:	3,000,000

Total Funds Available:	6,755,452

Other Expenditures:

Preserve Management (1998:\$153,000)	(300,000)
Land Protection (1998:\$83,053)	(95,000)
Cap Imp (1998:\$144,115 spent/oblig)	(315,785)

	(710,785)

Less Commitments:

Bird Mtn. Coserve. Ease. N	Spartanburg	(1,000)
North Williman Is.(75)N	Beaufort	(14,000)
Fort Frederick (30)C	Beaufort	(21,000)
Greens Shell Encl. Addn. C	Beaufort	(118,000)
Rock Hill BJ HP Addn.(5)N	York	(58,850)
Lewis O B HP Trade-BBA(24)N	Horry	(13,675)
Lewis O B HP Trade-Vaught(24)N	Horry	(8,575)
Woods Bay Addn.-Moore(76)N	Florence	(18,175)
Big Pine Tree Creek(27)N	Kershaw	(18,025)
Mitchelville(5)C	Beaufort	(200,000)

		(471,300)

Additions:

Long Branch Bay(42)N	Barnwell	(5,575)
Henderson HP Addn.(72)N	Aiken	(12,220)
Capital Improvements Incr.	Horry	(120,000)

		(137,795)

CURRENT ESTIMATED BALANCE ON January 1, 1999

5,435,572

(N) Natural Areas Project
 (C) Cultural Areas Project
 (#) Rank

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Approved Expenditures - No Time Frame:

Dukes Bay(N)	Hampton	363,000
Long Branch Bay(N)	Barnwell	80,000
Savannah River Bluffs Addn.(N)	Aiken	332,000
York Subdivision Outcrop(N)	York	30,000
Branchville Bay(N)	Orangeburg	50,000
Dalzell Bay(N)	Sumter	50,000
Halfway Gut Branch Bay(N)	Dorchester	30,000
Reevesville Bay(N)	Dorchester	20,000
Barton Bay(N)	Allendale	255,000
Mt. Pleasant Church Bay(N)	Lee	82,000
Hazel Lake(N)	Aiken	939,000
Sandhills Bay(N)	Clarendon	159,000
Saluda County Highponds(N)	Saluda	54,000
Cartwheel Bay Addn.(N)	Horry	145,000
Glassy Mountain Addn.(N)	Pickens	395,000
Henderson HP Addn.-Boyleston(N)	Aiken	57,000
LPDHP Addn.-White(N)	Horry	48,000
Cathedral Bay Addn.(N)	Bamberg	44,000
Ford's Shell Ring(C)	Beaufort	397,000
Mitchelville(C)	Beaufort	750,000
LPD River-Woodbury(N)	Marion	1,500,000

	TOTAL:	5,780,000

NOTE: All expenditures must meet State approval requirements and accounting standards.

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