

MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
FEBRUARY 6, 2003
COLUMBIA, SC

Members Present

Terry Ferguson (Chair)
Julia Krebs (Vice-Chair)
Jon Leader
Gail Wagner
Freddy Vang
Joel Felder (for Bob Schowalter)
Rodger Stroup
Barry Beasley (for Paul Sandifer)
Charles Bradford
John Tucker
Bonnie Ammons (for Bob Faith)
Mike Foley (for Chad Prosser)
Richard Porcher

Members Absent

Fritz Hamer
Malloy McEachin

Others Present

Tom Kohlsaat
Stuart Greeter
Chris Judge
Ken Prosser
Steve Bennett
Bert Pittman
Ann Darr
Kathy Boyle
Mark Hall
Mary Bunch
Gil Newberry
Ann Nolte
Rick Huffman
Paul Sandifer
Joey Holleman

Terry Ferguson called the meeting to order and called the roll. He recognized new board members Gail Wagner and Barry Beasley.

Approval of November 14 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2002 Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) meeting. The motion was approved.

Jocassee Gorges Road Work

Mark Hall and Mary Bunch explained the project and Dr. Ferguson deferred approval to executive session to discuss a contractual matter.

Natural Areas Committee

1. Tillman Preserve Design: Steve Bennett described the new preserve design and the committee as a motion recommended approval. The motion was approved.
2. Bald Rock Lease Agreement: Freddy Van stated the committee as a motion recommended approval of this agreement giving SCPRT management responsibilities for Bald Rock Heritage Preserve. The motion was approved.

3. Heritage Preserve Regulations Sign: Mr. Vang stated the DNR Board must approve all signs for heritage preserves. Stuart Greeter distributed generic examples of preserve signs and members proposed four changes for the regulations sign. They included adding language that violators would be prosecuted, adding the DNR web link, adding the Operation Game Thief number and changing WMA to wildlife management area. Dr. Ferguson stated that both committees as a motion recommended approval with the proposed changes. The motion was approved.
4. Belvue Springs Heritage Preserve Management Plan: Ms. Bunch explained the plan and the committee as a motion recommended approval. The motion was approved.
5. Great Pee Dee Project Update: Bert Pittman updated members on efforts to biologically examine this important area.

Cultural Areas Committee

Dr. Stroup informed members that the closing for Poinsett Bridge would be Friday, February 7.

Other Business

1. Stewardship: Chris Judge updated members on heritage preserve stewardship activities.
2. Seed Sources for Native Species: Rick Huffman, President of the SC Native Plant Society, gave a presentation on seed sources for native species, restoration projects, partnerships and potential plans for the society. He expressed his desire to form a partnership with Heritage Trust in the future.
3. Comments from the Director: Paul Sandifer addressed the board concerning his impending retirement and thanked members for their service.

Budget Committee

HTAB entered executive session to discuss contractual matters. They returned to regular session and voted to approve the Heritage Land Trust Fund budget. An addendum to the budget included additional funds for an archaeological survey concerning roadwork at Jocassee Gorges. Regarding added preserve management funding, Tom Kohlsaas reviewed the proposal that was sent to members. Dr. Ferguson noted the importance of the issue and requested it be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Permission to reserve funds for additional management staff was approved and added to the budget.

Adjourn.