

SOUTH CAROLINA HERITAGE TRUST

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

January 16, 1975

AGENDA

- I. DRAFT LEGISLATION
- II. REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES
- III. PROGRESS REPORT
 - A. Site Surveys
 - B. Evaluation System
 - C. Computer System
- IV. ACQUISITIONS
- V. BICENTENNIAL

M I N U T E S

MEETING: S. C. Heritage Trust Advisory Board

PLACE: Bankers Trust Tower, Suite 1116

TIME: 2:00 p.m. January 16, 1975

PRESENT: Mrs. June M. Uhler, Junior League
Mrs. Christie Z. Fant, S. C. Dept. of Archives & History
Mr. Walter T. Ahearn, S. C. State Commission of Forestry
Mrs. Barbara W. Moxon, League of Women Voters of S.C.
Mrs. Dielle Fleischmann, The Nature Conservancy
Dr. H. Wayne Beam, S. C. Land Resources Commission
Mrs. I. D. Elmore, Sumter-The Garden Club of S. C.
Dr. Robert Jenkins, The Nature Conservancy
Mr. John Humke, The Nature Conservancy
Mrs. Penny Cannon, S. C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Dept.
Mr. Larry D. Cartee, S. C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Dept.
Mr. Bill Cotty, Legislative Affairs, S. C. Wildlife & Marine Res.
Mr. Tom Kohlsaas, The Nature Conservancy
Dr. Eugene A. Laurent, S. C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Dept.
Ms. Jan Mewborn, S. C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Dept.

The January 16th meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board was called to order by Dr. Laurent. Chairman Hudson was unable to attend due to conflicting schedules.

The first item for discussion on the agenda was the Regional Advisory Committees. Mr. Kohlsaas introduced Mrs. Penny Cannon who is the coordinator of the Regional Advisory Committee work. Mrs. Cannon will be notifying each member when an advisory committee plans to meet in his or her region. A summary of the three meetings already held was distributed to see the names and types of sites mentioned at the various regional meetings.

The next item on the Agenda was Acquisition. Dr. Laurent reported that federal funds were available to acquire Capers Island and that it looked as though we would be able to acquire Capers with no State tax revenues.

Mr. Kohlsaas reported that The Nature Conservancy has an opportunity to raise money for an acquisition in the mountains. They are in touch with someone who is interested in setting up a memorial in the mountains. In looking over the list of sites, the most threatened one of interest is Oconee Station in Oconee County. Information is being put together on this but no action has been taken. We will be in touch with Archives and PRT to determine what will be done. Mr. Kohlsaas was concerned with the field survey of the site and the grounds around the house in that there was not much of natural value. However, the parcel at Station Cove located about 1/2 mile away was owned by the same person. Station Cove is approximately 200 acres of undisturbed woodland containing a waterfall. Mrs. Christie Fant noted that PRT along with Archives and History and the Forest Service is working on this. Mr. Kohlsaas noted that this was really the Board's

first heritage project, as such, and that he was interested in the Board's reaction. Mrs. Fant described the Oconee site from the historical standpoint saying that it was probably the oldest building in Oconee having been built in the 1790's. It is called the Richards House. She also noted that it was on the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Kohlsaas described Station Cove as an important natural area which should be considered for preservation. Dr. Laurent noted that if the site was acquired it would be managed by PRT. Hopefully the Cove would be a part of the Heritage Trust Program. Mr. Kohlsaas mentioned that requiring the Cove to be part of the package would give us something to bargain with. The process was discussed and sanctioned by the Regional Advisory Committee, and Mr. Kohlsaas asked for the Board's sanction. A motion was made by Mrs. Elmore to continue with the current process. The Board ruled unanimously to continue with the process.

Dr. Robert Jenkins, from The Nature Conservancy, spoke regarding Pinckney Island, a 4,000 acre island off of Hilton Head. Dr. Jenkins reported that The Nature Conservancy in cooperation with the Philadelphia Conservationists had managed to secure this land as a gift. It is suspected that the island will be transferred ultimately to the Fish and Wildlife Service for management.

Mrs. Fleischmann asked about the uses planned for Capers Island. Dr. Laurent stated that the Capers' project proposal was not explicit. There is strong pressure for Capers to remain in a natural state. There is also tremendous pressure for public beach access. Dr. Laurent stated that the final use plan would be some combination of the two.

Dr. Laurent mentioned that other than assisting with Oconee Station, there were no other acquisitions to consider at this point.

The next item on the Agenda was the Bicentennial. Dr. Jenkins stated that even though there was not much opportunity for acquisition due to the lack of money, there were tremendous opportunities through private efforts, private fund raising and gifts. Dr. Jenkins reported that The Nature Conservancy has been named one of the 40 organizations in the country as a Bicentennial organization and was the only conservation organization of these. The Nature Conservancy Program is expected to take on a Bicentennial aura through the S. C. Heritage Trust Program and second through gifts of land, and also through corporate gifts. There is great opportunity for timber companies to make worthwhile contributions. A great deal of land in South Carolina is owned by corporate interests and resource companies. Dr. Jenkins suggested that now, in the absence of funds, it would be worthwhile to start working on selected corporations and individuals in relation to specific South Carolina sites which are identified through the process of the Heritage Program.

Dr. Laurent stated, with respect to corporate gifts, that many corporations are willing to protect sites but have a general tendency of not wanting to relinquish title. They are concerned with public ingress and egress and the general control of the public. Mr. Kohlsaas commented that they were finding tremendous differences of responses in that some even felt they had no areas of interest for preservation. Dr. Jenkins pointed out other decision factors facing corporations.

Mrs. Fleischmann asked about the status of Four Holes Swamp and whether the original purchase would be expanded. Mr. John Humke, from The Nature Conservancy, said the area of Four Holes was acquired jointly with the Audubon Society and has since been completed and the debt paid. The land is being managed by the Audubon Society and because of their rather complex management plan underway, all of it is being managed by Audubon. If they require assistance from The Nature Conservancy, then they would consider it if requested. Dr. Laurent said that it was a good

project to assist but there was no way the Heritage Program could acquire lands and turn them over to Audubon. The Heritage Program would have to manage it.

Dr. Laurent stated that the reason the Bicentennial was on the Agenda was to raise the question of identifying the Heritage Trust Program as a Bicentennial Project. Mrs. Fant commented on how this could be done and would check into getting the Heritage Trust Program on the Bicentennial Commission's Agenda.

Mr. Kohlsaas reported on a couple of ideas suggested by Dr. Patton who was unable to attend the meeting. It was suggested to have each county designate a Bicentennial River Valley as part of both the Heritage Program and the Bicentennial Horizons Theme. Another suggestion was to establish a trail in the mountains following the original route of Bartram.

The new Heritage Trust Program brochure was distributed. Dr. Laurent noted that Mrs. Elmore had an article on the Heritage Program in the South Carolina Gardener.

Mrs. Uhler asked what could be done on an individual basis for the Heritage Program. Dr. Laurent suggested that while we are not working on projects, now would be a good opportunity for individuals to inform the people about the program and identify groups who would be interested in the slide presentations.

The next item on the Agenda was the Progress Report. Dr. Jenkins discussed the theory of action on how The Nature Conservancy is trying to assist the Department and the State of South Carolina in accomplishing the Heritage Program's goals. Dr. Jenkins said that basically they were trying to assist in the creation of a process in South Carolina to establish systems procedures to better preserve the natural diversity of the State. Dr. Jenkins stated that a classification system had been created which was in service, functioning, and capable of being modified. An information system had been established capable of managing data and the office established at the Wildlife & Marine Resources Department to give the necessary manpower. Dr. Jenkins stated that now we need to establish operational continuity to extend its informational powers.

Mr. Kohlsaas gave a brief summary of work accomplished on the priority sites. He stated that field survey work on priority sites was about half finished and hopefully would be completed by the end of February. Priority site determinations (a list of which was distributed at the last meeting) were based on available data on each site both in terms of biological uniqueness and its degree of threat. Also a time factor was involved and the list of sites had been established which he felt we could inventory in a reasonable amount of time. From this list, with additions and deletions being made along the way, our priorities for preservation in 1975 will be selected. The list is necessarily tentative due to a limited knowledge. Mrs. Uhler asked how some decisions would be made as to someone wanting certain areas recognized in their county. Dr. Jenkins said the decision making process will have to take a lot of things into consideration and that the priorities will have to be flexible.

Dr. Laurent mentioned that one thing which helps in developing support of the program was that the once the information system is established and operating with a fair amount of data, it would aid both conservation and development.

The next item on the Agenda was Draft Legislation. A rough copy of the legislation was distributed. Mr. Bill Cotty, who is the legal counsel for the Wildlife Department, gave the history of the legislation. Mr. Cotty expressed the feeling that having a legislative guideline would help us know what to do and also help protect what is brought into the system. Mr. Cotty said that several

members of the staff of The Nature Conservancy analyzed all legislation nationwide and basically found that most states did one or two things: They either dedicated areas or recognized them in the system in a type of natural and historical register. Mr. Cotty stated that the only problem seen in this was that it does not offer complete security. After meeting with several of the best legal advisors in the State, they have come up with a trust concept. When you put something into a legal trust it is fairly well protected. He stated the only way land can come out is for it to be condemned. With the trust, this is more difficult. What we have done with the trust document was to make the people of the State and future generations the beneficiary. Mr. Cotty stated in regard to changing the name of the Department that it was felt that it was important enough to be reflected in the Department's name. Mr. Cotty then reviewed the draft legislation.

Dr. Laurent asked that comments regarding the draft legislation be turned in by January 30 and that if there were any questions the staff would be happy to answer them.

The next meeting was set for March 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the Bankers Trust Tower, Suite 1116.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.