

MINUTES
Heritage Trust Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, July 21, 1983
Conference Room, Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia

Members Present

Dr. Sid Gauthreaux (Chairman)
Ed Burgess
Rudy Mancke
Dr. Robert Stephenson
Joe Frank Watson
Craig Kennedy (Representing
Pat Walker)
Senator Ravenel
Christie Fant
Dr. Wade Batson
Claudette Cureton
Ed Drane
Dr. James Timmerman
Walt Ahearn
Gurdon Tarbox

Other Attendees

Jeff Fuller
Tom Kohlsaat
Stuart Greeter
Steve Bennett
Doug Rayner
Roger Jones

Members Absent

Dr. Robert Lumpkin
Representative Winstead
Mr. Henry Savage

Dr. Gauthreaux called the Heritage Trust Advisory Board meeting to order at 10:00 AM on Thursday, July 21 in Columbia. The minutes from the last meeting were approved after being amended to include a motion to appoint Ed Drane to the Cultural Areas Committee.

Budget Committee

Senator Ravenel reported that the Wildlife Department will be getting Federal funding for endangered species this year and checkoff revenues may increase 50% over last year. We can be proud of that kind of increase in a bad economic year.

Dr. Timmerman pointed out that he had met with the Tax Commission to discuss payment of overhead for processing checkoff funds. At first the Commission wanted \$25,000 to cover those costs, but later revised it down to \$9,500. Dr. Timmerman stated he would work to get those costs dropped altogether or covered by State appropriated operation funds. Senator Ravenel suggested deleting the requirement in the Act that the Tax Commission be reimbursed out of checkoff funds.

Tom Kohlsaat passed out copies of the current budget and noted \$48,000 of checkoff funds were being held in reserve for land acquisition or other contingencies. Checkoff funds are currently being held in an interest bearing account and the interest will accrue back to the fund. Tom stated that we need to develop a more harmonious relationship with the Tax Commission.

Natural Areas Committee

Dr. Batson reported that due to an oversight three (3) protection projects had not been added to the official protection projects list. Trillium persistens and Shortia glaucifolia were approved in 1979 and Monetta Sink was approved in 1982. These protection projects will be added to an updated list.

The Carolina Bay Inventory is proceeding and will probably be completed in a year.

Dr. Batson informed the Board that a Wood Stork Rookery had been discovered in South Carolina and recommended that the area be approved for registration. The motion to register the area was approved.

Pumpkinseed Island was presented as the largest natural wading bird rookery in South Carolina and was recommended for possible dedication. A motion to approve Pumpkinseed Island as a protection project passed.

Dr. Batson stated that undisturbed piedmont rocky shoals have become quite rare in South Carolina. The Landsford Canal area is the best example of rocky shoals left in the State and the area supports a spider lily, Hymenocallis coronaria, which is considered to be endangered. This is the largest known population in South Carolina and a dam is proposed immediately upstream from this site. A motion was made to approve Landsford Canal as a protection project and the motion passed.

Dr. Timmerman stated that following a request from The Nature Conservancy, he has written letters asking that Forty Acre Rock be designated a National Natural Landmark. Dr. Timmerman also announced the signing of cooperative agreements with Clemson University and USC. The agreements will help fund two positions and three graduate students to study mariculture, fisheries resources and wildlife. He suggested that we solicit help from universities for inventory work on plants and animals of concern to the Heritage Trust Program. Tom Kohlsaat concurred with that idea and stated that checkoff money could possibly be used to cover travel expenses. Dr. Timmerman suggested that Dr. Gauthreaux appoint a subcommittee or task force to recommend how best to conduct a biological and botanical inventory of the State.

Cultural Areas Committee

Christie Fant reported Mr. John Meffert, with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is meeting with key people involved with the Ashley River Road project. Mr. Meffert is working to revive the Ashley River Road Association. Ms. Fant noted that Chairman Webster has sent a letter to the National Trust assuring them that the Wildlife Department would accept easements once they were obtained from a majority of the property owners.

Ms. Fant reported that Archives and History is working to put the Ashley River Road on the National Register of Historic Places. Several citizens have written Rep. Clyde Dangerfield concerning an alternate road to Highway 61 to

relieve some of the traffic conjection. Ms. Fant foresees a meeting of the Cultural Areas Committee at some time before the next Advisory Board meeting and possibly involving some of the property owners at that meeting.

Protection Projects Update

Stuart Greeter reported that Dixie Pipeline Company has registered the largest Pine Barrens Treefrog population in the State. The surrounding property owner, Catawba Timber Company, has also signed a registration agreement. A motion to approve both registration agreements was approved.

Mr. Greeter announced that the staff had applied for Land and Water Conservation Funds to assist The Nature Conservancy with the purchase of property at Forty Acre Rock.

Peatland Development Policy Statement

Steve Bennett reported that the peatland development policy statement had been changed to include cultural areas. The statement was further amended with the word "harvest" being changed to "mine" and the phrase "and advise the S. C. Land Resources Conservation Commission" being added after the word "aid" in the second to the last line. A motion to endorse the policy statement passed with a unanimous vote.

Proposed Georgetown Oil Refinery

Tom Kohlsaas reported that the Corps of Engineers has determined that an environmental impact statement is required for the proposed Georgetown Oil refinery. A meeting will be held with the Corps of Engineers on July 22nd to determine what should be included in the EIS.

Next Meeting

Gurdon Tarbox reported that the next meeting is scheduled for October 28th at Brookgreen Gardens. A social gathering is planned for the preceding evening, on the 27th. A field trip will be conducted the afternoon of the 28th.

Other Business

Tom Kohlsaas passed out copies of Distribution, Status and Habitat of the Pine Barrens Treefrog in South Carolina which was written by John Cely and Jim Sorrow.

Dr. Gauthreaux inquired about the availability of a slide show on the Heritage Trust Program. Dr. Timmerman suggested appointing a subcommittee of the Natural Areas Committee, with two staff members, to address the issue.

The meeting was adjourned.

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