

S. C. Heritage Trust Advisory Board
Thursday, June 18, 1982
Rembert C. Dennis Building, Columbia

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Walter T. Ahearn
Dr. Wade Batson
Mr. Fred P. Brinkman
Mrs. Ethel Jane Bunting (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. Ed Burgess
Mr. Larry Carter (Representing Dr. James A. Timmerman, Jr.)
Dr. Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr. (Chairman)
Mrs. Christie Z. Fant
Dr. Robert L. Lumpkin
Mr. Rudy Mancke
Senator Arthur Ravenel, Jr.
Mr. Henry Savage
Dr. Robert L. Stephenson
Mr. Joe F. Watson (Representing Fred Brinkman)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Gurdon Tarbox
Rep. Daniel Winstead
Mrs. Claudette Cureton
Mr. Pat Walker

OTHERS PRESENT

Steve Bennett, SCWMRD
Stuart Greeter, SCWMRD
John Reid Clonts, PRT
Ms. Langdon Edmunds
Mr. Jeff Fuller, SCWMRD
Ms. Nancy Meriwether
Mr. Phillip Moore
Dr. Doug Rayner, SCWMRD
Ms. LaBruce S. Alexander, SC TNC

Dr. Gauthreaux called the June 17 Heritage Trust Advisory Board Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in Room 335 of the Rembert Dennis Building. The March 4 meeting minutes were approved with one correction: Mrs. Claudette Cureton's name was added to the members present list. Mr. Ahearn commended the staff on the new design for the protection project status report and suggested that protection projects achieved with the assistance of Heritage Trust be added to that list.

Budget Committee

Senator Ravenel reported that the program expects to receive \$85,000 from the tax checkoff. Funding is adequate for one more fiscal year, thanks to a Tom Yawkey Foundation Grant replacing funds that were lost under the federal endangered species program. The tax checkoff may be even more successful next year. Competition from other potential check off programs was mentioned and the following motion was made for the General Assembly: Any tax checkoff programs be limited to critical areas of state endeavor such as endangered species. The motion passed.

Cultural Areas Committee

Ms. Langdon Edmunds reported that the committee was considering all national register sites in an effort to select an appropriate protection project for the Heritage Trust. However, the last entire meeting was spent discussing the Ashley River Road Protection Project which has been given priority. Mrs. Christie Fant then presented the Ashley River Road Protection Project to the Advisory Board.

She described the historic and natural significance of this area which is presently in jeopardy because of population growth and development. By the year 2000 the population is expected to have increased by 217%. Currently the county school board has initiated condemnation proceedings along the Ashley River Road. The Condemnation proceedings pertain to a portion of the original Georgia Pacific easement which is now held by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This could mean the loss of ten trees along Ashley River Road. She also pointed out that a higher authority, i.e. the state would be in a better negotiating position with the school board than a private landowner such as the National Trust. Mrs. Fant then made the following motion: The Heritage Trust Advisory Board recommends that the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission accept the Georgia Pacific easement, which is a significant portion of the overall Ashley River Road Protection Project and is presently being held by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and that easement be entered into the Heritage Trust Program to be protected as a preserve. After much discussion and deliberation the motion passed. Senator Ravenel suggested that Mrs. Fant discuss this problem with the School Board and indicated he would contact the School Board on her behalf.

NATURAL AREAS COMMITTEE

Dr. Doug Rayner read the Natural Areas Committee recommendations regarding controlled burning at Givhans Ferry State Park and the Advisory Board passed the following motion: The Heritage Trust Advisory Board moves that the Natural Areas Committee recommendations regarding controlled burning of the entire 615 acre tract at Givhans Ferry State Park be sent to the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. Dr. Rayner also reported that all heritage preserves and sites will be visited on a regular basis and a standard report reflecting their condition will be kept on file. The Natural Areas Committee and Staff are currently developing a classification system that includes geologic, physiographic, and biotic interests. Such a system will identify features that are not currently identified as significant. State Parks, State Forests, and National Forests will be inventoried to determine whether or not significant elements worthy of protection occur therein. The Natural Areas Committee and Staff will be developing a management plan for Bird Key Stono. The committee is also developing documentation for the Chert Quarry in Allendale County. Steve Bennett reported that he is working with a representative of the American Society of Foresters regarding registration of Heritage Preserves. Following his report the Advisory Board passed the following motion: The Heritage Trust Advisory Board moves that the staff cooperate with the Society of American Foresters and register Heritage Preserves as natural areas when appropriate.

UPDATE ON PROTECTION PROJECTS

1. 40 Acre Rock Protection Project. LaBruce Alexander reported that another 75 acres had been obtained from Canal Industries. The owner of another 22 acres seems willing to sell at the present time.
2. Kimberly-Clark Property. LaBruce Alexander reported that the Nature Conservancy has submitted a request for a 300 acre donation of gopher tortoise habitat to the Kimberly-Clark Corporation. Ms. Alexander then introduced Phillip Moore, a new member of the Nature Conservancy Staff.

3. Chandler Bridge Formation. Stuart Greeter reported that he, the Charleston Museum, the Nature Conservancy, and Westvaco Corporation met to discuss the potential donation of a portion of the Chandler Bridge formation. Westvaco may make a donation of this property this year or next depending on their financial situation.
4. Huntington Beach State Park. Stuart Greeter reported that a registration agreement for a portion of Huntington Beach State Park was presented to the PRT Commission. The Commission decided to postpone a decision on that registration agreement until their staff had completed a management plan for the Park. That plan may be completed by October of this year.
5. Bird Key Stono. Slides of Bird Key Stono were shown indicating the numbers of birds nesting on the island and the erosion that was presently taking place. It was pointed out that the dedication agreement allows for dredge spoil to be deposited on Bird Key given Heritage Trust Advisory Board approval. It was also pointed out that a management plan should be ready for Advisory Board review at the next meeting.
6. Mountain Bridge. Mr. John Clonts reported that the Mountain Bridge Advisory Board is presently discussing which areas in the Mountain Bridge complex should be recognized under the Heritage Trust Program. He also pointed out that legislation has passed giving PRT authority to lease certain areas for public hunting. This would add lands to the Game Management Area Program which is carried out by the Wildlife Department.

Chairman Gauthreaux commended Jim Sorrow for the Stevens Creek Natural Area brochure that was sent out to the members. He also commended Sally Hopkins for the Loggerhead Sea Turtle brochure, that was printed by the Wildlife Department.

September 23 or 30 were set as potential dates for the next Heritage Trust Advisory Board meeting and the meeting was adjourned.

Additional Note: The S.C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission took no action on the Advisory Board's motion to accept property along Ashley River Road.