

**HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 1, 1991  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Members Present

Dr. Bruce Rippeteau (Acting Chairman)  
Dr. Whit Gibbons  
Mr. Jim Crawford  
Mr. Anthony Merck (for Wallace Pate)  
Dr. Wade Batson  
Ms. Claudette Cureton  
Ms. Mary Edmonds  
Mr. Hugh Ryan  
Ms. Wendy Parks  
Mr. Joe Watson  
Mr. Michael Ray

Other Present

Mr. Tom Kohlsaas  
Mr. Stuart Greeter  
Ms. Mary Nance  
Mr. Bert Pittman  
Mr. Chris Judge  
Mr. Steve Smith  
Ms. Linda Lundquist  
Mr. Steve Bennett  
Ms. June Berry  
Mr. Pete Laurie

Members Absent

Senator Nell Smith  
Representative Robert Barber  
Mr. Ed Drane  
Dr. Jim Timmerman  
Mr. Ed Burgess  
Mr. Chuck Compton

Acting Chairman, Bruce Rippeteau, opened the March 1 Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) at the Washington Light Infantry Building in Charleston, South Carolina. Dr. Rippeteau introduced Whit Gibbons, who is a new appointee to the HTAB, Tony Merck, who is representing Wallace Pate, Mary Nance, who is a visitor, and the other HTAB members. Chairman Rippeteau thanked Bob Hortman for hosting Thursdays field trip at Medway Plantation, Priscilla Massenburg for assisting with the HTAB social Thursday evening, and Margaret Davidson for hosting the HTAB meeting.

A motion was made and approved to accept the November 8 meeting minutes as submitted.

Cultural Areas Committee

Steve Smith introduced Chris Judge who explained his statewide archaeological survey and showed slides of some of the sites he visited. Chris Judge noted that educational radio did nine different reports on the archaeological survey. Steve Smith explained that the study, partially funded by the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, identified, evaluated, and ranked the most important archaeological sites in South Carolina. The Cultural Areas Committee will use that list to select future preservation projects for the Heritage Trust Advisory Board.

Stuart Greeter reported that there is still a controversy over the ownership of the Greens Shell Enclosure property. Heirs to

individuals buried at the cemetery on the property claim the cemetery is actually much larger than shown on the plat. Stuart indicated that the ownership problems should be resolved and the property purchased by the next HTAB meeting.

Steve Smith said that a draft of the Nipper Creek management plan was sent out in the mailing for HTAB members to review. An individual was caught and is being prosecuted for digging in a gravesite on the Nipper Creek property. The Wildlife Department has sent out a news release on this matter and the property will be posted with no trespassing signs. The perpetrator may have to serve community service time at the site.

At a past meeting Dr. George Vogt requested that an appraisal be completed on the Milford Plantation house and 200 acres of land. The appraisal has been completed and the house and property are valued at \$1,750,000.

Stuart Greeter commended Chris Judge for doing an outstanding job on the archaeological survey and ranking of significant archaeological sites around the state.

#### Natural Areas Committee

Dr. Wade Batson introduced Steve Bennett who described and showed slides of the Black Creek property in Darlington County. Documentation for that area was included in the mailout. The presence of the Atlantic white cedar bog and the longleaf pine wiregrass plant community make this a significant protection project. A motion was made and passed to accept the Black Creek property as an approved protection project.

Dr. Batson asked Steve Bennett to show maps and slides of the McCall tract on the Great Pee Dee River. This property lies in the center of a large area identified in the inner coastal plain region. This area is ranked as number 13 among all the large areas in South Carolina, but is the highest ranked large area occurring in the inner coastal plain. A motion was made and passed that the McCall tract be approved as a protection project.

Dr. Batson described the proposed management plan for Buzzard Roost Heritage Preserve. A motion was made and passed that the management plan be approved and recommended to the Commission for their approval.

Steve Bennett gave a brief description of the longleaf pine-wiregrass plant community writeup that was included in the mailout.

#### Budget Committee

Tom Kohlsaas reported that the Budget Committee met in Senator Nell Smith's office. Other members present were Ed Burgess, Commissioner Chuck Compton and Representative Robert Barber. Mr. Kohlsaas mentioned that our annual report to the legislature is included in

members' meeting materials. He pointed out that eight acquisition projects were completed last year for a total of 3,229 acres that help protect 16 different rare elements. A total of \$772,000 was spent and the average cost of property was \$224 per acre. Mr. Kohlsaas pointed out that we have roughly 55,000 acres in need of protection in South Carolina and that would cost approximately \$24 million. Thus, even though we are progressing rapidly, our land protection budget is still less than what we really need.

Stuart Greeter explained the currently proposed Heritage Land Trust Fund budget. The budget showed that thus far in 1991, \$92,000 has been spent on the Ashmore Addition, the Milford Plantation appraisal, and the Ashe and Beet Island appraisal. Proposed additions to the budget were Savage Bay Addition (Trivett) and Little Pee Dee River Addition (Vaughn) for a total proposed expenditure of \$991,000. The proposed land acquisition budget will be explained in more detail in executive session.

#### Protection Projects Update

Linda Lundquist reported that Windmill High Pond would be transferred to the Wildlife Department at a bargain sale price and The Nature Conservancy also intends to pass on a donation to help with management on that property. Stuart Greeter reported that the Waccamaw Bridges property and the Ward Lumber tract on the Little Pee Dee River will soon be transferred from The Nature Conservancy to the Wildlife Department.

#### Strategic Planning Committee Update

Tom Kohlsaas reported that the Strategic Planning Committee had met on January 26. He passed out a list of proposed strategic issues and information needs and asked board members for their comments. He reported that the staff had come up with a natural diversity box score. The box score shows that populations of 231 species, of the 613 vertebrate species native to South Carolina, may not be secure. Although it is needed, we do not have the resources to carry out status surveys on 160 of those species. Thus approximately one-fourth of the vertebrate species in South Carolina could disappear because we lack the resources to study them. Another point that Mr. Kohlsaas mentioned was the need for management on existing heritage preserves. He pointed out that casual visits to two preserves resulted in the discovery of law breakers. One is left to wonder about what happens on these preserves when no one is present.

#### Update on Persimmon Ridge Powerline

Stuart Greeter reported that the property owners at the north end of Persimmon Ridge Road had been contacted about the possibility of donating conservation easements as a trade for a powerline across heritage preserve properties. The staff agreed that if conservation easements were donated, that would be a fair exchange for putting a powerline across a heritage preserve. We are currently waiting for the property owners to get in touch with us about conservation

easements.

### Legislative Initiatives

Stuart Greeter reported that Representative Robert Barber, from Charleston, had agreed to introduce legislation on behalf of the Heritage Trust Program. That legislation was developed by Senator Nell Smith to increase revenues to the Heritage Land Trust Fund. We will hopefully have specific legislation that board members can review and comment on at our next meeting.

### Other Business

Chairman Rippeteau read a resolution which the Board unanimously adopted as a part of the minutes. The resolution reads as follows:

Whereas, Dr. Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr. has served two six-year terms on the Advisory Board of the S. C. Heritage Trust as a gubernatorial appointee for Congressional District 3 and was chairman of the Board almost all of this long period, and

Whereas, Dr. Gauthreaux presided over most of the founding years and the subsequent significant growth of the Heritage Trust Program, which in this period achieved full prominence as a conservation force in South Carolina, and

Whereas, Dr. Gauthreaux has made numerous personal sacrifices for the betterment of the program, and is widely recognized as both an expert in conservation and a warm and thoughtful colleague.

Now, therefore, the Advisory Board of the S. C. Heritage Trust extends its gratitude to Dr. Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr., for his service to the Board and for his chairmanship of the Board. We wish him the very best in his future endeavors to preserve South Carolina's significant, natural and cultural heritage, and we will miss him.

Tom Kohlsaet reported that the Wildlife Department had received a letter from Representative Holly Cork indicating that Porter Inc. has given up plans for a boat plant in Beaufort County. The company has sold the property back to Beaufort County for \$1.8 million. Representative Cork's letter asks if the Heritage Trust Advisory Board is interested in purchasing the property. Tom Kohlsaet recommends a response indicating we are willing to participate but certainly not for \$1.8 million. Our average cost for property in 1990 was \$232 per acre and this proposed sale represents a figure of approximately \$12,000 per acre.

Stuart Greeter called Board members' attention to a letter to the editor and response that was included in the mailing. The letter showed that an anti-hunting group was criticizing the Check for

Wildlife because we allow hunting on some of our preserves. We feel that this criticism is not germane and is working against preservation of wildlife in South Carolina.

The Heritage Trust Advisory Board moved to go into Executive Session to discuss matters dealing with the acquisition of property. Following the Executive Session the Board passed a motion to accept the Heritage Land Trust Fund budget as presented. A copy of that budget is attached to the minutes on file.

Dr. Rippeteau asked that Board members think about nominations for a new chairman to the Heritage Trust Advisory Board between now and the next meeting date.

Chris Judge invited Board members to join him at the Santa Elena site on Parris Island some time in late May. The Institute will be doing excavation work at that time.

The next meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board is scheduled for Thursday, May 30 in Columbia.

The meeting was adjourned.