

SOUTH CAROLINA HERITAGE TRUST

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

March 13, 1975

AGENDA

- I. Heritage Trust Program film
- II. SCORP Objectives
- III. Progress Report
 - a. Site Summaries
 - b. Field Surveys
 - c. Regional Advisory Committees
- IV. Legislation
- V. Acquisitions
- VI. S. C. Bicentennial
- VII. Congaree Swamp Study

MINUTES

MEETING: S. C. Heritage Trust Advisory Board

PLACE: Bankers Trust Tower, Suite 1116

TIME: 2:00 p.m. March 13, 1975

PRESENT: Mr. Fred P. Brinkman, Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Tourism
Ms. Nenie Dixon, Dept. of Archives & History
Mr. Con Childress, Sierra Club
Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, State Archeologist
Mr. Tom Kohlsaat, The Nature Conservancy
Dr. James A. Timmerman, Jr.
Rep. Sam Manning, House of Representatives
Mr. Larry Cartee, S. C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Dept.
Mr. Fred Myers, S. C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Dept.
Mr. Dan Dobbins, Parks, Recreation & Tourism Department
Mrs. Barbara Moxon, Dept. of Archives & History
Mr. Claude Bearden, Forestry Commission
Mr. Stu Greeter, S. C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Dept.
Mr. Chick Gaddy, S. C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Dept.
Ms. Penny Cannon, S. C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Dept.
Dr. Eugene A. Laurent, S. C. Wildlife & Marine Resources Dept.
Mrs. Joann Sheele

The March 13th meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board was called to order by Dr. Laurent. Mr. Con Childress, the State Conservation Chairman for the Sierra Club, was present representing the Environmental Coalition. Also attending was Nenie Dixon representing the Department of Archives and History. Guests of the Advisory Board included Dr. Robert Stephenson, State Archaeologist, and Mrs. Joanne Sheele whose husband is the new Director of the State Museum. Chairman Hudson was in Africa and unable to attend the meeting.

The first item for discussion was the Progress Report. Tom Kohlsaat introduced a new member of the staff, Chick Gaddy, who is conducting field surveys since Ken Stansell has taken a position with the Non-game and Endangered Species office of the Wildlife Department. Priorities have been set for purposes of scheduling field surveys, and most of the sites have been surveyed and entered into the computer information system. More regional advisory committee meetings have taken place during the last month. Mrs. Penny Cannon has completed two meetings in all ten of the regional planning districts and we have at least a nucleus of a good regional advisory committee in each district. Mr. Kohlsaat announced the final report of The Nature Conservancy on the Heritage Trust Program which marks the end of the Conservancy's formal involvement in the program. The report represents a rough draft but explains everything that the Conservancy has done to meet its commitment to the State. The final report is divided into the following segments:

1. The Preservation of Natural Diversity is simply a statement of what we are trying to accomplish.
2. Program Review is a very brief summary of what we have done and the major accomplishments of the Program

3. Preservation, Protection and Planning covers the steps leading up to our submitting legislation for the Heritage Trust Program. It covers surveys of every other state that has significant kinds of activity in this area and tries to extract the best from them. This volume is essentially a legislative history which gives the major points of laws of other states and talks about court decisions, the pros and cons. It also contains some recommendations on management.
4. Elements of Diversity is the classification system of natural communities we use in our field surveys and that we use to describe surveyed sites. It is basically a "shopping list" and is a compendium of all or most of the available information on the different habitat communities, etc. It is also our first cut at an endangered plant and animal species list for the State.
5. Data Collection is a summary of the techniques we used to gather data on the sites so far.
6. Natural Areas Information System is a technical description of the computer information program.
7. Site Information is an analysis of all the information put in the computer system so far which contains the various statistics on ownership and occurrence of different natural phenomena, etc.

Dr. Timmerman suggested that we devise some type of system of circulating these volumes to interested members as there are only a few copies available. Dr. Laurent suggested that the reports be digested into about a 20-page executive-type summary in which the major elements are covered.

The next item of discussion was Acquisitions. Dr. Laurent stated that there were no program acquisitions at this point. As Bob Jenkins reported at the last meeting, The Nature Conservancy as a Bicentennial organization has, as a bicentennial project, the protection of Pinckney Island in Beaufort County. The island will probably be transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service for management.

Mrs. Moxon asked for some clarification on Capers Island. Dr. Laurent stated that Capers Island was indeed a Heritage Trust Project. Dr. Timmerman felt that a public use plan had not been attained for the Santee Reserve as quickly as it should have been and that it would be another two months before the use plan is completed. As far as Capers Island is concerned we have already worked up a rough, preliminary use procedure that we are now getting with PRT and local groups on. Primarily, Capers will be left as much as possible in the natural state. We will be working with PRT, however, as far as some beach access. Regarding the use plan, we do not have any plans for hunting on the Island.

The next item of discussion involved Legislation. Dr. Timmerman commented that we have an obligation to the Senate to come up with some legislation. A letter addressed to Chairman Hudson from Dr. Charles Lee of Archives and History was read. Regarding the proposed bill creating a Heritage Trust Program and a system of registry of Protective heritage preservation and heritage sites, Dr. Lee felt that the bill duplicates and, in part, conflicts with the responsibilities and activities now in the province of the Department of Archives and History, The Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Department. Dr. Lee felt that the Heritage Trust Board should refer the proposed bill to a study committee consisting of Jim Timmerman, Fred Brinkman, Robert Stephenson, and Dr. Lee as agency heads to work out a substitute bill which would be far more acceptable and more suitable for reaching the goals for which the Bill was intended. Dr. Timmerman stated that from a personal standpoint he would like to make sure from his legal staff that nothing is taken away from any sister agency. He also recommended that the Wildlife Department name not be changed to reflect that we are a heritage department but rather this bill reflect the cooperation and coordination with the other agencies. Dr. Timmerman felt this should be kept in mind when reviewing the bill. Dr. Laurent stated that the obligation of getting legislation to the Senate comes, in part, from the last session when a general bill was passed allowing

the State to accept conservation easements and that we would come back with suggestions of how local areas might recruit some of the local taxes lost. He also added that the intent of the bill was not to infringe but that the real intent of the legislation is one to set up a means of trust for protecting natural areas, recognizing cultural features, etc. and to form some mechanism where we can assist other agencies in their job in terms of acquiring sites.

With regard to the draft legislation, Dr. Laurent suggested that we go through and take individual comments and open up for general discussion. Representative Manning felt the need for further coordination of the Heritage Trust and also discussed some points in the Heritage Bill that he thought should be clarified. Mr. Fred Brinkman stated that, in general, he and his staff members agree basically with the Act although there were some questions. Mr. Cotty stated that we did not have to have legislation this year. The reason we need legislation is not to legitimize an Executive Order we had last year nor make any other agency give up something they have been doing. Rather, legislation was needed for two reasons: to provide a sounder legal basis for the long-term protection of the area and that during that process of legislating you educate and draw more support for the program and get people to participate. As to the wording of the draft, more members of the Board should be involved in the final drafting.

The next item for discussion was SCORP objectives. Mr. Dan Dobbins of PRT referred to a memo sent by Chairman Hudson discussing briefly the objectives portion of the SCORP plan and the need to receive input in the SCORP Exchange Council. The Board of the Heritage Trust has been asked to serve as an advisory committee to the SCORP Exchange Council to form the S. C. Overall Recreation Plan Exchange Council. This newly formed organization was created by Executive Order issued by Governor Edwards. Basically the purpose of the Exchange Council is to bring together all recreational interests in the State of South Carolina into a voluntary organization to promote the exchange of ideas and information and to provide input and guidance into the S. C. Outdoor Recreation Plan. The S. C. Outdoor Recreation is one of the requirements of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for eligibility for funding in the Land and Water Conservation Fund which is a primary funding source for public recreation from the federal government. One of the immediate concerns is the need for input for the Exchange Council in the 1975 update of the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. A copy of the Executive Summary of 1970 was distributed. The original deadline for completing the summary was the 15th of March. The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation has given us a 6-month extension upon learning of the establishment of the SCORP Exchange Council and that South Carolina is the first state to try to involve public and private enterprise in the planning and implementation of the Statewide recreation program. This extension will give the State the opportunity to get input from this Council in the 1975 SCORP Update. Mr. Brinkman said that the SCORP will be looking to the Heritage Trust as well as to groups like the Environmental Coalition to provide the major input and possibly help write that portion of the SCORP plan which would deal in this particular area.

The staff distributed some rewording on the 1970 SCORP objectives that provided a basis for discussion. Mr. Dobbins will summarize the suggestions of the board for presentation to the SCORP Council.

The next item for discussion was the Congaree Swamp Study. Dr. Laurent stated that we have been in contact with the National Park Service in hopes of putting together a team that would involve the National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, PRT, Forestry Commission, Forestry Association and environmental interests so that we can work out a 6-month study to provide more on the Congaree and determine some alternative actions that could be taken.

The next item on the Agenda was the Heritage Trust Film which was shown to the members. This is the film which has been shown at the various regional planning districts and interest groups.