

S. C. Heritage Trust Advisory Board
Thursday, March 4th, 1982
Rembert Dennis Building, Columbia

Members Present

Mr. Walter T. Ahearn
(Representing Mr. Leonard Kilian)
Dr. Wade T. Batson
Mrs. Ethel Jane Bunting (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. Ed Burgess
(Representing Mr. Robert E. Leak)
Mr. John Clonts
(Representing Mr. Fred P. Brinkman)
Mrs. Christie Fant
(Representing Mr. Charles Lee)
Mrs. Julie Lumpkin
(Representing Dr. Robert Lumpkin)
Mr. Rudy Mancke
(Representing Mr. David C. Sennema)
Senator Arthur Ravenel
Mr. Henry Savage
Dr. Robert L. Stephenson
Mr. Gurdon Tarbox
Dr. James A. Timmerman, Jr.
Mr. Pat Walker
(Representing Mr. John Parris)

Members Absent

Dr. Sidney A. Gauthreaux (Chairman)
Representative Daniel Winstead

Others Present

Ms. Brusi Alexander, The Nature Conservancy
Mr. Steve Bennett, SCWMRD
Mr. Stuart Greeter, SCWMRD
Mr. Thomas S. Kohlsaar, SCWMRD
Ms. Jan Newborn, SCWMRD
Dr. Douglas Rayner



Vice Chairman Bunting called the March 4th meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The minutes of the October 28th meeting were approved as received.

Budget Committee

As Budget Committee Chairman, Senator Ravenel reported that Federal funding for the endangered species program has been cut and the program will hopefully get \$150,000 from the tax checkoff. Presently 1.8% of the State tax returns have checked an average of \$5 to the program, which would total \$90,000 before expenses. A more accurate estimate can be obtained after May 1st.

Tom Kohlsaar pointed out that ETV has submitted legislation for a checkoff on the State tax form.

Cultural Areas Committee

Ms. Fant reported that Mrs. Bunting has been elected Chairman of the Cultural Areas Committee and Archives and History has appointed Ms. Langdon Edmunds for staff support. The committee is working to establish criteria for selecting cultural areas that can be afforded protection under the Heritage Trust. The National Register serves as a starting point. The committee will investigate the Wateree Canal as a trial protection project and report back to the Advisory Board regarding progress or recommendations.

Natural Areas Committee

As Natural Areas Committee Chairman, Dr. Batson reported that the committee was acquainted with the Heritage Trust data bank and discussed the distinctions between rare species and rare habitats. Carolina bays, for instance, represent a habitat that is becoming rare. The possibility of habitat manipulation on Heritage preserves was also discussed and the committee may make pertinent recommendations in the future.

Dr. Stephenson commented on how much progress the Advisory Board seems to be making since the appointment of the three committees.

Update on Protection Projects

Victoria Bluff: Stuart Greeter reported that approval of the Victoria Bluff dedication had been obtained from the Beaufort County Legislative Delegation and the Advisory Board could now vote on the dedication agreement that was included in the mailing. The Advisory Board will consider a detailed management plan for Victoria Bluff once it is officially dedicated. Dr. Stephenson moved that the HTAB approve the dedication agreement and recommend it highly to the Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Bird Key- Stono: Mr. Greeter reported that an opinion of State ownership had been obtained from the Attorney General's Office with regard to Bird Key- Stono. As such the disposition of that property falls under the auspices of the Budget and Control Board. That Board has met and approved the dedication of Bird Key- Stono. Thus the HTAB can vote on the dedication agreement that was included in the mailing.

Mr. Greeter pointed out that the agreement allows for dredge spoil to be deposited on Bird Key and for navigational aids to be placed on Bird Key, both contingent upon HTAB approval. A detailed management plan will be presented to the Advisory Board once the area is officially dedicated.

Dr. Batson moved that the Bird Key- Stono dedication agreement be approved and the motion passed.

Westvaco eagle nest: Mr. Greeter reported that the Westvaco eagle nest registration agreement had been modified to delete "lead" from the list of prohibited pesticides, exempt boats from prohibited motorized vehicles, and correct a typographical error in Section 1. No hunting is allowed in the primary critical area. Dr. Stephenson moved that the registration agreement be approved and the motion passed.

Forty Acre Rock: Mr. Greeter commended LaBruce Alexander for her recent acquisition of the Gaddy Tract and the Byrd Tract in the Forty Acre Rock complex. It was also noted that The Nature Conservancy had given \$19,000 to the Heritage Trust Program for management of the Watson Tract in the Mountain Bridge project. Mr. Kohlsaas and Ms. Bunting commended Ms. Alexander's efforts as a photograph was taken of Ms. Alexander giving the Byrd Tract deed to Dr. Timmerman.

Consideration of New Protection Projects

Monetta Sinks: Dr. Doug Rayner explained the documentation regarding high ponds in general and more specifically the Monetta sink. They are ponds located along ridge tops and are distinct both physiographically and botanically. The Monetta Sink may be a remnant of a Carolina Bay, lime sink, or some other type of solution sink. High ponds are rare features that are rapidly disappearing with perhaps 3% of the original occurrences still remaining. They harbor a wide variety of rare plants. For example, the Monetta Sink provides suitable habitat for the rare bishop weed (Ptilimnium nodosum) a plant that has been observed by perhaps only twenty (20) people in the world. Five other plant species at Monetta sink are rare. Ms. LaBruce Alexander mentioned that she is presently investigating ownership around Monetta Sink. Mr. Rudy Mancke moved that Monetta Sink be put on the approved projects list and the membership approved the motion.

Ms. LaBruce Alexander pointed out that \$40,000 was raised in North Carolina as mitigation from illegal projects that required Corps of Engineers Section 404 permits. The money was used to take out options on three (3) Carolina Bays in North Carolina.

Chert Quarry: Mr. Rudy Mancke described the Rice Chert Quarry in Allendale County as another potential protection project. The area may have geologic, archaeological, and natural significance as it is a fossiliferous formation that was used by early man. Mr. Mancke will report on that in more detail at the next meeting.

Five Year Review

Vice Chairman Bunting passed out copies of the Five Year Review and thanked that committee for the fine work they had done.

Other Business

Dr. Timmerman commended Julie Lumpkin for having received the Harry Hampton Award from the Wildlife Federation. He also suggested that the HTAB Chairman send a letter thanking certain media organizations who have helped to publicize the tax checkoff.

Mr. Ahearn commended John Clonts and Drake Edens for having received Wildlife Federation Awards and mentioned that Kiawah Island and the Sea Island Veterinary Hospital also received awards. He pointed out that Dr. Batson, LaBruce Alexander, Rudy Mancke and Dr. Timmerman have also received Wildlife Federation awards.

Dr. Timmerman stated that he was very impressed with the organization of the HTAB and the progress the board is making.

Rudy Mancke suggested that a short paragraph regarding significance be added to each of the areas listed in the Protection Projects Status Report.

Walt Ahearn passed out copies of a publication entitled, A Heritage For the Future, a Clemson Cooperative Agricultural Extension Service Circular prepared by Naturaland Trust of Greenville.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.