

HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD  
TENTATIVE BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA  
9:30 a.m. - March 6, 1981  
TOM YAWKEY WILDLIFE CENTER, GEORGETOWN

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- I. Introduction of New Members
- II. Approval of the November 20th Meeting Minutes
- III. Consideration of Registration Agreements
  - a) John de la Howe School "Museum Tract"
  - b) Furman University Sagittaria Site
- IV. Update on Protection Projects
  - a) Bird Key - Stono
  - b) Historic Areas Projection Projects
  - c) Protection Projects Status Report
- V. Report on the Heritage Trust Program 5-Year Review Committee

S.C. HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD  
Friday, March 6, 1981  
The Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center  
Georgetown, S. C.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Walter T. Ahearn  
(Representing Mr. Leonard A. Kilian, Jr.)  
Mr. Fred P. Brinkman  
Mrs. Ethel Jane Bunting (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr. Ed Burgess  
(Representing Mr. Robert Leak)  
Mrs. Claudette Cureton  
Dr. Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr. (Chairman)  
Dr. Robert L. Lumpkin  
Mr. Rudy Mancke  
(Representing Mr. David C. Sennema)  
Senator Arthur Ravenel  
Mr. Henry Savage  
Dr. Robert L. Stephenson  
Mr. Pat Walker  
(Representing Mr. John Parris)  
Mr. Gurdon Tarbox  
Dr. James A. Timmerman, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Wade T. Batson  
Mr. Charles Lee  
(1 vacant position)

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Steve Bennett  
Mr. Jefferson C. Fuller, Jr.  
Mr. Stuart Greeter  
Mr. Bob Joyner  
Mr. Tom Kohlsaas  
Mrs. Jean Ravenel  
Mr. James Sorrow  
Mrs. Ann Tarbox

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gauthreaux. The Chairman introduced the new members of the Advisory Board: Dr. Lumpkin, Senator Ravenel, Mr. Savage and Mr. Tarbox. On a motion by Dr. Stephenson and second by Mrs. Cureton, the minutes of the November 20 meeting were approved.

The following items of business were taken up:

PROPOSED REGISTRATIONS

At Dr. Timmerman's suggestion, Tom Kohlsaas reviewed the dedication and registration processes. Stuart Greeter presented proposed registration agreements for the John de la Howe School "Museum Tract" and the Sagittaria fasciculata site at Furman University. After a brief discussion, Mr. Mancke moved approval of the registration agreements, Mr. Brinkman seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously.

PROTECTION PROJECT UPDATE

The following protection projects were discussed:

Bird Key — Stono Stu Greeter reported that the Attorney General's office has made little headway in resolving the ownership question. He reviewed the progress of his own research in resolving the ownership question and reported that he will continue to work on it as time is available. At Mr. Brinkman's request the distinction between Bird Key — Stono and the Bird Key Park Development at the south end of Folly Island was clarified.

Mountain Bridge. Fred Brinkman reported that the Moore property and the last parcel of the Cleveland property will be closed shortly. These will be the last major acquisitions on the project, since the Federal and State funds have nearly all been expended. In addition, the outlook for additional funding in 1981-82 is not particularly good at the moment. However, with the final closing of the Cleveland property there will be over 9,000 acres in the Mountain Bridge area in public ownership.

Middleburg Plantation. Mr. Greeter reported that Middleburg has recently changed hands and the new owner is anxious to protect the active bald eagle nest and restore the house and other historic buildings on the property. Dr. Stephenson and Mr. Lee have offered to consult with the new owner. The Board approved placing Middleburg Plantation on the list of approved projects from both a natural and cultural standpoint.

Mr. Tarbox mentioned that Middleburg may be threatened by condemnation for a railroad right-of-way to connect the Wando Terminal with proposed industrial developments on the Cooper River.

Proposed Capers Island Deer Hunts. Mr. Kohlsaas presented a proposal of the Wildlife and Marine Resources Department to permit limited archery hunting of deer and hogs on Capers Island. A lengthy discussion ensued among several board members and Jeff Fuller, Director of the Department's Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division. In the interest of brevity, the following discussion is organized around several key points which emerged during the discussion. These points are not necessarily arranged in the chronological order in which they were presented. The authors of the various points are indicated in parentheses.

The background of the proposal is as follows:

The proposal was prepared by Department staff at the request of Commissioners Calvin Dawson and Rembert Dennis. The Department proposes to conduct two (2) weeks of hunting involving archery only; two (2) deer limit, either sex, plus hogs. The dates of the proposed hunt are October 26 to 31 and November 16 to 21. Hunters would register with Department personnel on arriving at the Island and would be issued camping permits in accordance with the usual Department procedures for the island. The rules and regulations for Capers Island would have to be changed to permit these hunts and there is some doubt as to whether all the procedural steps could be completed in time to permit the hunts this year. The biologist reports that the hunts are not needed to control the deer herd at this time, but that the population is sufficiently large to support a hunt. Possible actions by the Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission include instituting permanent regulations setting up the hunts, issuing temporary regulations for the hunts, issuing conditional regulations authorizing the Department to conduct the hunts under special circumstances, or to take no action. The Heritage Trust Advisory Board has an advisory role in determining which action to take. It should be noted that Capers Island was acquired in 1975 and a management plan was approved by the Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission prior to the formation of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board.

Board members made several points for and against the proposal which are summarized below:

- 1) The primary objective of protecting Capers Island under the Heritage Trust is to preserve and maintain the representative barrier island ecosystem found there. If a tradition of hunting on the island is established, it may lead to public expectation for management for a larger deer harvest at the expense of this primary objective (Dr. Gauthreaux, Staff).
- 2) Concerns about the effects of hunting on the Island included crippling losses and safety problems caused by simultaneous use of the islands by hunters and other recreationists (Mrs. Bunting), damaged trees caused by the use of permanent stands (Bob Joyner), and overuse of campsites and other facilities by hunters (staff).
- 3) The Department has an obligation to accommodate public use of the island for hunting, if possible (Sen. Ravenel, Dr. Lumpkin). Since the island was acquired with public funds, the Department also has an obligation to provide as much public use and access as possible (Mr. Brinkman). However, considerable public use is already provided (Mrs. Bunting).

- 4) There may also be a need to remove deer from the island for management purposes, i.e., to prevent overbrowsing and to maintain a healthy herd (Mr. Tarbox). In this case it may be desirable to have the deer removed by Department personnel rather than by hunters. If disposal of the deer is a problem, the Columbia River-banks Zoo would probably be glad to accept all the carcasses we could deliver (Mr. Tarbox). In principle, an annual harvest of 30% of the population is ideal, however, bow hunters probably won't come close to meeting this goal. However, personnel limitations are such that it would be difficult for staff to control the size of the herd. The conditions of the herd is traditionally assessed by inspecting a sample of the deer harvested by hunters. Such an assessment should be carried out annually to determine trends in the population (Mr. Fuller).

During debate of these points, discussion turned to finding a way to resolve the various differences of opinion. It was generally agreed that more information was needed before this could be done. Accordingly, the following motion by Mr. Savage, seconded by Mr. Tarbox was approved:

The Heritage Trust Advisory Board recommends that the Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission and staff develop a management plan for Capers Island that would permit the thinning of deer and hog populations through special hunts and present this plan to the Heritage Trust Advisory Board for approval.

The Chairman requested that this plan be prepared for presentation at the next Board meeting.

#### UPDATE ON THE NONGAME AND NATURAL AREAS TAX CHECKOFF

Dr. Timmerman and Senator Kavenel reported on the status of the tax checkoff bill. It has passed the House and was reported out of the Senate Fish Game and Forestry Committee on March 5. The Bill contains provisions for adding a checkoff for \$1, \$3, or \$5 on individual state tax returns and an additional block for \$10 on joint returns. Funds would carry over from year to year, earning interest which would also be applied to the program. Funds will be applied to the Department's Heritage Trust and Nongame Wildlife Management operations and to related public information projects. Dr. Timmerman noted that the initiation of the checkoff is timely, given the prospects for loss of federal funding on several programs.

#### STATE SEASHELL

Stuart Greeter reported that a Mr. Bill Conklin, a conchologist, has proposed submitting legislation designating a state seashell. At the request of Mr. Lee, Mr. Greeter asked the Board for direction on this matter. Mr. Mancke mentioned that he had discussed this proposal with Mr. Greeter and that he felt the lettered olive shell may be an appropriate choice since it reaches its northern limit in South Carolina, was named by a South Carolinian and is abundant and somewhat reclusive.

After a few Board members had commented, it was agreed that this was not a matter of primary importance to the Heritage Trust and that it would not be appropriate for the Board to take the lead in pursuing such legislation. Accordingly the Chairman ruled that the Board would take the proposal under advisement and refer Mr. Conklin to Rudy Mancke for technical advice.

#### BEAR ISLAND EAGLE NEST REGISTRATION

Stuart Greeter presented registration certificates to Jeff Fuller, who accepted them on behalf of the Department.

At this point several items of old and new business were presented: Mr. Ahearn and Chairman Gauthreaux noted some entries in the project status summary which were in need of updating. Bob Joyner, area manager at the Tom Yawkey Center, raised the possibility of transplanting Venus fly traps and other endangered plant species to the Yawkey Center. Mr. Savage mentioned that he had three areas in mind which he felt were worthy of protection under the Heritage Trust. (note: staff will contact Mr. Savage in the near future and investigate these areas.)

#### FIVE YEAR REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Gauthreaux distributed summaries of his committee's report entitled, Five Year Review and Projection for the S. C. Heritage Trust Program. He explained that the summary would be part of a larger report which would include the sets of questions and responses from the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, Wildlife and Marine Resources Commission, and Wildlife and Marine Resources Department. He directed staff to incorporate the Board members' responses into the document and return it to the staff for retyping and duplicating. The final report will be made available to Board members prior to the next meeting.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next advisory board meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 5 in Columbia. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.