

MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 1, 2003
TABLE ROCK STATE PARK

Members Present

Terry Ferguson (Chair)
Fritz Hamer
Jon Leader
Gail Wagner
Richard Porcher
Joel Felder (for Bob Schowalter)
Mary Edmonds (for Rodger Stroup)
Barry Beasley (for John Frampton)
Charles Bradford
John Tucker
Carmen Thomas (for Bob Faith)
Mike Foley (for Chad Prosser)

Members Absent

Malloy McEachin
Julia Krebs (Vice-Chair)
Freddy Vang

Others Present

Tom Kohlsaat
Stuart Greeter
Chris Judge
Ken Prosser
Steve Bennett
Bert Pittman
Mary Bunch
Kathy Boyle
Greg Lucas
George Polk
Gil Newberry
Ann Nolte
Rick Huffman
Jack Walker
Dennis Chastain
Sam Stokes
Zane Wilson
Harry Shealy
Pat McMillan
Johnny Stowe
Jamie Dozier

Terry Ferguson called the meeting to order and called the roll. He recognized Jack Walker, Planning Director of the City of Myrtle Beach.

Approval of February 6 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2002 Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) meeting. The motion was approved.

Committee Member Appointment

Dr. Ferguson announced a recommendation that Rick Huffman be appointed to the Natural Areas Committee. The committee as a motion recommended approval. The motion was approved.

Natural and Cultural Areas Committees

Although no official report was given, an earlier joint meeting was held to discuss preserve management and other issues, which are listed at the end of the minutes.

Other Business

1. Jocassee Gorges Update: Mary Bunch stated a forest management plan would be in place by summer and a road plan is underway. She added that road improvement work would begin soon and Chris Judge said the area that will be improved did not contain any archaeological resources.
2. Proposed Annexation at Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve: Jack Walker described the proposal to annex the preserve into the City of Myrtle Beach. Barry Beasley stated the subcommittee appointed to examine this matter met in April and felt that annexation would be an asset in the long-term. Before moving forward with the process, Mr. Beasley suggested we pursue clarification of the development agreement, preserve management plan, public trust district and financial commitment. Dr. Ferguson stated the committee as a motion recommends proceeding with negotiations to annex Lewis Ocean Bay as described by Mr. Beasley and Mr. Walker. The motion was approved 9-2.
3. Management Plan for Myrtle Beach State Park: Mike Foley stated PRT has made a commitment to increase the protection of many state parks from registration agreements to conservation easements via dedication as heritage preserves. Mr. Foley described the plan for Myrtle Beach State Park and the committee as a motion proposed an amendment for archaeological survey work to preclude any ground disturbances within the park. The motion was approved. Next, the committee as a motion proposed approval of the management plan. The motion was approved.
4. Craig Pond Management Plan: Pat McMillan explained the plan for this Barnwell county property that is dedicated as a heritage preserve via conservation easement. The committee as a motion recommended approval. The motion was approved.
5. Annual Report: Ken Prosser described the accomplishments of Heritage Trust for the 2002 calendar year. Dr. Ferguson suggested showing a "track record" of management expenditures in future reports.
6. Lighthouse Inlet Management Plan: Chris Judge stated this 95-acre tract, purchased by Charleston County, will be dedicated as a heritage preserve. He added that Heritage Trust will partner with the county by purchasing a

small interest in the property. However, before an interest is purchased, Mr. Judge said a management plan will be approved by both parties. He explained six proposed changes in the plan and Dr. Ferguson said the committee as a motion recommended approval. The plan was approved.

7. Great Pee Dee Marl Bluff Protection Project: Bert Pittman described this 5,000-acre area along the Great Pee Dee River, which extends from Florence to Poston. Dr. Ferguson stated that the committee as a motion recommended approval as a protection project. The motion was approved.
8. Stewardship Report: Johnny Stowe and Chris Judge updated members on heritage preserve stewardship activities.

Budget Committee

HTAB entered executive session to discuss contractual matters. They returned to regular session and voted to approve the Heritage Land Trust Fund budget. Addendums to the budget included additions to Chestnut Ridge and Waccamaw River Heritage Preserves, funds for Morris Island Lighthouse and an increase for the Seabrook tract.

Adjourn.

**Listed below is a list of options, issues and actions noted by Tom Kohlsaatt during the joint committee meeting.

Options to Stretch/Expand Resources

1. Land Trust Partnerships – furnish our project list? vs. perception of Heritage Trust as money source.
2. Private landowner recognition awards?
3. PR/image/outreach.
4. Volunteers – good and bad. Training?
5. Grants to get students on preserves – need local staff. Schools adopt preserves?
6. Spend money on an outreach stewardship coordinator (targeted assimilations within the agency?). Develop stronger public ties to preserves?
7. Volunteer recognition? Stickers, socials.
8. Tours – “wildlife weekends.” Eco-tourism.
9. Volunteers to do biological surveys. Ex: Janet Ceigler. Problems: QC, different agendas. Requires investment of time.
10. Graduate student assistance. Grants? Some successful examples.
11. Conflict: Focus surveys on HP's vs. unprotected sites.
12. Board members step up in areas of expertise. Field work, public appearances.

13. Local support units – recruit volunteers, build visitation.
14. No cookie cutter approach – get some prototypes off the ground; HTAB members involved.
15. Move to easements.

Issues

1. “The age of accountability is going to get worse.” T. Ferguson.
2. Land acquisition is visible, tied to political clout; other functions are not. Can't realistically cease all acquisition.
3. Rate of land loss increasing; acquisition does not equal protection.
4. Political currency of HTAB members.
5. Need to demonstrate good stewardship.
6. Minimal infrastructure of HP's. Issue for visitation.
7. Move from point orientation to different spatial scales.

Action

1. Committees by region/areas – ID problems, act, report. Outreach, stewardship initiation efforts and recommendations, local politics. Test – Aiken area. Harry Shealy, Jim Knight.
2. Material to HTAB members for talks, slide library.
3. Approach land trusts – Rodger/Anne Jennings.
4. HTAB surveys of HP's – Bill Green, Jon Leader.
5. Grants review committee – Gail, Julia, Gill.
6. Regular recognition of volunteers, web page – Terry.
7. Staff assimilates ideas, information and report back.