

MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1988, 10:00 AM
REMBERT DENNIS BUILDING, COLUMBIA, SC

Members Present

Sid Gauthreaux
Chuck Compton
Bruce Rippeteau
Joe F. Watson
Claudette Cureton
Wade Batson
George Vogt
Fran Eargle
James Timmerman
Robert J. Gould
Ed Drane
Michael A. Ray

Members Absent

Eugene Foxworth
Nell Smith
Ed Burgess

Other Attendees

Tom Kohlsaat
Stuart Greeter
Brock Conrad
Nancy Brock
Susan McGahee
Doug Rayner
John Nelson
Steve Bennett
Roger Jones
Mark Dutton
John Rogers
Jim Sorrow
John Cely
Terry Yarborough
Steven D. Smith
Ron Greenburg
Dayton Baker
Pat Ferral
Mary Edmonds

Chairman Gauthreaux called the May 19 meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) to order at 10:00 AM in Room 335 of the Rembert Dennis Building. The February 11 meeting minutes were approved as written. Chairman Gauthreaux introduced Dayton Baker and recognized Tom Kohlsaat. Tom Kohlsaat presented Heyward Douglas with a framed Check for Wildlife poster. Mr. Douglas was responsible for putting up over 150 Check for Wildlife posters at locations where the public could see them. Chairman Gauthreaux thanked Mr. Douglas for his valuable help in publicizing the program. Tom Kohlsaat announced a meeting at 1:00 PM that afternoon to discuss the proposed Dewees Island easement.

Budget Committee

Tom Kohlsaat presented the budget which was mailed out previous to the meeting and explained several minor changes in proposed project costs. He reported that the proposed changes would not result in a negative balance.

Stuart Greeter passed out detailed information on six different protection projects which are proposed additions to the Heritage Land Trust Fund budget (HLTF). Proposals for the Ashmore Addition, Sandhills Bay, Buzzard Roost Addition, Flat Creek Addition, Woods Bay Addition, and Shealy's Pond Addition were discussed in detail. John Nelson, Steve Bennett, and Doug Rayner showed slides and summarized the natural significance of each of the areas. Ideal preserve boundaries for these areas were also presented so Board members would have an idea of potential future additions. Steve Bennett passed out information on Carolina bays and pointed out that the 36 bays that are approved projects came from a survey that covered over 2,600 bays. Eighteen

of the 36 approved bays are inactive, which means protection of those bays at this time is unlikely. The Board passed a motion to add the six proposed acquisitions to the HLTF budget list.

Stuart Greeter then explained a currently available opportunity to purchase 567 acres along the Little Pee Dee River at a price 40% below fair market value. The Board voted to turn the Little Pee Dee River property over to the Natural Areas Committee, who will meet and send a mail-in ballot to Board members.

Dr. Timmerman reported that next year's budget request goes to the Budget and Control Board in August. He said that the Heritage Trust Program needs staff for management tasks and that they will be a priority in the Wildlife Department's budget request.

Cultural Areas Committee

Dr. Rippeteau reported that Ed Drane is the new Chairman of the Cultural Areas Committee. Ed Drane reported that the Hilton Head Town Council will include Fish Haul Creek in their Capital Improvements Plan. Other outside funding sources are being investigated for the project. If enough funding sources can be found, the Town Council may option the land until it can be acquired.

Fund raising for Snee Farm is said to be going well and the project is moving forward.

The newly formed Interagency Forum on Cultural Affairs met. The group will be addressing cultural sites in terms of priority for protection and degree of significance.

In response to a letter from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Board member Alan Jeffcoat, Ed Drane suggested a meeting between TNC and representatives from HTAB. Chairman Gauthreaux said he would respond to the letter and suggest such a meeting. He also stated that he felt a blend of natural and cultural areas projects is necessary for a successful Heritage Trust Program.

Natural Areas Committee

Dr. Batson reported on Windmill Highpond, Brattonsville Woods and Wildcat Creek as proposed protection projects. The Board passed a motion to approve those areas as protection projects.

Comments for the Executive Director

Dr. Timmerman reported that Commission terms for Chairman Webster and two other Commissioners will expire on June 30. Chairman Gauthreaux asked Chuck Compton to relay his appreciation for Chairman Webster's support to the Heritage Trust Program.

Protection Projects Update

Stuart Greeter reported that since the last HTAB meeting we have purchased an addition to the Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve in Greenville County and the Tilghman property along the Little Pee Dee River.

Management Plans

The Board voted to approve the Bennett's Bay and Colleton Cowbane management plans. The revised Capers Island management plan was passed out and left to the Natural Areas Committee for their review.

Schedule Next HTAB Meeting

The next HTAB meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 25. Ed Drane offered to host the next meeting at Hilton Head Island and Chairman Gauthreaux thanked him for the invitation.

Chairman Gauthreaux reminded members of the meeting on the Dewees Island management plan in Room 607 of the Gressette Building at 1:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned.