

MINUTES  
Heritage Trust Advisory Board  
Thursday, May 23, 1985  
Dennis Building, Columbia, S.C.

Members Present

Sid Gauthreaux (Chairman)  
Fred Brinkman  
Wade Batson  
Christie Fant  
Gurdon Tarbox  
Ed Drane  
Walt Ahearn  
Bruce Rippeteau  
Claudette Cureton  
Ed Burgess  
Jim Timmerman  
Henry Savage

Other Attendees

Stuart Greeter  
Tom Kohlsaat  
Al Goodyear  
Langdon Edmunds  
Doug Rayner  
John Nelson  
Marion Edmonds  
John Rogers  
LaBruce Alexander

Members Absent

Dave Sennema  
Arthur Ravenel  
Robert Lumpkin

Chairman Gauthreaux called the May 23 meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board to order at 10:00 AM in Columbia, S.C. He welcomed John Rogers from PRT who was attending in place of Mike Foley. The minutes for the February 22 meeting were approved with one exception. Ms. Fant indicated that the minutes did not include discussion regarding support of pending legislation. At that meeting, Christie moved that the HTAB go on record as supporting the legislation in the Governor's environmental package and the motion passed. The minutes were then approved as revised.

Budget Committee

Tom Kohlsaat reported that legislation creating the Heritage Land Trust Fund has been enacted. He passed out copies of that legislation and indicated that \$200,000 may be appropriated to that fund this year. Tom reported that Mr. Brinkman has committed \$87,000 from PRT to the Savannah River Bluffs project. The 1984 Check for Wildlife fund is expected to be about \$120,000, which is off from last year's \$160,000 due to an additional checkoff on the state tax return. In appreciation to Senator Ravenel for his outstanding efforts in the legislature, the Board voted to present him with a framed photo of one of South Carolina's bald eagles.

Cultural Areas Committee

Christie Fant reported that the Cultural Areas Committee had met twice since the last HTAB meeting. Dr. Mark Barns, from the National Park Service, attended one of the meetings to discuss preservation easements. The

Department of Archives and History has approved a \$5,000 grant, which will be matched by PRT, to research the use of easements. A legal consultant will prepare recommendations for the committee on a South Carolina easement program.

Al Goodyear passed out copies of a proposed registration agreement for the Sandoz Chert Quarries. The Sandoz Chert Quarries have been approved for the National Register of Historic Places as the first Archeological District nomination in South Carolina.

#### Natural Areas Committee

Dr. Batson reported that Senator Ravenel has proposed and passed a concurrent resolution in the legislature. That resolution concerns protection of Drum Island in Charleston Harbor as an important wading bird rookery. Dr. Batson indicated that the resolution would be very helpful in the future. The committee had no new protection projects for consideration. Dr. Batson reported the HTP has received some Federal funds to survey for persistent trillium and TNC has donated funds to survey for several other rare plant species. Doug Rayner's survey work has identified the Waccamaw River Basin as a unique area and he will continue to study that area. The Carolina Bay project has inventoried 3 1/2 counties and several more bays may be presented as protection projects at the next meeting.

#### Comments from the Executive Director

Dr. Timmerman pointed out that the Department is currently developing the 1986-87 budget request. The Department almost ended up \$500,000 short on next year's payroll. The nuisance alligator program did not get funded. Jeff Fuller, the Director of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, retired and Dr. Timmerman is currently interviewing people for that position. Dr. Timmerman is now establishing a Land Procurement Committee to study land requirements and related problems. He hopes everyone will work together on that.

Dan Dobbins reported that the budget shortfall this year was almost a disaster. He thanked the Governor's Office and TNC for their assistance in getting the Heritage Land Trust Fund passed. Dan indicated that the Department will consider: 1) another license increase; 2) a source of funding to preserve habitat; and 3) some method to maintain public hunting lands.

#### Protection Projects Update

Stuart Greeter explained the Colleton County Cowbane easement agreement which puts that area under the corpus of the Heritage Trust. The Board voted to recommend approval of that agreement by the Wildlife Commission. Stuart also outlined the registration agreements for the Santee Lime Sinks and Huntington Beach State Park. Those registration agreements were recommended to the Commission for approval. After some discussion Christie Fant moved that the Chairman send a letter to the Coastal Council recommending that they keep HTP information on file and notify HTP when permits are proposed in those areas. LaBruce Alexander reported that TNC has purchased two tracts at Savannah River

Bluffs for approximately \$350,000. Hopefully those properties will be transferred to HTP as soon as possible. Dr. Rippeteau stated that the archeology of that area is very significant also.

#### Tillman Sand Ridge

Tom Kohlsaas reported that the gopher tortoise site was visited by staff and representatives from the Public Service Authority. The situation was discussed, but no definite conclusions were drawn. Meanwhile, Representative Woody Aydlette has introduced legislation preventing the PSA from developing the site. The staff will continue negotiating and monitoring.

#### Other Business

Ed Drane pointed out that a Representative needs to be officially appointed to the HTP.

Walt Ahearn will be retiring from the Forestry Commission after 39 years of service. The Board passed a resolution expressing their great appreciation for Walt's outstanding service.

Claudette Cureton mentioned that she presented the HTP slide show to two groups and it was very well received.

LaBruce Alexander suggested that an HTP presentation be given to the State Development Board and the Coastal Council. Ed Burgess said the Development Board would welcome a presentation.

Ed Burgess suggested that ETV be contacted to see if they would run some type of special program on HTP.

Tom Kohlsaas, by way of thanks to LaBruce Alexander, presented her with a gold star award with cluster.

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, September 6 at Charles Towne Landing. The plan is for the group to get together Thursday evening, meet Friday morning, and go on a field trip Friday afternoon.

The meeting was adjourned.