

**MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 3, 2006
SC DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY
COLUMBIA, SC**

Members Present

Julia Krebs (Chair)
Campbell Coxe (Vice-Chair)
Irvin Pitts (for Chad Prosser)
Beth Grace
Henry Fair
Fritz Hamer (for William Calloway)
Rodger Stroup
Jake Rasor
Jon Leader
States Clawson (for Joe Taylor)

Others Present

Barry Beasley
Stuart Greeter
Chris Judge
Ken Prosser
Bert Pittman
Ann Darr
Kathy Boyle
Kay Daniels
Breck Carmichael
Tim Ivey
Buford Mabry
Mary Edmonds
Rick Huffman

Members Absent

Sonny King
Mike McShane
John Frampton
Freddy Vang
Joel Felder (for Robert Schowalter)

Julia Krebs called the meeting to order and called the roll.

Approval of February 2 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2006 Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) meeting. The motion was approved. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the telephonic meeting of April 10, 2006.

Comments from the Director

Barry Beasley stated the Joint Bond Review Committee gave preliminary approval to DNR to acquire the Woodberry and Hamilton Ridge properties and also approved using revenue bonds to acquire them. He added there are still some critical decisions that need to be made by HTAB and the DNR Board.

Dr. Beasley stated the August HTAB meeting will be in Columbia and the November meeting will be away from the office. Agenda items for the August meeting will include a number of new or updated management plans for existing preserves.

Dr. Beasley presented a print to Stuart Greeter in recognition of his 29 years of service with Heritage Trust. Mr. Greeter will continue working with DNR in the Scenic Rivers Program.

Natural Areas Committee

1. Brice Property Donation: Ken Prosser discussed a potential property donation adjoining Belvue Springs Heritage Preserve near Travelers Rest. The committee as a motion recommended approval. The motion was approved.
2. Woodbury Survey Update: Bert Pittman gave a presentation on biological survey work on the Woodberry tract.

Cultural Areas Committee

No report.

Other Business

1. Coastal Seabird Rookeries: Breck Carmichael reported that the Budget and Control Board (BCB) granted Bird Key Stono, Deveaux Bank and Crab Bank sanctuary status. He added that new regulations have been posted on the islands and in surrounding areas to alert the public. Mr. Carmichael stated a doctoral candidate from Clemson would begin a three-year monitoring program soon to study nesting habits and how disturbances affect survival rates. He added that a graduate student and DNR technician would also participate in the project.
2. Property Disposal at Ditch Pond: Mr. Prosser discussed the sale of a 68-acre parcel that is part of Ditch Pond Heritage Preserve in Aiken County. He stated the tract was not dedicated and is separate from the remainder of the preserve. Proceeds from the sale would be returned to the Heritage Land Trust Fund. A motion was made to sell the property at no less than fair market value. The motion was seconded and approved.
3. Revenue Bond Process: Buford Mabry discussed the status of the bond bill and stated that in 2003, the BCB inserted a proviso into the budget bill that all state agencies would transfer title of their properties to the BCB. Several agencies were exempted, but not DNR. A standoff between the BCB and DNR ensued, but the properties were not transferred.

In 2005, Mr. Mabry said International Paper decided to dispose of all of their lands. John Frampton decided to issue bonds to purchase two of these properties and legislation was required to sell the bonds. The proposed legislation and the two properties were approved by the Joint Bond Review Committee and will go to Budget & Control Board May 16. Also, DNR was granted an exemption from transferring titles to the BC&B.

Budget Overview

Tim Ivey gave an update of management activities on natural areas preserves and presented the budget for the next fiscal year. Chris Judge reported on budgetary and management items for cultural preserves.

Revenue Outlook

Barry Beasley reviewed revenues to the Heritage Land Trust Fund and stated almost \$8 million had accumulated into the fund during the last fiscal year.

Regarding the bond bill, Dr. Beasley stated that revenue bonds could be issued for up to \$32 million. However, he added that the more money DNR brings to the table, the less debt we will have to repay. DNR is seeking grant funds of up to \$24 million. Sources include Recovery Lands and NAWCA grants from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Legacy and the Conservation Bank.

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 as presented, with an addendum that a \$2.5 million balance be maintained in the budget. Monetary expenditures approved for property acquisitions included Woodberry, Hamilton Ridge, Vaught and Chinquapin Hollow. A proposed acquisition of DNR land in Marion County by the Department of Transportation was also approved.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 2, 2006 in Columbia at the SC Department of Archives & History. The November 1 & 2, 2006 meeting will be held near the Woodbury Tract.

Adjourn.

/k