

**MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 7, 1998
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA**

Members Present

Dr. Terry Ferguson (Chair)
Mr. Michael Todd Smith
Dr. Julius Leary
Mr. Bruce Sahlman
Dr. Bruce RippetEAU
Mr. Rodger Stroup
Mr. Joe Mills (for Hugh Ryan)
Mr. Dick Scott, III
Mr. Freddy Vang
Mr. Corky Lee
Mr. Brock Conrad (for Paul Sandifer)
Mr. Mike Foley (for Buddy Jennings)

Others Present

Mr. Tom Kohlsaatt
Mr. Stuart Greeter
Mr. Steve Bennett
Mr. Chris Judge
Mr. Johnny Stowe
Mr. Ken Prosser
Mr. Jon Leader
Mr. Dan Dobbins
Ms. Mary Edmonds
Ms. Rebecca Parke

Members Absent

Mr. Antony Merck (Vice-chair)
Dr. Tony Ganong

Dr. Ferguson called the meeting to order and called the roll.

Approval of February 5 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 5, 1998 Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) meeting. The motion was approved.

Dr. Ferguson welcomed Rebecca Parke from the Jocassee Gorges Coalition.

Comments from the Director

In Dr. Sandifer's absence, Brock Conrad gave an update on the department's proposed budget for next year. He informed members that a request for recurring funds for Heritage Trust operations did not look promising. Mr. Conrad stated the request was currently near the bottom of a list for non-recurring money. He added that it would be appropriate for members to call their legislators and voice their support for funding the program.

Other Business

A) Accepting bids on appraisals and surveys: In the past, Stuart Greeter said we solicited bids for appraisals, environmental assessments and surveys. According to the state procurement code, he said we are now prohibited from doing so. To further explain this regulation, Corky Lee asked that an official from the state procurement office attend the next meeting. Mr. Greeter suggested that Dr. Ferguson send a letter to Benny Reeves to make the request. Dr. Ferguson agreed and said he would also send a letter to Helen Ziegler, the state's Chief Procurement Officer. Further, he asked members to send him or Stuart any comments they would like included in the letters.

B) Bylaws: Mr. Greeter informed members that the Bylaws had been modified to reflect the procedures they have followed the last several years. He said the only major change, besides terminology, concerned elections. Mr. Greeter explained these changes and noted that if they adopted the Bylaws, an election would not be needed until November. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Bylaws. Then, Mr. Toddy Smith suggested two additional changes. First, he recommended that when voting by mail, a unanimous vote be adopted instead of a two-thirds vote. Second, Mr. Smith proposed that, with advance notice, telephone meetings could be conducted on a conference call where all members can hear the others. He added that this is a common procedure by which they need a quorum to take action. An amendment to the motion was made to change the language under Section VIII, Voting by Mail, from a two-thirds vote to a unanimous vote of all voting Board members. The motion was seconded and approved. Next, a second amendment to the motion was made to allow telephone meetings if a quorum of eight members were present for a conference call. It would be added to the Bylaws as Item G, under Section IV. The motion was seconded and approved. Dr. Ferguson stated that the full motion was to accept the Bylaws as revised with two additional amendments as made from the floor. The motion was approved.

C) Stewardship: Johnny Stowe briefly updated members on preserve management work. He said that recent activities included conducting prescribed burns, establishing trails, leading field trips, planting longleaf pine, monitoring rare species and restoring habitats. Mr. Stowe also informed members that Cartwheel Bay HP will be featured in the next issue of SC Wildlife. Further, he stated that he is investigating an easement swap at the Waccamaw River HP. Dr. Ferguson requested a status report on the heritage preserve (HP) work plan at the next meeting.

D) Congaree Creek Update: Chris Judge reported that a 40-member stewardship committee had been formed for Congaree Creek and the first meeting was held approximately three months ago. He stated that they now meet on the first Wednesday of every month. Currently, he said the committee was planning a canoe trail, a hiking trail and finalizing plans for a canoe put-in and take-out. Mr.

Judge added that Congaree Creek should be cleared for canoeing by the end of the summer.

E) Annual Reports: Ken Prosser stated that he had summarized the report at the last meeting, but the report had not been printed and bound. He distributed completed copies to HTAB members.

F) Elections: Since they adopted the Bylaws, Dr. Ferguson announced that Item F was no longer relevant.

Dr. Ferguson passed out newspaper articles about the program.

Natural Areas Committee

Joe Mills reported that the committee discussed and endorsed preserve designs for the Henderson HP and the Aiken Gopher Tortoise HP. He also reported that they did not endorse a possible addition to the Henderson Preserve. Steve Bennett explained the idea of preserve design and stated that they would be on file for members to examine. He added that the designs would be presented when proposed additions to preserves come up in the future. Mr. Mills said the committee recommends as a motion approval of these preserve designs as a planning tool. The motion was approved. Also, he stated that the committee discussed two other items.

1) Longleaf Pine HP Management Plan: Mr. Stowe stated that the preserve is composed of wet longleaf pine savanna that contains red-cockaded woodpeckers and *Oxyechus canbyi*. He briefly reviewed the plan and said he would present it to the DNR Board if they approved it. Mr. Mills said the committee recommends as a motion approval of the plan. The motion was approved.

2) Dorchester County - Harleyville Tract: Mr. Bennett described the 483-acre site and said it contained longleaf pine, agricultural fields, young loblolly plantations, a house and two ponds. He added that two groups of red-cockaded woodpeckers are found on the site, along with several large areas of wiregrass. Further, Mr. Bennett reported that gopher tortoise burrows have been discovered on the property. If purchased, he said it would be managed for longleaf pine, red-cockaded woodpeckers and for hunting opportunities. Mr. Mills stated the committee as a motion recommends approval of this site as a protection project. The motion was approved.

As a matter of information, Dr. Ferguson informed members that he received a letter to HTAB from Roscoe J. Breazeale. He said that Mr. Breazeale voiced his support for Jocassee Gorges and asked that the property be dedicated as a heritage preserve.

Cultural Areas Committee

Rodger Stroup reported the committee had two action items.

1) Addition to the Fort Lamar Management Plan: Mr. Stoup stated that Chris Judge had a request to conduct a re-enactment on the site. Since no guidelines exist for this, he said an amendment to the plan would allow two re-enactments per year, with the committee's approval. Mr. Stroup stated the committee as a motion recommends approval of this addition to the Fort Lamar Management Plan. The motion was approved.

2) Fort Fredrick: Because of the survey, Mr. Stroup reported that the acreage of Ft. Frederick has increased from 2.66 acres to 3.044 acres. He stated that the committee recommends as a motion approval of the amended acreage for Ft. Frederick. The motion was approved.

Regarding the addition to Green's Shell HP, Mr. Stroup reported that they received a letter from Hilton Head's town manager reaffirming their support and commitment to the project.

Next, Mr. Stroup reported that they are working on management plans for Daw's Island, Buzzard Island and Fig Island. Mr. Judge informed members that they recently completed a two-week archaeological dig at the Great Pee Dee HP. He stated that the focus of the work, financed by Ernest Helms, III, was to find the homesite of a 1730's settler. He added that they have yet to find it. Also, Mr. Judge said they were working with Marion County to identify a 18th century Pee Dee Indian Town. Instead of a compact town, he explained that they found a settlement pattern of several houses. Mr. Judge said recommendations would be made to the county about preserving the site.

Finally, Mr. Stroup distributed an updated list of protected and unprotected cultural sites.

Budget Committee

HTAB entered Executive Session to discuss budgets for land acquisitions. HTAB returned to a regular session and they approved the budget.

Dr. Ferguson discussed the acreage cap and informed members that it will be an agenda item for the next meeting. He stated that topics to be discussed will include the nature of the current cap, how to increase it and when to present a package to the legislature to do so. Dr. Ferguson added that other topics to be addressed will include the possible transition to a management strategy if the cap is not increased and the Board's stance on the Jocassee Gorges property. Mr. Conrad stated that he would like to see the cap increased since protection of

100,000 acres out of an existing 20 million is less than 1 percent of the state's land being preserved. Mr. Lee asked about the status of the Heritage Trust Strategic Plan. Tom Kohlsaas replied that he would have a draft of it by July 1, 1998. Dr. Ferguson asked Mr. Kohlsaas to mail the plan to members one month before the next HTAB meeting.

Adjourn.

"PROPOSED"

Heritage Land Trust Fund Approved Expenditures: May 5, 1998

Approx. January 1, 1998 Cash Balance:	1,462,365
Revenues Expected by December 30, 1998:	2,200,000

Total Funds Available:	3,662,365

Other Expenditures:	
Preserve Management	(220,000)
Land Protection	(80,000)
Capital Improvements	(147,400)
HP Artifact Cataloguing	(8,000)
NAP Photography Contrib.	(5,000)

	(455,400)

Less Commitments:		
Bird Mtn. Coserve. Ease. N	Spartanburg	(1,000)
North Williman Is. (75)N	Beaufort	(14,000)
Fort Frederick (30)C	Beaufort	(21,000)
Greens Shell Encl. C	Beaufort	(118,000)

		(154,000)

Additions:		
Aiken Gopher HP Addn.-Hurt(21)N	Aiken	(65,000)
Peters Creek HP Addn.-Hough(89)N	Spartanburg	(80,000)
Woods Bay HP Addn.-Moore(80)N	Sumter	(60,000)

		(205,000)

CURRENT ESTIMATED BALANCE ON January 1, 1999	=====
	2,847,965

(N) Natural Areas Project
(C) Cultural Areas Project
(#) Rank