

Minutes
Heritage Trust Advisory Board
November 20, 1997
Columbia, S. C.

Members Present

Dr. Terry Ferguson (Chair)
Mr. Tony Merck (Vice-Chair)
Mr. Michael Todd Smith
Dr. Julius Leary
Mr. Bruce Sahlman
Ms. Mary Edmonds (for Rodger Stoup)
Mr. Joe Mills (for Hugh Ryan)
Mr. Freddy Vang
Mr. Corky Lee
Mr. Brock Conrad (for Paul Sandifer)

Others Present

Mr. Stuart Greeter
Mr. Tom Kohlsaat
Mr. Johnny Stowe
Mr. Ken Prosser
Dr. Bert Pittman
Mr. Greg Lucas
Ms. Kathy Boyle
Mr. John Cely
Mr. Dan Dobbins
Mr. Mike Foley

Members Absent

Mr. Dick Scott, III
Mr. Buddy Jennings
Dr. Tony Ganong
Mr. Jack Lunn

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

Approval of August 28 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the August 28, 1997 Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) meeting. The motion was approved.

Comments from the Director

In Dr. Sandifer's absence, Brock Conrad updated members on the Jocassee Gorges project. Presently, he said a management plan for the site is being prepared. Later, Mr. Conrad said they would hold public meetings to discuss the plan. He added that they are still trying to decide if the property will be placed under Heritage Trust.

Tom Kohlsaat reported that Dr. Sandifer is attending an agency director's meeting today; he is discussing Heritage Trust properties and how we have formed partnerships with other agencies, groups and municipalities.

Mr. Kohlsaat also said that he and Dr. Ferguson attended a public meeting held by Representative

Bob Inglis about clean air act regulations. He said officials from DHEC and EPA informed them that smoke would not be a problem for our prescribed burning program. Despite whether this is true, Dr. Ferguson said they got the message out that smoke management is an issue.

Dr. Ferguson distributed articles about the program's activities. He reminded members that a list of E-mail addresses and committee assignments is included in their packets. Also, Dr. Ferguson reported that HTAB member Jack Lunn has resigned, leaving the District 6 seat vacant.

Other Business

- A) **FY96-97 Annual Report:** Ken Prosser gave a brief summary of land protection activities for the last fiscal year. During that time, he said we acquired five different properties totaling 3,755 acres at a cost of \$1,966,414 or \$524 per acre. Mr. Prosser added that these efforts served to protect 18 more elements and two prominent archaeological sites.
- B) **Preserve Management Annual Report:** Johnny Stowe informed members of preserve management activities and stated that he burned 1,000 acres during the year. He added that the Forestry Commission helped us with all the burns. Mr. Stowe said his goal this year would be to burn 4,000 acres.
- C) **Land Acquisitions Table:** Mr. Prosser informed members that we have acquired 72,893 acres valued at more than 54 million since the inception of the program. He added that we paid 25.7 million for these properties and have received land donations valued at 28.4 million.
- D) **Protected vs. Unprotected Sites:** Chris Judge reported on the selection process for archaeological sites. He said they were ranked according to rarity, threat, integrity, disturbance, research potential and educational value. Mr. Judge stated that 24 of the 100 most significant archaeological sites are protected. At the end of the report, Corky Lee commended Cultural Areas members for their approach to ranking these sites.

Next, Steve Bennett described the ranking process for natural areas' projects. He said they are graded on their rarity and number of elements. Mr. Bennett said we were tracking 570 rare elements, which we divide into G1, G2 and G3 classes. He explained that we show these classes in the documentation they receive for potential protection projects. Of the 189 most significant elements we are tracking, Mr. Bennett said we had protected 40 percent of them.

Mr. Lee asked if we ranked these areas. Mr. Bennett replied no, but the staff can rank in order of the number of protected sites. Mr. Lee stated that the Board needs to know what we do not have. Bruce Sahlman added that we need to look at the degree of threat, duplication of efforts on federal lands and the actions of other public and private organizations. Tony Merck said that we should coordinate our work with other conservation players. Mr. Lee said he would still like to see some working system involving broad cover types with a provision to include species of concern under them.

Michael Todd Smith said he would like the staff to develop a strategic plan for the next 3-5 years and an operating plan for the next 12 months. He also said we should create a tracking file for each project.

- E. Stewardship Committee Proposal: After some discussion, the Board resolved not to form a stewardship committee. Instead, stewardship will be a standard agenda item at future HTAB meetings.
- F. 1998 HTAB Meeting Dates: Mr. Greeter announced that the meeting dates for 1998 are February 5, May 7, August 6 and November 11.

Mr. Greeter distributed out a list denoting the approvals and steps required to purchase land. He stated that we could discuss this topic at a future meeting. Dr. Ferguson noted that the length of this process has caused us problems in acquiring property several times.

- G. Committee Memberships: Dr. Ferguson informed HTAB members that they should all have a list of members for the natural areas, cultural areas and budget committees. To comply with our bylaws, he stated we needed to approve these lists. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the current committees as formed.
- H. Bylaws: Mr. Greeter reported that we need to update our bylaws, which were last amended in 1981. He requested that members call him with comments and changes. Dr. Leary suggested that Mr. Greeter send out a revised copy in the next information packet and let members review and provide comments. Then, he said an updated copy could be presented for approval at the next meeting. Mr. Lee asked about the legality of voting by proxy or mail. Mr. Greeter replied that doing so was legal.

Natural Areas Committee

Joe Mills stated the committee discussed three items.

1. Bird Mountain Conservation Easement: A 44-acre property in Spartanburg County that was registered as a heritage site in 1989. Mr. Prosser said the owner had agreed in principle with the terms and conditions of the easement. However, the owner's attorney has not completed his review of the document. Mr. Prosser requested that the Board to approve the easement in its present form, barring any major corrections after the review. If significant changes do occur, Mr. Prosser said that we would bring the document back to the Board at the next meeting. Mr. Mills made a motion that we accept the conservation easement. The motion was approved.
2. Rice Property: Dr. Bert Pittman stated that this is a registered site that HTAB approved approximately 10 years ago. However, he said there is an absence of permanent swamps on the site. Because of its lack of long-term protection potential, Dr. Pittman said the committee had decided to retract the property. Mr. Mills added that the committee recommended removing the project from the approved list.

3. **Shealy's Pond Management Plan:** Johnny stated that the primary objective on this 62-acre preserve is the protection of an Atlantic white cedar swamp. He said the committee had reviewed the plan and recommends its approval. The Board approved the management plan.

Cultural Areas Committee

Mary Edmonds reported that the committee had no action items for the Board. As a matter of information, she told members that the Budget and Control Board approved the acquisition of Congaree Creek. Ms. Edmonds also said that the Navy would provide public access to Fort Frederick, a 18th century fort that the Park Service is donating to us. Next, she stated they held a public meeting on the Fort Lamar Management Plan in Charleston. Finally, Ms. Edmonds said the committee had decided to reexamine the list of 100 cultural sites.

Mr. Judge informed the Board that they received a letter from David Locklear, Chief of the Pee Dee Indian Nation, about a 18th century Indian town that is currently on the market. Although it is not on the list of 100, the committee has decided to open a line of dialogue with them about possible protection strategies.

Other Business

For the past year, Dr. Ferguson reported that the HTAB committees have met one month before the HTAB meeting. He said this had worked with mixed success. Therefore, after some discussion, the Board agreed to restore committee meetings back to the morning of the HTAB meeting.

Dr. Ferguson encouraged members to participate in the Natural Areas, Cultural Areas or Budget committees.

Dr. Leary suggested that each new HTAB member should have an orientation and the Board should have an annual retreat. He also stated that we should be focusing on removing the 100,000 acre cap set by the legislature. Finally, Dr. Leary requested that each member get copies of the maps shown today.

Budget Committee

HTAB entered an executive session to discuss budgets for land acquisitions. HTAB returned to a regular session and a motion was made and seconded to approve the budget. The motion was approved.

The next HTAB meeting is February 5, 1998.

Adjourn.

"PROPOSED"

Heritage Land Trust Fund Approved Expenditures:

November 20, 1997

Approx. January 1, 1997 Cash Balance:	987,516
Revenues Expected by December 30, 1998:	4,200,000
	<hr/>
	5,187,516

Property Acquisitions:

*Daws Island HP (C)	Beaufort	(369,000)
Bear Branch HP (C)	Aiken	(157,000)
		<hr/>
		(526,000)

Other Expenditures:

Preserve Management	Statewide	(208,000)
Land Protection	Statewide	(70,000)
Capital Improvements(\$30,717 spent)	Statewide	(222,000)
		<hr/>
		(500,000)

Expected 1997 Acquisitions:

Peters Creek(N)		(339,000)
Congaree Creek(C)		(350,000)
Aiken Gopher Tortoise HP Addn.(N)		(292,000)
Segars/McKinnon HP Addn.(N)		(217,000)
Watson HP Addn.(N)	Greenville	(13,000)
Bird Mtn. Conserv. Ease.		(1,000)
		<hr/>
		(1,212,000)

Total Cash Available in 1998:

2,949,516

Less Commitments:

Hitchcock Woods(N/C)	Aiken	(6,000)
Crescent Resources-Tract 2(N)	Pickens	(22,000)
North Williman Is.(N)	Beaufort	(14,000)
Fort Frederick(C)	Beaufort	(48,000)
Nanny's Mountain(N)	York	0
		<hr/>
		(90,000)

CURRENT ESTIMATED BALANCE ON January 1, 1999

2,859,516

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

HLTF Budget summary, page 2

Approved Expenditures - No Time Frame:

Dukes Bay(N)	Hampton	363,000
Long Branch Bay(N)	Barnwell	80,000
Savannah River Bluffs Addn.(N)	Aiken	332,000
York Subdivision Outcrop(N)	York	30,000
Branchville Bay(N)	Orangeburg	50,000
Dalzell Bay(N)	Sumter	50,000
Halfway Gut Branch Bay(N)	Dorchester	30,000
Reevesville Bay(N)	Dorchester	20,000
Barton Bay(N)	Allendale	255,000
Mt. Pleasant Church Bay(N)	Lee	82,000
Hazel Lake(N)	Aiken	939,000
Sandhills Bay(N)	Clarendon	159,000
Saluda County Highponds(N)	Saluda	54,000
Cartwheel Bay Addn.(N)	Horry	145,000
Glassy Mountain Addn.(N)	Pickens	395,000
Henderson HP Addn.-Boyleston(N)	Aiken	57,000
LPDHP Addn.-White(N)	Horry	48,000
Cathedral Bay Addn.(N)	Bamberg	44,000
Ford's Shell Ring(C)	Beaufort	397,000
Mitchelville(C)	Beaufort	750,000
LPD River-Woodbury(N)	Marion	1,500,000

	TOTAL:	5,780,000

NOTE: All expenditures must meet State approval requirements and accounting standards.