

MINUTES
Heritage Trust Advisory Board
Thursday, November 29, 1984
Webb Wildlife Center, Garnett, S.C.

Members Present

Pat Walker
Joe Watson
Dan Dobbins
(for Dr. Timmerman)
Ed Drane
Wade Batson
Bruce Rippeteau
Walter Ahearn
Gurdon Tarbox
Sidney Gauthreaux (Chairman)

Other Attendees

Stuart Greeter
Trish Jerman
Albert Goodyear
Jim Sorrow
Sally Murphy
Tom Murphy
Doug Rayner
Steve Bennett
Lewis Rogers
Tom Kohlsaat

Members Absent

Claudette Cureton
Henry Savage
Arthur Ravenel
Christie Fant
Ed Burgess
Robert Lumpkin
Rudy Mancke

Chairman Gauthreaux called the November 29 meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board to order at 9:15 AM at the James Webb Wildlife Center in Garnett, S.C. The following changes were made to the August 2 meeting minutes: (1) The word "legislative" was changed to "congressional" in the first paragraph on page 2, (2) the word "appropriated" was changed to "expended" in the third paragraph on page 2, (3) the words "Myrtle Beach" were changed to "Murrells Inlet" in the first paragraph on page 3, and (4) the word "Tilman" was changed to "Tillman" in the second paragraph on page 3.

Budget Committee

Tom Kohlsaat passed out a copy of the current Nongame and Heritage Trust Program budget. He estimated a \$90,000 carryover on checkoff funds for land acquisition. Interest will accrue on those funds. Tom noted that a Children's Trust Fund will also appear on the 1984 State tax form and "Check for Wildlife" revenues are estimated to be \$100,000. The advertising budget for the publicity campaign will be increased this year. Tom also pointed out that our preserve manager, Jim Sorrow, will be moving from Columbia to Central, S.C.

Natural Areas Committee

Wade Batson, Doug Rayner and Steve Bennett described the proposed protection projects that were included in the meeting materials. The Advisory Board voted to approve the following projects: (1) Cartwheel Bay Complex, (2) Bates Hill Savannah, (3) Blalock Reservoir (two projects), (4) Batesburg Sandstone Outcrop, (5) Long Branch Bay, (6) Gadsden Bay, and (7) Ashleigh Bay.

Cultural Areas Committee

Ed Drane suggested that archeological and historic sites on Daufuskie Island be surveyed in light of the forthcoming development. Bruce Rippeteau informed members of the successful tour of the Savannah River Plant. Future tours include Wachesaw Plantation in Georgetown County, the Spanish Colonial Capital at Paris Island, and the historic Cherokee village in Oconee County. Al Goodyear reported on an assemblage of prehistoric chert quarries along the Savannah River in Allendale County. Nine quarries have been found and the area has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as the first archeological district in South Carolina. Documentation on the significance of this area will be presented to the Advisory Board at the next meeting.

Governor's Council on Natural Resources and the Environment

Trish Jerman reported that the Governor appointed a 16 member council on Natural Resources and the Environment in the spring of 1983. Using a teleconference and a questionnaire the council found that preservation of natural areas was a concern among citizens. The council recommended that the Heritage Trust Program be provided with a capital budget. An annual appropriation to the State Recreation Land Trust Fund may be best. The council also recommended the formation of a Historic Preservation Fund and a Heritage Land Trust Fund.

Land Procurement Committee

Dan Dobbins reported that the 15 member Land Procurement Committee first met two days ago. The committee is concerned about the future property needs of the Wildlife Department. The needs of the Heritage Trust Program are also being considered. Dr. Batson suggested giving land owners tax relief for GMA lands rather than pay for a lease.

Coastal Energy Impact Fund

Doug Rayner passed out copies of a report on his survey for rare plant species conducted in the coastal plain of South Carolina. The survey was funded by the Governor's office and resulted in the location of about 50 recommended natural areas. Twelve of these may be suitable for protection under the Heritage Trust Program. Hopefully this inventory will deter future conflicts between development proposals and protection projects.

HTAB Slide Show Update

Steve Bennett reported completion of the HTAB slide show and that a taped narration should be available in about two weeks. The slide show takes about 20 minutes and extra copies will be available for HTAB members to use.

Protection Projects

Stuart Greeter reminded members to keep their HTAB notebooks updated with the materials that are mailed before each meeting.

The Nature Conservancy recently acquired approximately 950 acres of land in the Tillman sand ridge area. The property is important gopher tortoise habitat and will be turned over to the Heritage Trust Program at some point in the future. The 31 acre Canby's Cowbane site in Colleton County has recently been purchased by the Wildlife Department from TNC. This is the first acquisition made with checkoff funds. The HTP has also recently purchased 278 acres in northern Greenville County that harbors a variety of rare plants. This particular tract abuts Mountain Bridge properties owned by PRT.

HTAB Reappointments

Stuart Greeter reported that a telephone poll of members was undertaken and an overwhelming majority of members felt that Sid Gauthreaux and Wade Batson should be reappointed. Thus a letter will be sent to the Governor requesting their reappointment. The House of Representatives appointment is currently vacant and hopefully someone will be appointed by the next HTAB meeting.

Other Business

Sally Murphy reported that the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) formed the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) program to establish biosphere preserves around the world. In South Carolina, the coastal area including Tom Yawkey Center, Santee Coastal Preserve, Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, and Capers Island is being considered as a biosphere preserve.

Tom Murphy reported that wood storks apparently began nesting in South Carolina three years ago with a total of eight nests. The rookery had a total of 22 nests this last year. Tom went on to summarize his research pertaining to the bald eagle. In 1984, 28 nesting territories were active and a total of 35 young were fledged. An average of 1.5 young are fledged per successful nest and the population seems to be slowly increasing. A total of 173 bald eagles were fledged in South Carolina over the last eight years and some of these birds are returning to our State to breed.

Tom Kohlsaas presented gold star and gold lightning bolt awards to Stuart Greeter, Doug Rayner, The Nature Conservancy, Steve Bennett, John Nelson, and Jim Sorrow for their exceptional work over the past year.

Sid Gauthreaux thanked Lewis Rogers for the wonderful hospitality that was extended to the Advisory Board during their stay at the Webb Center.

The next HTAB meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 21 in Columbia.