

S.C. Heritage Trust Advisory Board
Thursday, September 30, 1982
Thunderbird Motor Inn, Greenwood

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Wade T. Batson
Mrs. Ethel Jane Bunting (Vice Chairman)
Mrs. Claudette Cureton
Mr. Gurdon Tarbox
Mr. Al Goodyear (Representing Dr. Stephenson)
Mrs. Christie Fant
Mr. Ed Burgess
Mr. Walt Ahearn
Mr. Pat Walker
Mr. Fred Brinkman
Mr. Tom Kohlsaas (Representing Dr. Timmerman)
Mr. Rudy Mancke

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dr. Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr. (Chairman)
Mr. Henry Savage
Rep. Daniel Winstead
Sen. Arthur Ravenel
Dr. Robert L. Lumpkin

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Ben Hornsby, Archives & History
Ms. LaBruce Alexander, TNC
Mr. Doug Rayner, SCWMRD
Ms. Pris Knight, SCWMRD
Mr. Steve Bennett, SCWMRD
Mr. Joe F. Watson, SCPRT
Mr. Stuart Greeter, Jr., SCWMRD

Mrs. Bunting called the September 30 Heritage Trust Advisory Board Meeting to order at 2:00 PM. The June 18 meeting minutes were approved.

Budget Committee

Tom Kohlsaas reported that the Tax Checkoff Campaign raised about \$100,000. That coupled with a grant from the Tom Yawkey Foundation will be enough to keep the program going. In addition, Doug Rayner has raised \$19,000 in federal funds to continue work on a botanical atlas for South Carolina.

Over \$200,000 must be raised on the checkoff next year in order to break even. We will put \$10,000 into the Checkoff Campaign in hopes of doubling revenues from this resource next year.

Stuart Greeter read a resolution that was passed at the last meeting regarding the tax checkoff. Dr. Timmerman and Senator Ravenel had recommended changing that resolution so as to read that any future Tax Checkoff Program be limited to the State's critical natural resource needs such as the Heritage Trust Program. Mr. Ahearn questioned whether or not this resolution opposes the possibility of a checkoff for a political campaign fund. Bearing that in mind, the Board deferred action on the resolution until the Budget Committee discusses possible repercussions with Senator Ravenel and Dr. Timmerman.

Cultural Areas Committee

Mrs. Fant reported that she appeared before the Wildlife Commission following the last HTAB meeting. She was not able to persuade the commission to change its policy on Ashley River Road. She did speak with the Charleston County School Board Chairman, Mr. John Graham Altman, and he sounded encouraging with regard to protecting the trees along the roadway. Ed Burgess and Mrs. Bunting recommended Mrs. Fant write a letter to Mr. Altman apprising him of HTAB's concerns and thanking him for his support. Mrs. Fant also reported that Archives and History had discussed the Ashley River Road situation with the Charleston County Legislative Delegation in an effort to determine what legislative actions might be taken to aid the project.

Natural Areas Committee

Dr. Batson reported that the Natural Areas Committee met last week with all members in attendance. The committee discussed Carolina Bays and determined that the staff should undertake survey work on Carolina Bays and report back to the committee with recommendations. Craig Pond is an example of a Carolina Bay that the committee recommends to the board as a protection project. In addition Woods Bay is recommended as a protection project, given that the sand rim is unprotected and being damaged. Another protection project recommended by the Natural Areas Committee is a pine barrens treefrog site situated along a pipeline right-of-way. That area is recommended for registration under the HTP. Lastly Sugarloaf Mountain is an area that has been long overlooked and is in need of protection. The Natural Areas Committee recommends HTAB approval of that protection project as well.

Management Plan for Bird Key-Stono

Tom Kohlsaas pointed out that the management plan for Bird Key-Stono had not yet been approved by Dr. Timmerman and Mr. Fuller and it had been sent to Advisory Board members for their comments. Following some editorial comments, Dr. Batson moved that the Board accept the plan in principle pending certain editorial changes and Wildlife Department approval. The motion passed.

Update on Protection Projects

Joe Watson presented a brief history of the mountain bridge protection project to the Advisory Board. He indicated that there may be some additional land acquisition in the future. Most of the area will be included in the Game Management Area Program and thus be open to public hunting. Some development will occur near the highways and there are many potential Heritage Trust sites in the area.

LaBruce Alexander reported that TNC is in the process of acquiring 367 acres on Cat Island, immediately adjacent to the Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center. Also TNC will soon close on an additional 32 acres in the Flat Creek Natural Area. All access to the site is now well protected and the Wildlife Department has erected a barrier to keep vehicles off the rock face. Tom Kohlsaas commended Ms. Alexander on the outstanding job she has done protecting Forty Acre Rock.

Stuart Greeter reported that he is developing an easement agreement for a property owner in Travelers Rest. That agreement will protect a population of bunched arrowhead, a federal endangered plant species. However the owner does not want to restrict his option to build a pond at the site. Thus some of the population may be forfeited. Mr. Greeter is also developing an easement agreement that will protect a population of the mountain pitcher plant. The agreement will pertain to three (3) different property owners. Lastly, an easement agreement for the Chandler Bridge Creek fossil area has been worked out with the Charleston Museum. The agreement has been presented to Westvaco and we are presently waiting for a reply.

New Protection Projects

Doug Rayner reported that Henry Savage's book entitled The Mysterious Carolina Bays has recently become available and recommended the book to everyone as a work that is both entertaining and enlightening. Craig's Pond is a Carolina Bay that the Natural Areas Committee has recommended for Board approval. The Board approved the bay as protection project and agreed to send a letter to SRP regarding potential logging in that area. Copies will be sent to the congressional delegation.

Joe Watson presented slides on Woods Bay State Park and indicated that the sand rim is not protected and is now in jeopardy. The Board approved the Woods Bay sand rim as a protection project.

Stuart Greeter reported that following John Cely's survey of pine barrens treefrog populations in the State, he has recommended one population for registration under the HTP. That particular population occurs along a pipeline and is the largest known population of this endangered species in South Carolina. The Board approved the project.

Other Business

Mrs. Bunting handed out information on the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium. Mrs. Bunting explained the program and indicated that she, Mr. Tarbox and Dr. Lumpkin have been appointed to the Coastal Heritage Advisory Committee. Tom Kohlsaas mentioned that the Wildlife Department will help with a presentation on land use at the Coastal Heritage Workshop on December 3. Walt Ahearn suggested writing a letter to the Coastal Consortium thanking them for their invitation to participate in their workshop.

Dr. Batson suggested that the Board send a letter to Mr. Savage congratulating him on the publication of The Mysterious Carolina Bays.

Mrs. Bunting stated that Tom Kohlsaas should be commended for his original efforts in making the Tax Checkoff Program a reality.

Tom Kohlsaas presented Mrs. Bunting with a plaque commemorating her service to the Advisory Board. This was her last meeting as an official member and we owe her a great debt of gratitude.

The next HTAB meeting date was set for Thursday, February 3 at 10:00 AM in Columbia. The schedule for field trips to John de la Howe "Museum Tract" and Stevens Creek Natural Area was explained and the meeting was adjourned.