

MINUTES
Heritage Trust Advisory Board
Friday, September 6, 1985
Charles Towne Landing, Charleston, S.C.

Members Present

Bruce Rippeteau
Wade Batson
Ed Drane
Michael Ray
C. R. Nichols
Claudette Cureton
Gurdon Tarbox
Fred Brinkman
Henry Savage
Arthur Ravenel
Langdon Edmunds (for Ms. Fant)
Brock Conrad (for Dr. Timmerman)
Ed Burgess

Other Attendees

Stuart Greeter
Joe Watson
Tom Kohlsaas
Mark Dutton
Marion Edmonds
Steve Bennett
Tom Murphy
Sally Murphy
John Nelson
Doug Rayner
LaBruce Alexander
Stan South
Patricia Criddlebaugh
Lorraine Conrad

Members Absent

Bob Lumpkin
Sid Gauthreaux (Chairman)

Dr. Bruce Rippeteau called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at Charles Towne Landing. Dr. Rippeteau introduced Brock Conrad and his wife Lorraine, Michael Ray representing the Museum Commission, Nick Nichols representing the Forestry Commission, Patricia Criddlebaugh, an archaeologist with Archives and History, and the other Advisory Board members and visitors.

The minutes to the May 23 meeting were approved.

Bruce Rippeteau was nominated and elected as Vice Chairman to replace Walt Ahearn who has retired.

Budget Committee

Tom Kohlsaas reported that the legislature appropriated \$400,000 to the Heritage Land Trust Fund. A memorandum was mailed to each Advisory Board member in June proposing how the money should be spent. Tom explained how the fund could be used on the Ashleigh Bay, Shealy's Pond and Savannah River Bluffs projects. A total of \$788,000 was proposed to be spent on these projects over a two year period. Senator Ravenel moved that the Board approve expenditure of the fund as described and the motion passed. Bruce Rippeteau expressed appreciation to Senator Ravenel for his support. Senator Ravenel suggested also thanking Senator Tom Moore by letter. Since supplemental funding is somewhat tenuous, Senator Ravenel suggested a real estate transfer tax for funding. Tom Kohlsaas said he would look into that and report back.

Brock Conrad reported that the Wildlife Department requested \$500,000 for the Heritage Land Trust Fund at a Budget and Control Board Hearing yesterday. The Department also resubmitted the alligator project and is looking into the possibility of funding to solve the beaver problem in the upper part of the state.

Cultural Areas Committee

Marion Edmonds reported that Archives and History awarded the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism a \$5,000 grant to develop a cultural easement legislative package. This project should be completed late next fall.

Bruce Rippeteau handed out a newspaper article regarding the Sandoz chert quarries and said he was making progress in registering that area.

Natural Areas Committee

Dr. Batson reported that the Committee approved funding for a loggerhead shrike study. Dr. Batson described Egg Bank as a shorebird rookery that lies in St. Helena Sound north of Harbor Island. The Board approved Egg Bank as a protection project. Other proposed protection projects which were approved include: 1) Alwehav Plantation; 2) McAlhany's Southern Mixed Hardwood Forest; 3) Roger's Branch Natural Area; 4) Waccamaw Bridge Natural Area; 5) Bethune Bay; 6) CowBone Bay; 7) Dalzell Bay; 8) Lynchburg Bay; 9) Mt. Pleasant Church Bay; and 10) Pinewood Pocosin Bay. After some discussion the Board voted to determine what the Water Resources Commission may be doing with regard to protection of the Waccamaw River under the State Scenic Rivers Program. LaBruce Alexander suggested checking with the North Carolina Heritage Trust Program regarding protection of the Waccamaw River.

Comments from the Executive Director

Brock Conrad reiterated that next year's budget proposal includes \$500,000 for the Heritage Land Trust Fund. Brock said he looks forward to working with the Board members in the future.

Update on Protection Projects

Stuart Greeter described the registration agreement for the limestone bluffs at Givhan's Ferry State Park. The board recommended that the Wildlife Commission approve that agreement.

Stuart outlined the joint deed/dedication agreement which is being proposed as a standard to use in the future. In the past The Nature Conservancy has had problems transferring fee simple (unrestricted) property, without a reverter clause, to the HTP because of policies adopted by their Board of Directors. The Wildlife Department has had problems accepting less than fee simple (restricted) property from TNC because of problems with appraisals, matching grants, and legal requirements under our Heritage Trust Act. The proposed solution to this problem is a fee simple deed that includes a contingency that the property be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve. A dedication agreement is then signed at the same time a deed is signed. That method was utilized in the transfer of the last two properties at Flat Creek Natural Area. Advisory Board members will have the opportunity to comment on more detailed management

criteria when they review the proposed management plan. The Board voted to adopt the use of the standard deed/dedication agreement with TNC property transfers in the future.

LaBruce Alexander noted that additional property is available at Flat Creek Natural Area and could possibly be obtained at a very good price.

Coastal Council Permit Review

Stuart Greeter reported that Ed Duncan, the permit review coordinator for the Wildlife Department, will be supplied with descriptions and maps of all Heritage Preserves and Heritage Sites. He will also be supplied with information on approved projects. That should enhance Mr. Duncan's ability to review permits with regard to the Heritage Trust Program.

Land Procurement Committee

Tom Kohlsaas reported that the Department is losing GMA land (land leased for public hunting) at a rate of 100,000 acres per year. The Land Procurement Committee is looking for other methods of acquiring land. The Committee should have a final report in one month and Tom said he would keep Advisory Board members posted.

Other Business

Bruce Rippeteau appointed Michael Ray to the Natural Areas Committee.

Bruce Rippeteau pointed out that the Advisory Board still has a vacancy for a house member. Considering that the vacancy has been long term, he requested that the staff draft a letter for either him or Sid Gauthreaux to send to the Speaker of the House.

The next HTAB meeting was scheduled for November 14 in Columbia.

Bruce Rippeteau extended the Advisory Board's thanks to Fred Brinkman and Janson Cox for their hospitality. He also asked that a letter expressing thanks be sent to Mrs. Bunting.

The meeting was adjourned. Members and guests enjoyed lunch, which was provided by Fred Brinkman, and an informative field trip, which was led by Janson Cox and Stan South.