

MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
COLUMBIA, SC
RICHLAND COUNTY
AUGUST 4, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT

Campbell Cox (Chair)
Sonny King
Julia Krebs
Joel Felder (for Gene Kodama)
Jake Rasor
Eric Emerson
Randy Lowe
James Hill (for Bobby Hitt)
Ken Rentiers
Jonathan Leader

MEMBERS ABSENT

Henry Fair (Vice Chair)
Elizabeth Grace
Fritz Hamer (for William Calloway)
Phil Gaines (for Duane Parrish)
John Frampton

Call to Order

Campbell Coxe called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and requested they introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Coxe asked if there were any changes, additions or deletions to the minutes from the May 5, 2011 meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB). *Dr. King made a motion that the Board approve the minutes of the May 5, 2011 meeting, as submitted. Dr. Leader seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously*

OTHERS PRESENT

Chris Judge
Ken Prosser
Kay Daniels
Julie Holling
Herrick Brown
Sean Taylor
Paul League
Bert Pittman
Elizabeth Johnson
Deanna Ruth
Sam Chappellear
Bob Perry
Debbie Miller-Winslow
Jennifer Konarski
Harry Shealy
Emily Cope
Randy Wilgis
Melissa Bimbie
Ann Cubeta
Breck Carmichael

Region 4 Update

Deanna Ruth, DNR Region 4 wildlife biologist and heritage preserve manager, gave a brief presentation on the agency's Black Bear Management and Conservation Strategy. Ms. Ruth stated that black bears are the largest land mammals and they breed biannually with an average litter size of two to three cubs. She reported that black bears have been sighted in every county in South Carolina, except Bamberg. Ms. Ruth stated that in 2008, a protocol was implemented to assist staff in making decisions regarding human encounters with bears. She noted that the conservation strategy will help maintain the state's bear population at a level that is compatible with land use goals and acceptable human social limits.

Ms. Ruth stated that DNR had hired a wading bird biologist, whose duties include monitoring wood stork nests on Dungannon Plantation Heritage Preserve (HP). She stated that the public boardwalk on the preserve was closed this year, which resulted in a higher percentage of active nests.

Ann Cubeta of the Congaree Land Trust gave a brief report on a restoration project at Crosby Oxypolis HP. She explained that SCDNR and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service are working at the site to restore Canby's dropwort (*Oxypolis canbyi*), a federally endangered plant species. Ms. Cubeta also noted that DNR staff plans to conduct other monitoring and restoration projects at Longleaf Pine HP and Lynchburg Savanna HP.

Poinsett Bridge Construction Update

Sean Taylor, DNR archaeologist, updated the board on progress of construction projects at Poinsett Bridge HP. He said that construction of a parking area and retaining wall have been underway for several weeks, and both are being funded by State Department of Transportation grant funds acquired by the Greenville County Recreation District. Mr. Taylor noted that the parking area is approximately 80 percent complete and the retaining wall is 50 percent complete. He added that work on curb and gutter improvements, sidewalks and catch basins will begin soon.

Gopher Branch & Pottersville Archaeology

Mr. Taylor stated that both Pottersville and Gopher Branch HP are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and located in what was once known as the Edgefield District of South Carolina. He noted that Gopher Branch was acquired by DNR in 1995 and that Pottersville is a privately-owned property that is on the list of 100 most significant cultural sites in the state. Mr. Taylor explained that alkaline glazed pottery was manufactured on both properties during the first half of the 19th Century and said Gopher Branch was owned by John Landrum and Pottersville by his brother Abner. He stated that the infamous slave potter known as Dave is believed to have lived and worked at both sites.

During June and part of July, Mr. Taylor stated that archaeological investigations on both sites were undertaken by the University of Illinois (UI) and the Diachronic Research Foundation. He said UI PhD student George Callafas conducted an archaeological field school at Pottersville

with the assistance and consultation of Carl Steen, archaeologist and president of Diachronic. Eight students from across the country, including the University of South Carolina, and other volunteers, participated in the excavations.

At Pottersville, Mr. Taylor explained that the area containing a kiln was excavated and a much larger structure than originally thought was revealed; one measuring 105 feet in length and 20 feet in width. He noted that it had been repaired and modified numerous times over a 40-year period of operation from 1815 to 1855. Over time, Mr. Taylor said the fire box and firing chamber of the kiln filled with pots that broken during the firing process. He stated that analysis of the artifacts and data collected during the excavation will be conducted by Mr. Calafas to fulfill the requirements of his PhD research.

At Gopher Branch HP, Mr. Steen directed excavations to locate the remains of out-buildings and possible slave quarters surrounding the ruins of John Landrum's home site. Mr. Taylor said the work revealed a previously unknown kiln that differs from the one at Pottersville and appears to be at least 70 feet in length. He said excavations also possibly revealed the location of the firebox, but further excavation is needed to locate the kiln's chimney. Unfortunately, Mr. Taylor stated that a potential recycling of building materials in the 19th century, along with the construction of a road in the 20th century, had seriously impacted the ruins by leaving only the kiln's foundation. However, he stated that enough of the foundation remains for future work to define its exact size. Mr. Taylor noted that artifacts found near Landrum's home site included a nose fragment from a face jug, which is believed to have been used for alcoholic spirits. He added that all artifacts collected from Gopher Branch will be analyzed by USC Anthropology MA student Brooke Kenlin and by Carl Steen, and a report would be issued afterward.

Mr. Taylor noted that both excavations produced incredibly significant and previously unknown information about early American efforts at industrialization and added that additional excavations are planned next summer.

Executive Session

At this time, Dr. King made a motion that the Board hold an Executive Session to discuss contractual and legal matters. Dr. Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Return to Regular Session

Mr. Rasor made a motion that the Board return to regular session. Dr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rasor made a motion that the DNR staff continues negotiations with SCE&G regarding a trail at Congaree Creek Heritage Preserve. In pursuing these negotiations, the DNR should consider a contract with SCE&G to allow the company to construct a portion of the trail on the Preserve without the need for granting SCE&G an easement or other formal right-of-way. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rasor made a motion that the DNR Board pursue an appropriate solution to an encroachment issue at Nipper Creek Heritage Preserve. The advisory board recommends that the staff determine if the county is willing to exercise authority to condemn a right-of-way. Mr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Leader made a motion that staff continues negotiations at Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve. Also, staff should seek a new access road to replace Ben Long Road, and the road is to be constructed at no cost to the DNR. Dr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Updates & Comments

Ken Rentiers reported that Heritage Trust staff had moved from the second floor to the third floor of the Dennis Building.

Dr. Leader requested that the board send letters of commendation to the University of Illinois, the Diachronic Foundation, and to Sean Taylor for their work at Gopher Branch and Pottersville. Mr. Rentiers stated he would prepare the letters on behalf of the board.

Budget Updates and FY 2013 Budget

Mr. Rentiers distributed the revenue statement and said that monies are still not coming in as quickly as he would like. He reported that the Heritage Trust FY 2012 budget had been approved by the DNR Board. Mr. Rentiers distributed the FY 2013 proposed budget for review. After some discussion, the board requested Mr. Rentiers ask the State Treasurer if the FY 16 bond payment could be held back to preserve a positive balance in the Heritage Land Trust Fund. *Dr. Leader made a motion that the FY 2016 payment not be made in May of 2013. Dr. King seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board will be held Thursday, November 3, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History in Columbia.

2012 Meeting Dates

The meeting dates for 2012 are: February 2, May 3, August 2, and November 1. The location for the meetings will be decided at a later date.

Adjourn

There being no further business to be brought before the Board at this time, *Mrs. Grace made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dr. King seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.*

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