

**MINUTES**  
**HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARCHIVE FLOOD RECOVERY LAB**  
**LEXINGTON COUNTY**  
**FEBRUARY 4, 2016**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Campbell Coxe (Chair)  
Julia Krebs  
States Clawson (for Bobby Hitt)  
Terry Hurley (for Duane Parrish)  
Ken Rentiers  
Breck Carmichael (for Alvin Taylor)  
Jake Rasor  
Steve Tully  
Julien Springs  
Sonny King  
Jonathan Leader  
Russell Hubright (for Gene Kodama)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Sean Taylor  
Meg Gaillard  
Tariq Ghaffar  
Kay Daniels  
Herrick Brown  
Bob Perry  
Lorianne Riggan  
Greg Mixon  
Kathy Boyle  
Bert Pittman  
Ken Prosser  
Billy Dukes  
Phil Maier  
Harry Shealy

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Eric Emerson  
Dave Cicimurri (for William Calloway)  
Randy Lowe

**Call to Order**

Chairman Coxe called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Coxe asked if there were any changes, additions or deletions to the minutes from the August 6, 2015, meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB). *Dr. Krebs made a motion that the Board approve the minutes of the August 6, 2015, meeting, as submitted. Mr. Tully seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

## **Board Information Items**

### **Vouching for South Carolina's Natural Heritage: Digitizing a Legacy of Floristic Surveys**

Herrick Brown, assistant botanist with DNR's Heritage Trust Program, gave a report on partnerships Heritage Trust staff have formed to help monitor populations of rare, threatened and endangered plant species within the state. A working relationship with herbaria across the Southeast has facilitated access to over 200 collections in 13 states that hold a total of approximately 4.5 million specimens. The National Science Foundation has funded work to capture digital images of these specimens and make their associated metadata available online. Access to this information will assist staff with the discovery of new (and monitoring of known) populations of rare plant species. Several examples were given of how these data have already helped in the effort, along with highlights of the associated habitats.

### **Update on Cultural Resources Projects**

Sean Taylor, DNR Heritage Trust archaeologist, introduced Tariq Ghaffar, the new Heritage Trust archaeologist. Mr. Ghaffar began working with Heritage Trust in January and his duties include coordinating the archaeological inventory of the Haile Gold Mine mitigation properties and conserving metal objects impacted by the 2015 flood. Mr. Taylor gave a short update on activities by cultural staff and noted Meg Gaillard has been coordinating flood recovery efforts. She hired half a dozen part-time staff who, under her direction, have cleaned more than half of the artifacts inundated during the flood. Ms. Gaillard anticipates the recovery effort will be completed in May. More than 500 boxes of artifacts have been processed to date. Mr. Taylor informed the Board that preliminary results from a December 2015 structural inspection of Poinsett Bridge revealed it has remained stable since a similar study in 2004. The final report will include an updated cost estimate for bridge repairs. Mr. Taylor also discussed progress of the Fort Frederick boat landing project and stated the next major task will be to conduct an underwater archaeological investigation of the project area. This work is anticipated to occur in the coming months. Mr. Ghaffar gave the Board a summary of his metal conservation techniques. The Board discussed the need for the archaeology program to have its own building and directed Mr. Taylor to work to find a suitable structure.

### **Gunter's Island**

Bob Perry, Director of Environmental Programs for DNR, briefed the Board on Gunter's Island, which is being discussed by SCDOT as proposed mitigation for Interstate 73. The tract consists of approximately 6,858 acres with 11 miles of river corridor along the Little Pee Dee River (a designated Outstanding Resource Water by DHEC & an Aquatic Resource of National Importance by EPA). It has been managed for timber and wildlife since the 1960's and provides protection for 65,894 linear feet of stream and 4,923.2 acres of wetlands. The property contains a braided stream and wetland complex,

including an intact 85-acre Carolina Bay. Also, it offers connectivity of habitat to Woodbury Wildlife Management Area and the Little Pee Dee Heritage Preserve/WMA.

## **Board Action Items**

### **Addition to Henderson Heritage Preserve in Aiken County**

Bob Perry and Lorianne Riffin, from DNR's Office of Environmental Programs, presented information on the Browder Tract, which is proposed as mitigation for the replacement of a highway bridge along US 278 in Aiken County. The Browder tract is 69.7 acres and adjoins the south side of Henderson Heritage Preserve. It is currently in an estate and the former owner occupied a residence at the highest elevation (approximately 150 feet from Bridge Creek on the Henderson HP), with the remainder of the property utilized for silviculture and outdoor recreation. The higher elevations are dominated by scrub and herbaceous species and the lower are predominantly pine-scrub oak communities. Due to poor soils and a lack of prescribed fire management, pines are proliferating at the transition zones between the middle and lower elevations.

Acquisition of the property would afford additional protection for Bridge Creek, a perennial stream and wetland complex that runs through the Preserve, and provide connectivity for management and existing hiking trails.

*Jake Rasor made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the acquisition, by donation from the Department of Transportation, of the Browder Tract, a 69.7 acre property in Aiken County to be protected under the Heritage Trust Act and incorporated into the Heritage Trust Program as part of the adjacent Henderson Heritage Preserve. Dr. Leader seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

### **Capers Island Heritage Preserve Dike Repair Project**

Phil Maier, Director of Coastal Reserves and Outreach for DNR's Marine Resources Division, reported the dike containing the impoundment on Capers Island was damaged in the historic rains of October 2015. The surface of the dike has eroded to base level, destroying a significant road and impacting the ability to manage the impoundment and facilitate public use of the property. Mr. Maier stated the repairs should take 6-9 months to complete if there were no weather delays. Mr. Rentiers said the funds are on hand and no amendments would need to be made to the budget.

*Chairman Campbell made the motion to provide up to \$15,000 to repair the damaged dike on Capers Island Heritage Preserve, thereby reestablishing our ability to provide high quality public access to this area. Dr. Leader seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

## **Other Items**

### **Updates and Comments**

Ken Rentiers commended all the Heritage Trust staff on their outstanding jobs. He distributed the latest revenue statement and noted revenues continue to move in a positive direction. He informed the Board they are seeking supplemental funds from the Legislature to retire the bond debt and hope to know if they are successful by the May meeting.

### **Executive Session**

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

### **Return to Regular Session**

*Dr. King made a motion that the Board return to regular session, noting that no actions were taking during Executive Session. Mr. Rasor seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board will be held Thursday, May 5, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. at Fort Johnson with a field trip afterwards.

### **Adjourn**

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

/k