

**MINUTES**  
**HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD**  
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY  
COLUMBIA, SC  
RICHLAND COUNTY  
MAY 5, 2011

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Henry Fair (Vice Chair)  
Sonny King  
Julia Krebs  
Russell Hubright (for Gene Kodama)  
Jake Rasor  
Eric Emerson  
Phil Gaines (for Duane Parrish)  
Breck Carmichael (for Caroline Rhodes)  
Fritz Hamer (for William Calloway)  
Ken Rentiers  
Jonathan Leader  
Elizabeth Grace

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Chris Judge  
Ken Prosser  
Kay Daniels  
Sean Taylor  
Herrick Brown  
Kathy Boyle  
Vivian Vejdani  
Paul League  
Bert Pittman  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Mike Dawson  
Charles Howell  
Van Hoffman

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Campbell Coxe (Chair)  
John Frampton  
James Hill (for Bobby Hitt)

**Call to Order**

Henry Fair called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and requested they introduce themselves.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Fair asked if there were any changes, additions or deletions to the minutes from the February 3, 2011 meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB). *Mr. Carmichael made a motion that the Board approve the minutes of the February 3, 2011, meeting, as submitted. Mr. Hamer seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

## **Congaree Creek Trail**

Mike Dawson, Director of the River Alliance in Columbia, informed HTAB about a proposed trail that would cross a portion of Congaree Creek Heritage Preserve near 12<sup>th</sup> Street. It would provide public access into a portion of the preserve not currently available and connect to a planned archaeological park. Van Hoffman, Land Manager for SCE&G, voiced his support for the trail, which would also cross land owned by his company. Mr. Dawson requested HTAB consider allowing construction of the trail. If approved, he noted it would be constructed in a manner similar to the existing Congaree Riverwalk.

## **Haile Gold Mine Update**

Vivianne Vejdani, Environmental Coordinator with DNR, stated that Haile Gold Mine is located in Lancaster County and operated by Romarco, a Canadian-based firm. She said Romarco has applied to the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers for various permits to renew operation of the mine, which has been inactive since the 1990's. Ms. Vejdani said the operation will entail phased mining involving 8 open pits over a 12-year period. She stated that the permits needed for the project include a federal 404 Clean Water Act permit, and mining, stormwater, NPDES (for effluent discharge), 401 water quality certification and air quality permits from DHEC. She noted that impacts to natural resources include the excavation and fill of 162 acres of wetlands and more than 38,000 linear feet of streams. Ms. Vejdani said DNR has reviewed the joint public notice (JPN) and associated supporting documents and provided comments. She stated that mitigation will be required for impacts and a proposal to transfer property adjacent to DNR's Forty Acre Rock Heritage Preserve has been submitted as partial satisfaction of the mitigation requirement. Ms. Vejdani stated that an Environmental Impact Statement will also be required and when completed, it will be published for review and comment by state and federal resource agencies.

## **Updates and Comments**

Ken Rentiers thanked Dr. Emerson and his staff for use of the Archives and History facility. He reported four new members were appointed by Governor Haley to the Department of Natural Resources' Board: Cary Chastain, Michael Hutchins, Larry Yonce and Randy Lowe. Mr. Rentiers reported that the new Chair is Caroline Rhodes and the Vice-Chair is Johnny Evans.

Mr. Rentiers noted that although there was no agency funding this year for the annual Kolb Archaeological Excavation, the two-week project was again a success and he commended the efforts of former DNR employee Chris Judge and DNR archaeologist Sean Taylor. He stated there is some interest from private parties to provide a portion of the funding next year. Mr. Taylor reported that during first week, 20-25 people worked at the site each day. He noted that Public Day was held on Saturday, March 12 and 203 people signed the visitor log. Mr. Taylor stated that Emily Liggon, a Ph.D. student at Clemson University, is analyzing survey information from the site and will use it as part of a professional journal publication.

## **Budget Updates & FY 2012 Budget**

Mr. Rentiers distributed the income summary and stated that revenues are still inconsistent and not where we would like. He distributed proposed FY 2012 budgets for Heritage Preserve (HP) Natural Areas Management, HP Cultural Areas Management and Heritage Trust Administration. *Dr. King made a motion that the FY 2012 budgets be approved as submitted. Mrs. Grace seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

Paul League, DNR attorney, reported that a matter with the Department of Transportation (DOT) concerning access along Henry Road at Lewis Ocean Bay HP is near resolution. He explained that access to the area in question had been eliminated by a fence erected by DOT, but it was later destroyed by a wildfire. After some negotiation, Mr. League said the area has been staked for a new fence that will provide access along the road. Regarding another part of the preserve, Mr. League stated that Target Road had not been restored, but a tentative settlement has been reached with the adjoining Black Creek Subdivision regarding compensation for damages. He stated there is no current activity on the Vaught inholding or the paving of International Drive.

Next, Mr. League reported another access issue on a 900-acre parcel at Lewis Ocean Bay known as Tilly Swamp. He stated DNR has an easement along Ben Long Road, which provides access from SC Highway 90 into the property. Mr. League said a developer had acquired land on either side of the easement and is now developing it a subdivision, which would deny entry. He noted litigation is likely to settle the issue.

## **Executive Session**

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

## **Return to Regular Session**

*Mrs. Grace made a motion that the Board return to regular session. Dr. Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

*Dr. King made the following motion: "The Heritage Trust Advisory Board recommends to the Department of Natural Resources Board that it consider granting an easement or license, as appropriate, to South Carolina Electric & Gas Company or the River Alliance, as appropriate, for the construction and maintenance of a walking trail along a portion of the Congaree Creek Heritage Preserve, so long as the construction and maintenance is carried out by means that are as minimally invasive as possible, consistent with the proposal presented to this Advisory Board at its meeting on May 5, 2011; provided, the Department of Natural Resources should reserve the right to regulate use of the areas subject to any grant of authority in Section 50-11-2200(C)." Mrs. Grace seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.*

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board will be held Thursday, August 4, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History in Columbia.

### **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.*

/k