

Minutes
S.C. Heritage Trust Advisory Board
August 25, 1994
Columbia, S.C.

Members Present

Dr. Whit Gibbons (Chairman)
Dr. Terry Ferguson (Vice-Chrm.)
Mr. Brock Conrad (for Marion
Burnside)

Dr. Jim Timmerman
Ms. Grace McKown
Dr. John Dean
Dr. Bruce Rippeteau
Dr. George Vogt
Mr. Joe Mills
Mr. Jack Lunn
Mr. Tony Merck
Mr. Russ McKoy
Mr. Cary Chamblee

Others Present

Mr. Tom Kohlsaet
Mr. Stuart Greeter
Mr. Steve Bennett

Mr. John Cely
Dr. Bert Pittman
Mr. John Frampton
Mr. Tim Ivey
Mr. Chris Judge
Mr. Ken Prosser
Mr. Pete Chirico
Mr. Mike Foley
Mr. Jim Hammond
Mr. Tom Murphy

Members Absent

Dr. Tony Ganong

Dr. Whit Gibbons called the meeting to order and called the roll.

Approval of May 5 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the May 5, 1994 Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) meeting. The motion was approved.

Comments from the Executive Director

Dr. Timmerman stated that reorganization was complete and we are now the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Dr. Timmerman distributed copies of a draft DNR organizational chart to members and commented on the different divisions within the agency.

Next, Dr. Timmerman reported that this was a good budget year and said several vacancies in different divisions would be filled this year. In regard to the 95-96 budget, Dr. Timmerman said \$190,000 would be included for the NGHT Section.

Further, Dr. Timmerman said that one item that will be a good public relations tool will be a reference on watchable wildlife. Dr. Timmerman said that an appropriation has been inserted into the budget to help fund the guide. Brock Conrad stated that 12 to 14 other states already have a wildlife viewing guide. Brock added

that all agencies interested will be included in an effort to produce a first class publication.

In summary, Dr. Timmerman said everything is progressing smoothly within the new DNR and we should be proud of what we have achieved. In a report he gave to Governor Campbell at the end of last year, Dr. Timmerman stated that the DNR is now responsible for protecting approximately 160,000 acres of land.

Savannah River Bluffs Heritage Preserve

Stuart Greeter informed the board that at the last meeting we proposed a license for Dr. Waugh to utilize a corner of the preserve to access a new road that was recently constructed.

Stuart informed members that one line of additional language had been inserted into the license since it was last mailed to them. The language states: "Should Dr. Waugh sell his property to another individual, we would consider extending the license to that individual." Stuart added that this is the only change in the document and feels that we should grant the license to Dr. Waugh because he has been a good neighbor and has helped us look after the property.

A question was asked about access on the new road. Stuart replied that we would not be able to get access to the road, but access to the property is number 4 on the capital improvements list. Stuart said he hopes to have a paved road and a parking area at the preserve within the next year.

A motion was made and approved by HTAB to accept the license as presented.

Other Business

Stuart asked members to examine the capital improvements list included in their packet. As requested by Dr. Dean at the last meeting, the preserves that need capital improvements are now listed in order of importance.

Next, Stuart passed out copies of the FY 93-94 annual report. Stuart noted that 4 million dollars was used to acquire approximately 8,000 acres of land. Stuart added that 75 different elements were protected which is a good indication that we are accomplishing our goal.

Stuart also distributed copies of an updated heritage preserve list and stated we now have 42 preserves in the state protecting 60,000 acres of land.

Cultural Areas Committee

Dr. George Vogt reported that the committee considered the status of a number of projects, but there were none to be brought

before the board today. Dr. Vogt added that they have looked at a number of different items on the list of 100 most significant archaeological sites in S.C. in an effort to reach an agreement with the owners to transfer their property through an easement, purchase, or other method.

Natural Areas Committee

Dr. Dean reported that there were four items to be brought before the board. The first, Pine Island, was approved at the morning meeting.

Brock Conrad remarked that the owner of Pine Island does not want to sell his land at this time. Brock said an appraisal commissioned by DNR determined that the owner does not own the marshlands. Therefore, the appraised price would be less than the amount the owner has invested in the property.

Dr. Dean said we still need to establish this as a project if we are to continue bargaining in good faith.

Steve Bennett began by stating that Pine Island is located within the ACE Basin Project Area adjacent to Otter Island and just downstream from the four islands that compose the St. Helena Sound HP. The 2,775 acre estuarine marsh island has one rare plant species and is used by loggerhead sea turtles on the river beach. Steve said the primary significance of Pine Island is its contribution to the whole ACE Basin ecosystem.

Steve added that several funding mechanisms are being pursued to purchase the island that would entail not using HLTF money. Dr. Timmerman stated that the Marine Resources Division is also looking into other federal sources of funding in the event that these methods do not materialize.

Dr. Dean stated that the committee recommends approval of Pine Island as a project. A motion was made and passed by HTAB to establish Pine Island as a Level 1 protection project.

Lower Brasstown Creek

Bert Pittman pointed out the general location of the Oconee County site to HTAB members and stated that two new trillium species were found on the property in the late 1960's and early 1970's.

Bert said that the concept of the project involves two tracts of land and encompasses the entire drainage net of Brasstown Creek. Bert added that the site is one of the premier botanical areas in the state and has been designated as a special interest area by the Forest Service.

Bert said that the plan would be to seek easements or registration agreements with Georgia Power Company and to continue

in cooperative agreements with a majority of the property within the national forest. He said the two tracts primarily of interest are the Connie Maxwell and Tugaloo Mountain properties.

Dr. Dean said the committee recommends acceptance of Lower Brasstown Creek as a Level 1 project and that it include a definition of Lower Brasstown Creek drainage as a planning boundary area.

A motion was made and approved by HTAB to accept Lower Brasstown Creek as a Level 1 project.

Dungannon Plantation

Steve Bennett described Dungannon Plantation as a 605 acre site located near the city of Ravenel in Charleston County. He stated the main element of concern is the federally endangered wood stork.

Tom Murphy said the wood stork has been in decline since at least the 1930's. At that time, Tom said there were 20,000 breeding pairs of storks. Today, there are under 6,000 pairs in North America. Tom stated that habitat alteration has forced the wood stork to move out of south Florida and migrate to Georgia and South Carolina to nest.

Tom added that for the first time, wood storks were seen nesting outside of the ACE Basin this year. He said that acquisition of this property will not only protect the colony, but also provide open access as a study area to learn more about the wood stork.

Dr. Dean said the committee recommends approval of the project and moves for adoption. A motion was made and approved by HTAB to establish Dungannon Plantation as a project.

Dr. Dean added that S.C. is now responsible for roughly 12-14 percent of nesting birds in the country and that the number is increasing as the overall population of the birds is decreasing.

Next, Dr. Dean said the committee discussed the definition of large area projects and planning boundaries. Steve Bennett said a case in point would be the Waccamaw River large area.

Steve distributed copies of a map defining large area projects in the state and also copies of new documentation for the Waccamaw River large area. Steve said it is the intention of NGHT staff to establish a planning zone for all large area projects. Once a large area is approved, Stuart can then proceed with discussions on possible acquisitions with the landowners and bring budget proposals to HTAB members.

In the case of the Waccamaw River, Steve said the goal would be to continue acquiring property adjacent to the river channel.

After that is completed, upland property would then be acquired as a buffer until 10,000 acres were acquired, since this is the goal of a large area project.

Dr. Dean stated that this would give staff the necessary flexibility to work within a defined area. Dr. Dean added that this is basically a planning guideline for staff to follow and a guideline that should be developed for all large area projects.

Dr. Dean said the committee recommends approval of planning area boundary guidelines for all large area projects. A motion was made and approved by HTAB to establish planning boundaries for large area projects.

Dr. Dean said the second point to be considered is that the red lines documented around the Waccamaw River area be adopted as a planning boundary for the Waccamaw large area.

Tony Merck asked how you define the planning boundary. Steve replied that these are merely planning zones, not "take" zones. Steve said these areas include simple ownership properties and that other areas may need to be included in the boundaries at a later date that will add to the diversity of the project.

Dr. Dean stated this is a vote to establish a planning guideline for the Waccamaw large area. The motion was made and approved by HTAB for the Waccamaw planning boundary.

In other business, Dr. Dean said the committee has recommended that staff pursue memoranda of understanding (MOU's) with universities and that staff are proceeding with this work.

Also, development of a format for presentation of projects was discussed as was the concept of biodiversity and its implications for planning projects.

Dr. Timmerman suggested that the committee meet with John Frampton or Brock at the next meeting to discuss focus areas and how they are related to Heritage Trust acquisitions.

Budget Committee

HTAB entered executive session and Stuart Greeter presented the budget. HTAB went back into regular session and voted to approve the budget as presented.

Date of Next Meeting

Stuart informed members that the next HTAB meeting will be November 3 in Columbia. Stuart added that there will be a joint social function with The Nature Conservancy after the meeting.

Adjourn.

Heritage Land Trust Fund Approved Expenditures: January 1995
8-15-94

Approx. January 1, 1994 Cash Balance: 2,748,000

Revenues Expected by January 1, 1995: 1,892,000

Less 1994 Expenditures and Obligations:

Preserve Management		(100,000)
Archaeology Contract		(35,000)
Land Protection Asst.		(25,000)
Roadwork and Gates		(10,000)
Waccamaw Bridges Addn.-IP	Horry	(1,760,000)
Forty Acre Rock Addn.-Horton	Lancaster	(45,000)
Buzzard Island	Charleston	(5,000)
		(1,980,000)

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Total Cash Available in 1994: 2,660,000

Less Commitments:

Fort Lamar		Charleston (318,000)
Cathedral Bay Addn.	Bamberg	(33,000)
Stoney Creek Battery	Beaufort	(28,000)
Lynchburg Sav. Addn.-Willis	Lee	(15,000)
Nipper Creek Addn.-James	Richland	(21,000)
Waccamaw River Addn.-IP	Horry	(1,002,000)
South Williman Island	Beaufort	(25,000)
Captain Cannons Sheep Pasture	Darlington	(263,000)
Savage Bay Addn.-Peay	Kershaw	(26,000)
Savage Bay Addn.-Scurry	Kershaw	(26,000)
Rock Hill Blackjacks-Albright	York	(200,000)
Little Pee Dee River-IP	Marion	(2,546,000)
* Buzzard Roost Addn.-Radar	Oconee	(275,000)
Waccamaw River Addn.-Burroughs	Horry	(7,000)
Hitchcock Woods	Aiken	(15,000)
** Ferguson's Mountain	York	(261,000)
Pacolet HP Gates	Spartanburg	(12,000)
		(5,073,000)

Proposed Additions (8-25-94):

Waccamaw River Addn.-Schultz		Horry (411,000)
Henderson HP Addn.-Boyleston	Aiken	(57,000)
Aiken Co. Gopher Tortoise	Aiken	(208,000)
		(676,000)

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CURRENT ESTIMATED BALANCE ON January 1, 1995 (3,089,000)

* Increased by \$68,000

** Moved from "No Time Frame" list

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Approved Expenditures - No Time Frame:

Dukes Bay	Hampton	363,000
Long Branch Bay	Barnwell	80,000
Savannah River Bluffs Addn.	Aiken	332,000
York Subdivision Outcrop	York	30,000
Branchville Bay	Orangeburg	50,000
Dalzell Bay	Sumter	50,000
Halfway Gut Branch Bay	Dorchester	30,000
Reevesville Bay	Dorchester	20,000
Fish Haul Creek	Beaufort	100,000
Barton Bay	Allendale	255,000
Mt. Pleasant Church Bay	Lee	82,000
Lewis Ocean Bay Addition	Horry	793,000
Hazel Lake	Aiken	939,000
Sandhills Bay	Clarendon	159,000
Saluda County Highponds	Saluda	54,000
LPD River Addn. (GP)	Marion	5,275,000
Cartwheel Bay Addn.	Horry	145,000
Lewis Ocean Bay Addn.-Waccamaw	Horry	64,000
Waccamaw Riv. Addn.-Head	Horry	50,000
Glassy Mountain Addn.	Pickens	395,000

	TOTAL:	9,266,000

NOTE: All expenditures must meet State approval requirements and accounting standards.

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