

MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
FEBRUARY 3, 2005
BENNETTS POINT, S.C.

Members Present

Julia Krebs (Chair)
Campbell Coxe (Vice-Chair)
Beth Grace
Freddy Vang
Henry Fair
Fritz Hamer (for William Galloway)
Rodger Stroup
Chris Amer (for Jon Leader)
Joel Felder (for Bob Showalter)
Sonny King
Mike Foley (for Chad Prosser)
Jake Rasor

Others Present

Barry Beasley
Stuart Greeter
Chris Judge
Ken Prosser
Jamie Dozier
Hank Stallworth
Kathy Boyle
David Jones
Brian Long
Marvin Davant
Dean Harrigal
Robert Boyles

Members Absent

Mike McShane
John Frampton
Graham Gallivan

Julia Krebs called the meeting to order and called the roll.

Approval of November 4 Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2004 Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) meeting. The motion was approved.

Welcome to the ACE Basin McKenzie Field Station

Robert Boyles, Deputy Director of DNR's Marine Resources Division, welcomed guests and gave a brief history of the facility.

Comments from the Director

Barry Beasley stated there were many opportunities for land protection in 2005 and stressed the need to form partnerships with other groups regarding funding initiatives. He said work has begun on updating the Heritage Trust ranking system and priorities

list. Mr. Beasley informed members that the next meeting might be moved from May 5 to May 19 to provide the opportunity to meet with the DNR Board.

Natural Areas Committee

Freddy Vang stated the committee discussed the following items:

1. Tompkin's Island: Approved as a protection project at the last HTAB meeting, this man-made shoal area was created by the U.S. Corps of Engineers and is used as a sea bird rookery. The committee as a motion recommended approval of Tompkins Island as a heritage preserve via dedication or by execution of a conservation easement. The motion was approved.
2. Rock Hill Blackjacks: As a matter of information, the committee discussed potential additions to the preserve and management concerns.
3. Protection Project Update: The committee heard from Kathy Boyle, who discussed the status of HTAB approved projects. Mr. Vang remarked that Ms. Boyle would address the board later in the meeting.
4. Eastatoe Creek Heritage Preserve Trail Repair: Due to a landslide that destroyed part of the trail at Eastatoe, a request for \$30,000 was made by DNR biologist Mary Bunch to move the trail to an existing tram road and construct one mile of new trail from the tram road into the preserve. The committee as a motion recommended approval. The motion was approved.
5. Jocassee Gorges Road Repair: A request for \$10,000 was made by DNR biologist Mark Hall to repair damage along an access road at Jocassee Gorges. Failure to repair the road will result in erosion damage at Laurel Fork Heritage Preserve and prohibit access into Jocassee at Laurel Fork Gap. The committee as a motion recommended approval. The motion was approved.
6. Woolly Adelgid Problem: As discussed at a previous meeting, this insect is killing hemlock trees in the southeast and a potential solution involves releasing a beetle to eat the wooly adelgid. A request for \$18,000 was made by Mark Hall to help fund work at Clemson to combat the problem. The committee as a motion recommended approval. The motion was approved.

Cultural Areas Committee

Rodger Stroup stated the committee discussed the following items:

1. Fig Island Shell Ring: Chris Judge discussed this shell ring, found on Botany Bay Plantation, and described the process for obtaining a designation as a world heritage site.
2. Poinsett Bridge, Fort Lamar and Bear Branch Heritage Preserve Management Plans: The committee discussed each plan and a motion was made recommending approval of all three management plans. The motion was approved.

Other Business

1. Update on Approved Projects: Kathy Boyle reported on the status of updating and ranking protection projects. She added that she would have a prioritized list of elements and locations in need of protection at the next meeting.
2. SCDNR Habitat Protection Strategy: Mr. Beasley stated this document has been revised from its original form and has been sent to various staff for review. He requested HTAB members also review it and submit comments to him by February 18, 2005.
3. SC Conservation Land Bank: Marvin Davant, director of the bank, discussed his organization, which acts as a funding mechanism for land protection. He said the bank provided money for 11 projects during its first year of full funding. Mr. Davant stated he looked forward to working with DNR and Heritage Trust in the future.

Budget Committee

HTAB entered executive session to discuss contractual matters. They returned to regular session and voted to approve the Heritage Land Trust Fund (HLTF) budget as presented, with the exception of amending the Little Pee Dee project to include Tract IV and increasing its budget allocation to \$100,000.00. Addendums to the budget included Marsh Furniture, Great Falls, and additions to Dungannon, Lewis Ocean Bay and Little Pee Dee Heritage Preserves.

Members will be notified of the date for the next meeting.

Adjourn.