

MINUTES
HERITAGE TRUST ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 3, 2007
SC DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY
COLUMBIA, SC

MEMBERS PRESENT

Julia Krebs (Chair)
Campbell Coxe (Vice-Chair)
Rodger Stroup
Fritz Hamer (for William Calloway)
Joel Felder (for Bob Schowalter)
Jake Rasor
States Clawson (for Joe Taylor)
Elizabeth Grace
Jon Leader
Irvin Pitts (for Chad Prosser)
Steve de Kozlowski (Interim)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sonny King
Henry Fair
John Frampton
Mike McShane

OTHERS PRESENT

Barry Beasley
Ken Prosser
Kay Daniels
Julie Holling
Sean Taylor
Ann Darr
Kathy Boyle
Bert Pittman
Mary Edmonds
Val Nash
Brian Long
Tim Ivey
Bob Perry
Ed Duncan
Jamie Dozier
Sam Chappellear
Deanna Ruth
Johnny Stowe
Paul League
Martha Zierden
Zane Wilson
Steve Smith
Brett Moule
David Farren

Call to Order

Dr. Krebs called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and requested they introduce themselves.

Constituent Comments

David Farren, an attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, stated his organization, a private nonprofit that works with conservation groups on environmental policy and legal issues, has been involved with Interstate 73 for 15 years. He stated the

proposed encroachment by the interstate through heritage preserve property is an important issue for the board and will set a precedent for future actions. Mr. Farren requested the board thoroughly examine the proposal and all potential impacts before making a decision on whether to approve it. He distributed a copy of a comment letter sent from the law center to the State Department of Transportation addressing the issue.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Krebs asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the February 8, 2007, Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) meeting. There were none and a motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Comments from the Director

Barry Beasley reported that Freddy Vang retired from the department on April 16, 2007. He added that Steve de Kozlowski, assistant deputy director for the Land, Water and Conservation Division, is serving as interim division director and occupying the seat on HTAB until a new division director is appointed.

Dr. Beasley stated that House Bill 3020, which would permit hiking and equestrian activities on all heritage preserves and include a fee, did not advance out of committee this year, but may be resurrected in 2008.

Dr. Beasley reported the department closed on the final phase of Hamilton Ridge and announced a dedication ceremony will be held at the Webb Center on May 18, 2007. He stated work on the final phase of the Woodbury acquisition would be completed soon. Dr. Beasley commended Sean Taylor and Brian Long for their outstanding job at the Kolb site this year.

Dr. Krebs stated Freddy Vang's retirement has left his position as chairman of the Natural Areas Committee vacant. Therefore, she requested that anyone interested in filling the position contact her.

Committee Report

Rodger Stroup reported the committee, formed by Dr. Krebs to examine the structure of the Natural and Cultural Areas Committees, met and formulated a list of recommendations. He distributed the list and asked members to review it before the next meeting, when the topic will be listed on the agenda as an action item.

Update on Francis Marion Site at Woodbury

Steve Smith, archaeologist at the State Institute of Archaeology & Anthropology, reported he has been working with the Francis Marion Trail Commission since last March searching for Revolutionary War sites and has included investigating areas within the Woodbury tract. Late last year, Mr. Smith said he and his staff located a Colonial Era

site, which produced rifle balls, buttons, a 2-pound British cannon ball and other miscellaneous artifacts. He said his research, coupled with local historical accounts, indicate the area was likely a campsite occupied by Francis Marion during the war. Mr. Smith stated a public day was held at the end of the excavations and attracted 250 visitors. He said he hopes to continue work at the site and the partnership between the institute, DNR and the trail commission has been a very positive experience.

Overview of Archaeological Work at the Kolb Site

Sean Taylor reviewed the work conducted at the Great Pee Dee Heritage Preserve and stated that research began 12 years ago with DNR and the Diachronic Research Foundation. He said Chip Helms first recorded the site in 1973 and funds the project each year. Mr. Taylor said the goal is to educate the public about the prehistoric past and added that approximately 300-400 people attended a public visitation day this year. Dr. Beasley said the department needed to examine different ways to hold this event and should look at conducting archaeological research projects at other preserves.

Interstate 73

Dr. Beasley stated that DNR has been examining this issue since last August and at this time there is no new information to review or take action on. He added that DNR Board Chairman Mike McShane requested HTAB compile a report of impacts to the preserve and deliver it to the DNR Board in May. Dr. Krebs appointed Campbell Coxe, Jake Rasor, Ed Duncan, Bob Perry and Barry Beasley to a committee to produce the report.

Natural Area Preserves Management Budget

Tim Ivey reviewed activities on natural preserves under his management. He presented his budget request for the FY 07-08 fiscal year and noted that the amount was slightly higher than last year in part because each biologist now has a technician to assist in management activities.

Cultural Area Preserves Management Budget

Sean Taylor presented his fiscal year budget request for cultural preserves and updated the board on management activities.

Preserve Management Update – Region 2

Johnny Stowe gave a presentation to the board on management activities on preserves in Region 2. He reported that new properties in his region included the 8,500-acre Marsh tract and the 25,000-acre Woodbury property in Marion County. Mr. Stowe stated he was working with law enforcement to combat vandalism at Forty Acre Rock and said he received funds from the Lee County Legislative Delegation to install kiosks at Longleaf Pine and Lynchburg Savanna Heritage Preserves. Mr. Stowe stated he had a good working relationship with Dr. Krebs and Francis Marion University. He is conducting

prescribed burns on many preserves and continues to serve on the State Prescribed Fire Council.

Update on Active Projects/HLTF Budget

Ken Prosser updated members on the status of current projects and reviewed the Heritage Land Trust Fund budget. He stated the department recently closed on a 521-acre addition to Forty Acre Rock in Lancaster County and is working on a 130-acre addition to the Gopher Tortoise preserve in Aiken County. Mr. Prosser said the department is close to completing work on a 1,500-acre tract along the Catawba River in Lancaster, Fairfield and Chester Counties, as well as obtaining title to a 300-acre inholding at Lewis Ocean Bay in Horry County, and a 3-acre donation at Congaree Creek in Lexington County. Regarding archaeological sites, he reported that a letter was sent to the Beaufort County delegation requesting approval to acquire a portion of Altamaha and a meeting was scheduled with the Charleston County Recreation Commission to discuss the status of the Seabrook tract. Mr. Prosser stated that the sale of a 68-acre tract adjoining Ditch Pond in Aiken County was complete.

Executive Session

The Heritage Trust Advisory Board entered Executive Session to discuss contractual matters.

Return to Regular Session

HTAB returned to regular session and a motion was made to approve the Natural Areas Preserve Management budget, the Cultural Areas Preserve Management budget and the Heritage Land Trust Fund budget. The motion included a directive to staff to continue negotiations on properties in Richland, Oconee, and Charleston counties. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Time and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 2, 2007, in Columbia at the Department of Archives & History at 10:00 am.

Adjournment

No further business was brought before the HTAB and the meeting was adjourned.