

Heritage Trust Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Parker Annex Archaeology Center

2025 Barnwell Street

Columbia, SC 29201

Thursday, January 22nd, 2026 - 10:00 a.m.

Members Present

Campbell Coxe, Chairman
S. Frampton Morris, Jr.
Kevin Hunter
Rob Keck
J. Will Kittredge, Jr.
Dr. Julia Krebs
Julien Springs (via Teams)
Brad Sauls (for Dr. Eric Emerson)
Clarke Thompson (for Harry Lightsey, via Teams)
James Douglas (for Scott Phillips)
Bill Marshall (for Ken Rentiers)
Daniel Gambrell (for Duane Parrish, via Teams)
Ken Prosser (for Dr. Thomas Mullikin)
Dr. Mark Hartley (via Teams)

Others Present

Allison Morris
Anna Smith
Austen Attaway
Barry Kesler
Billy Dukes
Csilla Czako
Elizabeth Miller
Fran Varacalli
Hunter Young
Julie Binz
Karen Smith
Katie Gray
Keith Bradley
Kevin Ryan
Kiersten Weber
Lindsey Vann
Larry Lane
Luke Allen
Megan Levinson
Samantha Spires
Sean Taylor
Tamara Wilson
Willie Simmons

Call to Order

Chairman Campbell Coxe called the meeting to order and provided the Freedom of Information Statement.

Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Coxe gave a welcome to the Board and everyone attending, confirmed the meeting had reached quorum, and introduced new board member Mr. Will Kittredge for the Fourth Congressional District in place of Dr. Oswald “Sonny” King.

Public Comment Period

Chairman Coxe asked if anyone wanted to speak during this time. No public comment was made.

Approval of Minutes from the January 22nd, 2026 Meeting

Mr. Kevin Hunter made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the minutes from the January 22nd, 2026 meeting as submitted. Mr. Frampton Morris seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Items for Board Information

A) Overview of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board: Luke Allen, Assistant General Counsel, SCDNR

Mr. Luke Allen reviewed the structure and purpose of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board and details of the Heritage Trust Act as it relates to land acquisition, property dedication and management, and protection of the State's cultural and natural resources.

B) Update to Heritage Trust Advisory Board 2026 Meeting Schedule: Ken Rentiers, Deputy Director, Land, Water and Conservation, SCDNR

Mr. Bill Marshall updated the Board on the 2026 meeting schedule and asked board members to let us know if they had any conflicts with any of the meeting dates.

C) Poinsett Bridge Heritage Preserve Restoration Project – Archaeology Update: Sean Taylor, Senior Archaeologist, Land, Water and Conservation Division, SCDNR

Mr. Sean Taylor provided an overview of the recent archaeological excavation at Poinsett Bridge Heritage Preserve. He detailed artifacts recovered and the interpretation of the bridge's stratigraphy within the historical context of both the bridge restoration project and the Heritage Preserve at large.

Potential Conflict of Interest Statement

Chairman Coxe read the "Potential Conflict of Interest Statement". No Statement was made.

Motion to Enter Executive Session

Dr. Kevin Hunter made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session pursuant to S.C. Code Section 30-4-70(A)(2) to discuss requests for property acquisitions related to Action Items A through C. Mr. Brad Sauls seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Close Executive Session

Mr. Kevin Hunter made a motion that the Board return to open session, and that the record reflect that no action was taken in Executive Session. Dr. Julia Krebs seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motions on Action Items A through C

A) Property Acquisition Project: Preliminary approval for approximately 9 acres in Horry County (Little Pee Dee River HP/WMA – Snipes tract):

Mr. Julien Springs moved that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval and \$20,000 in Heritage Trust Funds to investigate the potential purchase of approximately 9 acres in Horry County that may be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the Corpus of the Heritage Trust. Mr. Kevin Hunter seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

B) Property Acquisition Project: Final approval for approximately 431 acres in Greenville County (Cedar Mountain HP-WMA):

Mr. Will Kittredge moved that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant final approval to acquire approximately 431 acres in Greenville County, and the expenditure of up to \$295,298 for the purchase price, to be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the Corpus of the Heritage Trust. Mr. Frampton Morris seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

C) Property Acquisition Project: Final approval for approximately 4,969 acres in Florence County (Woodbury HP-WMA – Snow’s Island):

Dr. Julia Krebs moved that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant final approval to acquire approximately 4,969 acres in Florence County that may be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the Corpus of the Heritage Trust. Mr. Kevin Hunter seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Other Items

Mr. Bill Marshall provided commendations and comments on behalf of Mr. Ken Rentiers. He also announced Mr. Rentier’s retirement from SCDNR. Mr. Rentiers wished to express his appreciation for the strong values of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board and the Heritage Trust Program and its staff. He extended his recognition to staff, and everyone involved in the Program for their talents and dedication to making the Heritage Trust Program happen. Lastly, Mr. Rentiers wished everyone well for the future.

Mr. Marshall also showed a copy of *The Conservation State*, a book put together at the behest of Director Mullikin that highlights the natural and cultural resources of our state. It was produced by the end of December 2025 for the Governor and the State Legislature. Mr. Keith Bradley noted that many of our experts in our natural and cultural programs contributed to the book.

Time and Place of the Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board was noted as May 14th, 2026. The location of the next meeting will be determined at a later date.

Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, Mr. Julien Springs moved that this meeting of the Heritage Trust Advisory Board be adjourned. Mr. Will Kittredge seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Morris
Heritage Trust Advisory Board Administrative Assistant
Land, Water and Conservation Division
S.C. Department of Natural Resources*