

Heritage Trust Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Parker Annex Archaeology Center

2025 Barnwell Street

Columbia, SC 29201

Thursday, July 16, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

Members Present

Campbell Coxe, Chairman
Frampton Morris
Austin Rhodes
Rob Keck
Will Kittredge
Julien Springs (via Teams)
Chris Judge
Clarke Thompson (for Harry Lightsey)
Brad Sauls (for Dr. Eric Emerson)
Tom Patton (for Scott Philips)
Tyler Brown
Daniel Gambrell (for Duane Parrish, via Teams)
Will Dillman (for Dr. Thomas Mullikin, via Teams)
Dr. Scott Persons (for Amy Bartow-Melia)
Dr. Mark Hartley

Others Present

Allison Morris
Barry Kesler
Billy Dukes
Fran Varacalli
Jennifer Konarski
Jessica Kinsella
Katie Dupree
Keith Bradley
Ken Prosser
Lalon Swaney
Larry Lane
Lindsey Vann
Lorianne Riggins
Luke Allen
Meg Gaillard
Sam Spires

Call to Order

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

Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Coxe welcomed the Board, thanked everyone for attending, and confirmed the meeting had reached quorum.

Public Comment Period

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

Approval of Minutes from May 14th, 2026

Mr. Rob Keck made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the minutes from the May 14th, 2026 meeting as submitted. Mr. Tom Patton seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item for Board Information

A. Overview of the Heritage Trust Budgets: Tyler Brown, Deputy Director, Land, Water and Conservation Division, SCDNR

Tyler Brown provided an overview of how the Heritage Trust Program is funded based on the Heritage Trust Act, and answered various questions from Board Members regarding the fund.

Potential Conflict of Interest Statement

Chairman Coxe read the “Potential Conflict of Interest Statement”. No statements were made.

Items for Board Action

A) Approval of FY2026 Heritage Trust Amended Budget

i. Habitat Protection-Conservation Property FY2027 Amended Budget

Lorianne Riggan, Director of the Office of Environmental Programs, presented the Habitat Protection-Conservation Property FY2027 Amended Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.

ii. Habitat Protection-Botany FY2027 Amended Budget

Tyler Brown, Deputy Director of the Land, Water and Conservation Division, presented the Habitat Protection-Botany FY2027 Amended Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.

iii. Cultural Preserve Management FY2027 Amended Budget

Tyler Brown, Deputy Director of the Land, Water and Conservation Division, presented the Cultural Preserve Management FY2027 Amended Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.

iv. Heritage Preserve Management FY2027 Amended Budget

Billy Dukes, Chief of Wildlife for Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries, presented the Heritage Preserve Management FY2027 Amended Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.

v. Coastal Preserves Management FY2027 Amended Budget

Jessica Kinsella, Stewardship Coordinator for Coastal Reserves and Outreach in the Marine Resources Division, presented the Coastal Preserves Management FY2027 Amended Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.

B) Approval of FY2028 Heritage Trust Budget

- i. **Habitat Protection-Conservation Property FY2028 Budget**
Lorianne Riffin, Director of the Office of Environmental Programs, presented the Habitat Protection-Conservation Property FY2028 Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.
- ii. **Habitat Protection-Botany FY2028 Budget**
Tyler Brown, Deputy Director of the Land, Water and Conservation Division, presented the Habitat Protection-Botany FY2028 Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.
- iii. **Cultural Preserve Management FY2028 Budget:**
Tyler Brown, Deputy Director of the Land, Water and Conservation Division, presented the Cultural Preserve Management FY2028 Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.
- iv. **Heritage Preserve Management FY2028 Budget**
Billy Dukes, Chief of Wildlife for Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries, presented the Heritage Preserve Management FY2028 Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.
- v. **Coastal Preserves Management FY2028 Budget**
Jessica Kinsella, Stewardship Coordinator for Coastal Reserves and Outreach in the Marine Resources Division, presented the Coastal Preserves Management FY2028 Budget to the Board. No questions were asked.

Motion to Enter Executive Session

Mr. Rob Keck made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session pursuant to S.C. Code Section 30-4-70(A)(2) to discuss property acquisitions related to Action Items C through K, and a request for use related to Action Item L. Mr. Will Kittredge seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Close Executive Session and Return to Public Session

Mr. Rob Keck made a motion that the Board return to open session, and that the record reflect that no action was taken in Executive Session. Mr. Frampton Morris seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Motions on Action Items

A) Approval of FY2027 Heritage Trust Amended Budget:

Mr. Frampton Morris moved that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the FY2027 Heritage Trust amended budget as presented. Mr. Rob Keck seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

B) Approval of FY2028 Heritage Trust Budget:

Mr. Rob Keck moved that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the FY2028 Heritage Trust budget as presented. Dr. Mark Hartley seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

C) Property Acquisition Project: Preliminary approval to investigate the potential purchase of 182 acres, Pickens County (Glassy Mountain HP – Adjacent):

Mr. Brad Sauls made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director, grant preliminary approval and authorize the expenditure of up to \$50,000 in Heritage Land Trust Funds to investigate the potential purchase of approximately 182 acres in Pickens County that may 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.

D) Property Acquisition Project: Final Approval for Acquisition of 262 Acres in Aiken-Edgefield Counties (Greystone HP):

Mr. Rob Keck made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director, and subject to standard due diligence, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant final approval and the expenditure of \$4,327,000 from the Heritage Land Trust Fund for the acquisition of approximately 262 acres that may be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the corpus of the Heritage Trust. Mr. Austin Rhodes seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

E) Property Acquisition Project: Final Approval for Acquisition of 410 Acres in Aiken County (Aiken Gopher Tortoise HP-WMA – Keadle Bridge):

Mr. Clarke Thompson made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director, and subject to standard due diligence, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant final approval and the expenditure of \$1,400,000 from the Heritage Land Trust Fund for the acquisition of approximately 410 acres adjacent to the Aiken Gopher Tortoise HP-WMA that may be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the corpus of the Heritage Trust. Mr. Tom Patton seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

F) Property Acquisition Project: Final Approval for Acquisition of 698 acres, Horry County (Waccamaw River HP-WMA – OSI Duncan Todd):

Mr. Julien Springs made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director, and subject to standard due diligence, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant final approval and the expenditure of \$2,050,000 from the Heritage Land Trust Fund for the acquisition of approximately 698 acres adjacent to the Waccamaw River HP-WMA that may be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the corpus of the Heritage Trust. Mr. Clarke Thompson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

G) Property Acquisition Project: Final Approval for Acquisition of 2,330 acres, Horry County (Waccamaw River HP WMA – OSI Murrell):

Mr. Julien Springs made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director; and subject to standard due diligence, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant final approval and the expenditure of \$9,950,000 from the Heritage Land Trust Fund for the acquisition of approximately 2,330 acres adjacent to the Waccamaw River HP-WMA that may be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the corpus of the Heritage Trust. Mr. Tom Patton seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

H) Property Acquisition Project: Final Approval for Acquisition of 524 acres, Horry County (Waccamaw River HP – OSI East Edge):

Mr. Julien Springs made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director; and subject to standard due diligence, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant final approval and the expenditure of \$1,825,000 from the Heritage Land Trust Fund for the acquisition of approximately 524 acres addition to the Waccamaw River HP-WMA that may be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the corpus of the Heritage Trust. Mr. Rob Keck seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

I) Property Acquisition Project: Final Approval for Acquisition of 1,766 acres, Horry County (Waccamaw River HP – OSI West Edge):

Mr. Will Kittredge made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director; and subject to standard due diligence, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant final approval and the expenditure of \$4,925,000 from the Heritage Land Trust Fund for the acquisition of approximately 1,766 acres adjacent to the Waccamaw River HP-WMA that may be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the corpus of the Heritage Trust. Mr. Chris Judge seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

J) Property Acquisition Project: Final Approval for Acquisition of 410 acres, Horry County (Waccamaw River HP – OSI River Oaks):

Mr. Julien Springs made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director; and subject to standard due diligence, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant final approval and the expenditure of \$950,000 from the Heritage Land Trust Fund for the acquisition of approximately 410 acres adjacent to the Waccamaw River HP-WMA that may be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the corpus of the Heritage Trust. Mr. Rob Keck seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

K) Property Acquisition Project: Final Approval for Property Acquisition, Greenville County (Bunched Arrowhead HP Land Acquisition – Shelton):

Mr. Will Kittredge made a motion the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of the Director and SCDNR staff, and subject to standard due diligence, recommend the SCDNR Board grant final approval and authorize the expenditure of up to \$100,000 from the Heritage Land Trust Fund for the acquisition of approximately 24.4

acres west of Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve in Greenville County that may 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.

L) Request for Use: Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve, Charleston County:

Dr. Mark Hartley made a motion the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff, grant approval to the City of Folly Beach for a license to support the rehabilitation of rock Groin #3 on the Lighthouse Inlet Heritage Preserve in Charleston County. Mr. Rob Keck seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Updates and Comments

SCDNR's Deputy Director of Land, Water, and Conservation, Tyler Brown, took the time to thank SCDNR staff for all their hard work and highlighted recent fieldwork completed in Beaufort by the Archaeology team. Chairman Coxe inquired about the coastal erosion at Fort Frederick Heritage Preserve. Heritage Trust Archaeologist Meg Gaillard confirmed that a 1-meter loss was observed in 2025 as part of her PhD work, but that it is now stabilized due to the living shoreline installed by the SCDNR Marine Resources Division.

Mr. Rob Keck provided his compliments and acknowledgments to staff for the great work they've done in presentations and in their due diligence. Chairman Coxe and Mr. Will Kittredge seconded his commendations. Mr. Brown also thanked the Heritage Trust Advisory Board Administrative Assistant, Allison Morris, for her diligent work in assisting the Board.

Time and Place of the Next Board Meeting

The next Heritage Trust Advisory Board meeting will be held at Poinsett Bridge Heritage Preserve in Traveler's Rest, SC. Mr. Brown requested the meeting be moved to Thursday, October 15th, 2026. The time will be provided at a later date.

Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, Chairman Coxe made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board be adjourned. Mr. Rob Keck 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