

Heritage Trust Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

260 D Epting Lane

Thursday, May 14, 2026 – 10:00 am

Members Present

Campbell Coxe, Chairman
Frampton Morris
Austin Rhodes
Rob Keck
Will Kittredge
Dr. Julia Krebs
Julien Springs
Dr. Scott Persons (for Amy Bartow-Melia)
Tom Patton (for Scott Philips)
Tyler Brown
Will Dillman (for Dr. Thomas Mullikin)
Dr. Mark Hartley

Others Present

Alden Zerkle
Anna Smith
Barry Kesler
Bill Marshall
Csilla Czako
Dawn Beaver
Elaine Konarski
Fran Varacalli
Hannah Berberich
Hein Dinah
Hunter Young
Jennifer Konarski
Johanna West
Jordan Baker
Julie Binz
Keith Bradley
Ken Prosser
Ken Rentiers
Kevin Hunter
Lindsey Vann
Lorianne Riggins

Call to Order

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

Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Coxe warmly 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 January 22, 2026

Chairman Coxe noted that the minutes from the previous meeting had been sent to the Board Members. *Mr. Rob Keck made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the minutes from the January 22, 2026, meeting as submitted. Mr. Rhodes seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.*

Item for Board Information

A. "Where Conservation Takes Root: Updates from the SCDNR NHT Botany & Plant Conservation Program": Keith Bradley and Csilla Czakó, Heritage Trust Botany and Plant Conservation Program, Land, Water and Conservation, SCDNR

Keith Bradley gave the board an update on the SCDNR Botany team's work over the last few months. He reviewed the various fieldwork they have been doing and their work on improving the list of plant species in the state. Keith Bradley also spoke to the board about the benefits of using the drone during fieldwork and informed the board that he would perform a drone demonstration after the meeting.

Potential Conflict of Interest Statement

Chairman Coxe read the "Potential Conflict of Interest Statement" before going into Executive Session. No statements were made.

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 a property acquisition related to Action Items A through and including J. Mr. Patton seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Close Executive Session and Return to Public Session

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

Motions on Action Items

A. Property Acquisition Project: Preliminary Approval to Investigate Potential Acquisition of 736 acres in Richland County (Wateree HP-WMA – Goodwill Plantation):

Mr. Austin Rhodes made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval and the expenditure of \$100,000 from the Heritage Land Trust Fund to investigate the potential acquisition of approximately 736 acres in Richland County that will be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the corpus of the Heritage Trust. Dr. Julia Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Property Acquisition Project: Final Approval for Acquisition of 106.8 Acres in Pickens County (Jocassee Gorges HP-WMA – His Way):

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 \$475,000 from the Heritage Land Trust Fund for the acquisition of approximately 106.8 acres adjoining Jocassee Gorges WMA in Pickens County that will 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.

C. Property Acquisition Project: Preliminary Approval to Investigate Potential Purchase of 3,512 Acres in Georgetown County (New Footprint HP-WMA – Arcadia):

Mr. Julien Springs made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval and the expenditure of \$50,000 from the Heritage Land Trust Fund to investigate the potential purchase of approximately 3,512 acres in Georgetown County that will 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.

D. Property Acquisition Project: Preliminary Approval to Investigate Potential Acquisition of 2,592 acres in Beaufort County (Turtle Island WMA – Red Bluff Marsh):

Mr. Frampton Morris made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval and the expenditure of \$20,000 from the Heritage Land Trust Fund to investigate the potential acquisition of approximately 2,592 acres in Beaufort County that will 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.

E. Property Acquisition Project: Preliminary Approval to Investigate Potential Purchase of 52 acres in Pickens County (Good HP-WMA – Little Rock Mountain):

Mr. Rob Keck made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval and the expenditure of \$30,000 from the Heritage Land Trust Fund to investigate the potential purchase of approximately 52 acres in Pickens County that will be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the corpus of the Heritage Trust. Dr. Julia Krebs seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

F. Property Acquisition Project: Preliminary Approval to Investigate Potential Purchase of 316 acres in Horry County (Little Pee Dee HP-WMA – Holliday):

Mr. Julien Springs made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director, recommend that the SCDNR Board

grant preliminary approval and the expenditure of \$20,000 from the Heritage Land Trust Fund to investigate the potential purchase of approximately 316 acres in Horry County that will 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.

G. Property Acquisition Project: Preliminary Approval to Investigate Potential Purchase of 748 acres in Hampton County (New Footprint HP-WMA – Duckfield Plantation):

Mr. Frampton Morris made a motion that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of SCDNR staff and the Director, recommend that the SCDNR Board grant preliminary approval and the expenditure of \$50,000 from the Heritage Land Trust Fund to investigate the potential purchase of approximately 748 acres in Hampton County that will be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the corpus of the Heritage Trust. Mr. Keck seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

H. Property Acquisition Project: Final Approval to Acquire 635 Acres in Jasper County (Coosawhatchie HP-WMA – Treble Hook Ranch - Bigbee Jasper):

Mr. Frampton Morris 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 for the acquisition of approximately 635 acres in Jasper County that will 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.

I. Property Acquisition Project: Final Approval to Acquire 4,006 Acres in Horry County (Waccamaw HP-WMA – TNC - Loris, Ellis, Bellamy):

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 for the acquisition of approximately 4,006 acres in Horry County that will 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.

J. Property Acquisition Project: Final Approval to Acquire 595 Acres in Horry County (Little Pee Dee HP-WMA – TNC Gunters Island):

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 for the acquisition of approximately 595 acres in Horry County that will be dedicated as a Heritage Preserve and placed into the corpus of the Heritage Trust. Dr. Julia Krebs 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 everyone for coming today and turned the updates and comments over to Chairman Coxe. Chairman Coxe presented to Ken Rentiers and Kevin Hunter a replica of the Poinsett Bridge in honor of their hard work and dedication over the years to the board. Next, Dr. Mark Hartley gifted Mr. Rentiers a fishing pole in honor of his retirement. Both Mr. Hunter and Mr. Rentiers thanked the board.

Time and Place of the Next Board Meeting

The next Heritage Trust Advisory Board meeting will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2026. The next location of the meeting will be determined 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. Keck seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Jordan Baker
Administrative Assistant
SC Department of Natural Resources
Land, Water, and Conservation Division*