Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Krebs asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the May 3, 2007, Heritage Trust Advisory Board (HTAB) meeting. There being none, a motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
Nominating Committee

Dr. Krebs appointed a committee consisting of Sonny King and Rodger Stroup to nominate a candidate for the position of HTAB Chair. She requested the committee report back to the Board at the November meeting.

Comments from the Director

Barry Beasley reported that the department had closed on the Woodbury Tract in Marion County and the Heritage Tract in Great Falls. He also explained issues regarding a conservation easement held by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources’ (SCDNR) Heritage Trust Program at Palmetto Fort in Charleston County in which the owners want to develop the property, which contains significant archaeological features.

Dr. Beasley announced that Ann Darr would be leaving Heritage Trust for a teaching position. He reported that Brian Long held a public clean-up day at Congaree Creek Heritage Preserve and added that the annual commemoration event at Fort Lamar was held on June 16, 2007.

Update on Proposed I-73 Compensation Issues

Deferred to end of the meeting.

Update on Francis Marion Site at Woodbury

Sean Taylor reported on archaeological work at the site and stated that a redoubt, or earthen fortification, has been found on property believed to be a campsite of Francis Marion.

South Carolina Conservation Bank Update

Marvin Davant stated the South Carolina Conservation Bank has formed good partnerships with landowners and he is beginning to see a change in attitude regarding conservation. During the last three years, Mr. Davant said the bank helped protect 107,000 acres of land in which 98,000 acres were forested woodlands, 8,280 acres were farmland, 467 acres were urban forest and 324 acres were historical sites. He stated the bank has funded 75 projects in 35 counties and expended $60 million. Mr. Davant said 31 requests have been received for the next funding cycle. He added that seven proposals have been funded for SCDNR protecting 50,000 acres at a total cost of $15 million.

Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve Legal Issues

Deferred to Executive Session.
Overview of Management Activities on Cultural Preserves

Brian Long reported on activities conducted on 15 cultural preserves across the state. He stated that new highway signs have been posted at all the preserves that are open to the public and nearly all boundary lines on the preserves have been painted. Mr. Long said the Kolb site public day at the Great Pee Dee River Heritage Preserve (HP) hosted approximately 300 visitors this year.

Ditch Pond Management Plan

Brett Moule reviewed the proposed management plan for Ditch Pond HP in Aiken County. A motion was made and seconded to approve the plan. The motion was approved.

Overview of Management Activities on Heritage Preserves in Region 3

Brett Moule updated the Board on management activities for preserves in Region 3. Regarding Savannah River Bluffs HP, he stated work is underway on relocating Relict Trillium and a task force has been formed to protect known populations of the plant. Mr. Moule explained that a gopher tortoise restoration project is underway at Aiken Gopher Tortoise HP and a longleaf pine restoration project is occurring at Janet Harrison High Pond HP.

Recommendations for Cultural and Natural Areas Committees

Rodger Stroup stated that each member of HTAB is encouraged to serve on one of the committees and the chair of each committee be appointed by the HTAB Chair. He added that members of each committee be recommended by the Cultural and Natural Committee Chairs and be officially appointed by the full Heritage Trust Advisory Board. Dr. Stroup stated the length of service will be 4 years and there will be 12 people on each committee. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed changes to the bylaws. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on Active Projects and Budget

Ken Prosser reported on properties acquired during the fiscal year. They included Fish Dam Ford, a 138-acre Revolutionary War site donated to the department; Congaree Creek, a 14-acre donation; a 521-acre addition to Forty Acre Rock HP; a 300-acre inholding at Lewis Ocean Bay HP; a 1,540 acre acquisition along the Catawba River; and the purchase of the remaining interests in Woodbury and Hamilton Ridge. Mr. Prosser stated 40,000 acres were acquired utilizing a variety of state and federal funds totaling $57 million.

Executive Session

HTAB entered Executive Session to discuss contractual matters.
Return to Regular Session

HTAB returned to regular session and a motion was made to approve the Heritage Land Trust Fund budget as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. A motion was made that the Heritage Trust Advisory Board approve the proposed compensation package currently being negotiated for I-73 on the Little Pee Dee River Heritage Preserve. The motion passed with one opposing vote.

Time and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Piedmont Forestry Center on Thursday, November 8, 2007. There will be a field trip prior to the meeting on Wednesday, November 7. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Adjournment

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

/k