

**Virginia Council on Indians Meeting
January 20, 2004**

Present: Chair Karenne Wood (Monacan), Reginald Stewart (Chickahominy), Frank Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Buck Woodard (Muskogee Creek, Indian At Large), Juanita Smith (Nansemond), Gerald Stewart (Eastern Chickahominy), Frank Richardson (Rappahannock), Danielle Moretti-Langholtz (Citizen At Large), Floyd Miles (Delegate), Dan McGuire (Indian At Large), Mitchell Bush, (Onandaga, Advisor), Deanna Beacham (Weapemeoc, Council Program Specialist)

Absent: Dante Desiderio (Sappony, Indian at Large), John Ficklin (At Large), Allen Louderback (Delegate), Ryan McDougale (Delegate), Bill Bolling (Senator)

Attending: Edmond Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Keith Smith (Nansemond/Cherokee), Pinky Smith (Cherokee/Nansemond), Jerry Fortune (Rappahannock), Paige Archer (Meherrin), Elwin Smith (Chickahominy), Gerard Epps (Sappony), Alfred Adkins (Chickahominy), Anne Adam (Shawnee), Kirk Moore (Pamunkey), Shereen Waterlily (Mattaponi), Sierra Rayne (Mattaponi), Sequoia Raven (Mattaponi), Joanne Curnutt (Cherokee), Al Wade, Helen Rountree, Faye Adams, Angela Daniel, Michael Woods.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Karenne Wood. The invocation was given by Gerald Stewart.

Administrative Business:

1. The minutes from the November 18, 2003 meeting were reviewed and approved, with the motion being made by Juanita Smith, and the second by Frank Richardson.

2. The next order of business was to review the list of potential meeting dates for the VCI business meetings, which are usually the third Tuesday of each month. An exception for this year will be November's meeting being scheduled for November 23, as that is the evening before the tax tribute. At this time there are no meetings scheduled for May and December for 2004.

(Please note: changes in the meeting schedule have been made since the January 20 meeting. Please see the VCI website at www.indians.vipnet.org or contact the VCI office at 804.225.2084 for the current schedule.)

3. Schedule conflicts have forced the rescheduling of the VCI Annual conference. The dates decided upon at the meeting, March 26-27, 2004, were unconfirmed at the time of the meeting. (Please note: the conference was ultimately scheduled for **April 9-10, 2004**.) The conference committee volunteers are to report to the Chair after the meeting. Committee members include: Karenne Wood, Debbie Moore, Dan McGuire, Diane Shields, Buck Woodard, and Anne Adam. A meeting was scheduled for January 23 at Karenne's mother's house in Richmond.

4. An update on HB 782, the Virginia Council on Indians bill, was given. A copy of the bill was included in each member's packet. The bill was scheduled to be in House committee the week following the VCI meeting.

5. Members packets included a copy of the VCI executive summary report for 2003, which has also been shared with the tribal chiefs at the Tribal Leadership Summit. A brief summation of the report was delivered by the chair. It included a listing of meetings, membership changes during the year, and a listing of major collaborations and consultations during the 2003 calendar year. Significant work was listed, including completion of the recognition criteria, and the voting measures taken at each meeting of 2003.

Old Business:

1. Recognition criteria documents: Work has been completed on the recognition criteria documents and each member received a copy of these. There was no discussion, so the Chair asked for a motion that these documents be approved by the Council. The motion was made by Dan McGuire and seconded by Frank Adams. The council voted unanimously to approve the documents.

New Business:

1. Al Wade - Request for funds to purchase a pottery kiln for the Chickahominy tribe. Al Wade reported that this was a project he and Mary had planned before her passing, and they had raised enough funds for a similar donation to the Monacan tribe, but had run short of funds for the second kiln. He is requesting a grant of \$2710 to purchase a pottery kiln that would be used by the Chickahominy tribe to teach pottery-making skills to Indian children and to use to make pottery for fund-raising for the tribes. Danielle mentioned that she and Mary had discussed making signature pieces that could be sold by the tribes or contracted to the 2007 tourist locations for sale during the 2007 period. Al said that he and Mary wanted to encourage the continuation of traditional ways. The question was raised as to whether participation would be open to all tribes, as the Council could not be seen as favoring one tribe. A question was made as to whether the Council could make such a grant under the state accounting guidelines, and another as to whether all possible discounts and outside donations had been investigated. It was also suggested that UIV might be a possible grantee instead of the Chickahominy tribe. After considerable discussion, a motion was made by Buck Woodard that the VCI research all of these questions, including the appropriateness of the grantee, the various discounts and the accounting feasibility of such a grant. The motion was seconded by Juanita Smith and subsequently passed unanimously. A report on what was learned will be made to Al.

2. State highway markers - A VDHR report on a proposed state highway markers about a colonial fort near the Rappahannock river was included in each VCI member's packet. Comments on the marker should be made directly to Scott Arnold of the VDHR. Deadline for the comments was January 30, 2004.

Project/Committee Reports

1. Karenne gave a report on the Tribal Leadership Summit, which was sponsored by the VCI for the tribal chiefs or their designated representatives, as well as the leaders of the other Virginia Indian organizations, including VITAL, UIV and MPM. The meeting was held in Charlottesville and included a dinner hosted by the University of Virginia. All eight tribes were represented. Each director gave an update on the mission and the status of their organization. The chiefs were in general approval of recent work done by the VCI. The VCI was especially commended for their addressing legislatively the clarification of the status of Indian at-large members.

MPM is working quite well and reported on their recent career advancement initiative which allows older people to return to college.

UIV is having some financial difficulties and the Indian community needs to be more supportive if that organization is to be viable. They need funding and member attendance from the tribes. UIV is in the unique position of having no political restraints. There has been some perception that the UIV and VCI are in competition which is in fact not true; the two organizations are working together and need to find ways to complement each other's contributions.

VITAL is pushing the federal recognition agenda this year because of the timing. Funding for VITAL is an issue, and tribal members of all the tribes are being urged to contribute regularly either via their tribes with fund earmarked for VITAL, or directly to VITAL.

Shared projects include working with the Bureau of Vital Statistics to modify their policy of reporting "race" to an extent that was acceptable for help in verifying Indian records. In other shared projects, all tribes indicated that they are pleased with the progress of the Werowocomoco research project. Consultations on other projects were reviewed, including the VCI's consultation with the Navy and the College of William and Mary on the Kiskiack research, which it is hoped will lead to new policies on the behalf of those organizations as to working on Native sites. The VCI is continuing to consult on the King William Reservoir project, focusing on the Section 106 process.

Regarding Jamestown 2007, there is a consensus that the chiefs have not yet been approached in the correct way, and that there is no clear information on who the various groups are, and what each wants regarding the tribes. A tangential discussion of Jamestown 2007 issues occurred at this point, and a suggestion was made that the VCI send a letter to the director of Jamestown 2007 expressing the request of the VCI that the leaders communicate in an organized way with the tribal leaders. A motion was made by Buck Woodard and seconded by Juanita Smith that such a letter be written, and the motion passed unanimously. Karenne agreed to write the letter and share it with the Council members. Karenne also agreed to convene a meeting between the tribes and the appropriate Jamestown 2007 organizations to discuss in what ways the tribes may want to participate. The VCI will also invite the 2007 leaders to the annual conference for a round-table discussion as well.

Another outcome of the tribal leadership summit was agreement among the chiefs to demand more accountability from those who asked for tribal cooperation with documentaries or other projects about the Virginia Indians. Concerning those from

academia who work with the tribes to tell our stories, it was agreed among the chiefs that these should be long term relationships of mutual respect, and that the tribes would insist on the stories being their own, and that Indians be accorded the same status as degreed academics regarding the sharing of those stories.

2. Werowocomoco Project: Per Deanna Beacham, a Virginia Indian Advisory Board meeting will be convened the last weekend of February to get direction regarding plans for 2004's research. A draft website is available for general inspection and comment by the Virginia Indian community. The field school will be five weeks long and will begin immediately after Memorial Day.

3. Oral History Project: Danielle Moretti-Langholtz gave a presentation at Yorktown which was very well attended. Another presentation is scheduled for Loudon County public schools on March 17.

Announcements:

1. The next business meeting of the VCI is scheduled for February 17, 2004. (**Note:** This schedule was subsequently changed; the next business meeting will actually be on **March 16, 2004.**)

2. No date has been set yet for the VITAL powwow. A blue-grass festival is being planned for this spring.

3. Colonial Williamsburg is sponsoring a lecture on March 2 on Native American interpretation at museums.

4. Virginia Tech's Higher Education Summit will be combined with the Pre-College Initiative this year. It is scheduled for April 2-4, 2004.

5. North Carolina Indian Unity Conference is scheduled for March 11-13, 2004 in Raleigh. Dante Desiderio is attending.

6. The Omohundro Institute has scheduled a conference for March 4-7, 2004 on the Atlantic World and Virginia. The program includes a forum on the afternoon of March 4 on Native American Oral Tradition at Woodlands in Colonial Williamsburg; several Virginia Indians will participate.

7. Virginia Tech faculty member Michael Two Horses passed away in late December. The university held a memorial service for him on January 19, with representatives from the Virginia Indian community attending.

8. Jerry Fortune is the new Chairman of the Board of Directors for United Indians of Virginia. The VCI hopes to work collaboratively with UIV as much as possible in the future.

9. The American Indian license plate initiative will probably come to an end as the time limit is up in June 2004, with not even half of the required 350 applications received.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM.