

**Virginia Council on Indians Meeting  
March 16, 2004**

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

**Absent:** Floyd Mills (Delegate), John Ficklin (At Large), Allen Louderback (Delegate), Ryan McDougle (Delegate), Bill Bolling (Senator)

**Attending:** Gene W. Adkins (Eastern Chickahominy), Edmond Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Jeff Brown (Pamunkey), Pinky Smith (Cherokee/Nansemond), Melissa Deane (Chickahominy), Reggie Tupponce (Upper Mattaponi), Anne Adam (Shawnee), Rhyannon Berkowitz (Muskogee), Sandy Rives, Colin Pekruhn, Stephanie Headley, Catherine Corren-Walls, Alex Service, Nick Stead, Jane Henley, Malou Stark, Angela Daniel.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Karenne Wood. The invocation was given by Gene Adkins.

**Special Announcement:** Secretary of Natural Resources Tayloe Murphy announced to the Council that HR 782 was signed by the Governor on March 15, 2004. This bill moves the Council, as of July 1, 2004, from the Secretariat of Health and Human Resources to the Secretariat of Natural Resources. Natural Resources also includes the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Department of Historic Resources, the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, the Museum of Natural History, Chippokes and the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Foundation. Secretary Murphy agreed that this is a better fit for the Council on Indians, and welcomed the Council to his Secretariat.

**Administrative Business:**

1. The minutes from the January 20, 2004 meeting were reviewed and approved, with the motion being made by Danielle Moretti-Langholtz, and the second by Frank Richardson.

2. The next order of business was a review of the plans for the annual conference, which is scheduled for April 9 and 10. The conference committee was to convene immediately following the business meeting. VCI council members, committee and speakers are exempted from the conference registration fees. Each tribe was allotted up to two rooms at the hotel, and VCI members living more than 45 miles from the hotel were also eligible for a room, but the list of room guests must be in to Karenne by Friday. Karenne also reviewed the agenda for the conference. There will be informational booths set up in the lobby.

### **Old Business:**

1. Report on request for funding for pottery making equipment from Al Wade: Karenne reported that the VCI could not make a grant to purchase equipment, although the Council can make grants for educational purposes. The board of the United Indians of Virginia has been contacted to see if they might wish to request a grant for educational purposes to meet the needs Al put forth at the January meeting. Karenne will get in touch with Al about the findings.

2. Report on the request to convene a meeting with the chiefs and the Jamestown 2007 officials made at the January meeting: Karenne reported that this meeting had been organized and would be held March 19, 2004. The results of this meeting will be reported at the annual conference, and the Jamestown 2007 officials have also been invited to that conference to discuss ways to incorporate the voices of Virginia Indians in the commemoration activities and materials.

3. Colonial Williamsburg update: Danielle Moretti-Langholtz reported that Colonial Williamsburg had received a grant as a result of previous collaboration with the VCI two years ago. They have recently hired an employee named Travis Henline to be in charge of Native American interpretation. He will be contacting the VCI to make a presentation in the near future. Danielle said that Colonial Williamsburg will not have "Indian" reenactors, but will be training their interpreters on related Native American history, such as the delegations from various Indian nations who came to Brafferton School, which was the forerunner of the College of William and Mary.

### **New Business:**

1. Rhyannon Berkowitz of Haley-Sharpe Design. Haley-Sharpe Design is the firm in charge of preparing interpretive content for Historic Jamestowne, where they work for the National Park Service and APVA Preservation Virginia. They are not affiliated with Jamestown 2007 or the Jamestown Yorktown Foundation, who run Jamestown Settlement. Rhy is the liaison to the Virginia Indian tribes for Haley-Sharpe. The interpretive content will include text panels, audio material such as that played on the buses transporting visitors, and displays. Also on the agenda for tonight are drafts of the temporary text panels for the temporary visitor center area which is being readied for immediate use, as the old visitor center was rendered unusable after Hurricane Isabelle. Haley-Sharpe, a British firm, will maintain an office in Williamsburg, managed by Alex

Service, who was also introduced. Rhy emphasized that the Virginia Indian tribes would have editorial control over what appeared on interpretive panels. She would like to meet individually with the chiefs, but is aware there may not be enough time in the short turnaround for the temporary panels.

2. Danielle Moretti-Langholtz distributed copies of the texts of the temporary panels to be used in the temporary contact station that would be used as a visitor center during construction of the permanent interpretive center. Danielle further explained the difficult position that Historic Jamestowne was in because of the destruction of the old visitor center, as there is currently no interpretive material for visitors to see, and it is the beginning of the tourist season. There will be far more time for the Indian community to review all the permanent interpretive information that is being developed, but an unfortunately quick turnaround time on reviewing this material. VCI members were asked to return their comments directly to Rhyannon by April 6, 2004. (Note: this deadline was later extended to April 9, 2004.) Tribal representatives were to share the information with their tribes. Following this presentation, there was considerable feedback and discussion about the panels and audio outline.

3. Jane Henley of the Lewis and Clark Exploratory Center then presented information on the Center. A letter previously sent by Ms. Henley was included in the VCI members' packets. The Center has leased land for a building and trails, and plans to have an area on the main trail that features the cultures of Eastern Indians as well as mid-western and Plains Indian groups who met with Lewis and Clark on their trip. The Center wants the help of the Virginia Council on Indians in designing the Eastern Indian portion of the Center. They have a grant of \$200,000 to use for this design work. There is a possibility of opportunities for Indian interpreters on the staff and as members of the current advisory board or perhaps a special advisory board. The Exploratory Center is interested in the ideas of the Council on how to proceed. They are just beginning their capital fund-raising and are writing grants. Also they want the help of Virginia Indians in visiting schools to talk about Native cultures. Malou Stark then spoke about plans for a proposed Inter-Tribal Cultural Festival to be sponsored by the Lewis and Clark group in October 2005. They would like the Monacan to be the host nation, and invite tribes from along the route Lewis and Clark took. They have put money in their funding request for hiring an Indian coordinator. The group plans to speak to the Monacan tribal council about this event in April.

### **Project Committee Reports:**

1. Werowocomoco: Deanna Beacham reported that there had been a Virginia Indian Advisory Board meeting on February 28, and that the first teachers workshop was held with Gloucester teachers on March 10.

2. Americorps Grant Program: Dante Desiderio thanked Colin Pekruhn for all his hard work. He gave a brief description of the Americorps program and also reported that

tribes can still elect to join the grant program at this point. They will be presenting to the Chickahominy in March. An update will be made at the VCI conference.

3. Governor's Interstate Indian Conference: Mitchell Bush will be attending this year's conference in Denver, Colorado this month as the representative from Virginia and will report on the conference at the next meeting.

**Announcements:**

1. Karenne has been accepted as a doctoral candidate in anthropology at UVA, where she intends to work on linguistics to work on restoring the language and the culture of the Monacan.

2. Karenne has been invited to participate as a presenter at the Virginia Foundation for Humanities Book Festival, March 24-27.

3. The next business meeting will be April 20, 2004. This meeting will focus primarily on assessment of the VCI annual conference, so Karenne asked for new business items to be of an urgent or time-sensitive nature only.

4. The VCI 10th Annual Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Central on April 9th and 10th, 2004.

5. Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Powwow April 24, 2004, at Red Wing Park, 1398 General Booth Blvd, VA Beach. Clark Stewart is MC.

6. UVA Native American Student Union has approached Karenne about doing a performance event in April, with drumming and dancing and some speakers. Karenne suggested that they look for speakers who could talk about federal recognition efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM.