

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

Present: Chair Karenne Wood (Monacan), Frank Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Buck Woodard (Muskogee Creek, Indian At Large), Juanita Smith (Nansemond), Gerald Stewart (Eastern Chickahominy), Dan McGuire (Indian At Large), Mitchell Bush, (Onandaga, Advisor), Deanna Beacham (Weapemeoc, Council Program Specialist)
Absent: Frank Richardson (Rappahannock), Dante Desiderio (Sappony, Indian at Large), Danielle Moretti-Langholtz (Citizen At Large), Floyd Mills (Delegate), John Ficklin (At Large), Allen Louderback (Delegate), Ryan McDougle (Delegate), Bill Bolling (Senator)
Attending: Gene W. Adkins (Eastern Chickahominy), Keith Smith (Nansemond/Cherokee), Pinky Smith (Cherokee/Nansemond), Reggie Tupponce (Upper Mattaponi), David Bearinger, Rita McClenny, Jeanne Boisineau, Nancy Roberts.

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

Administrative Business:

1. The minutes from the March 16, 2004 meeting were reviewed and approved, with the motion being made by Frank Adams, and the second by Juanita Smith.

New Business:

1. The first presenters were Rita McClenny of the Virginia Film Office, and Jeanne Boisineau of New Line Studios, a division of Time-Warner. The Virginia Film Office is a division of the Department of Tourism. Rita came to tell the VCI about a movie being filmed in Virginia this summer called The New World, by New Line Studios, characterized as being about explorer John Smith and the clash between Native Americans and the British in the 17th century. The writer/director is Terrence Malick. Rita said the story was told from the English perspective. The film principals met with the Governor's office some weeks ago, and Rita said the Governor's office had suggested that the film office and the filmmakers talk to the VCI. At this point, there is no information available about the plot or how much of it will be actual history. Rita introduced Jeanne Boisineau, who had just been hired to do the local casting. Jeanne is of Ojibwe ancestry. An open call for actors, extras and featured extras will be held on

May 8. It was pointed out that May 8 was the first day of the AIS powwow. At the suggestion of Mitchell Bush, Jeanne agreed to hold the open call at the powwow. She also wanted to contact local tribes. Jeanne reported that the principal casting director for the film was Rene Haynes. Other principals involved are Sarah Green as Producer, Trish Hoffman in Production, and Jack Fisk as Art Director. Actors cast include Colin Firth as John Smith and Christopher Plummer as Captain Newport. Filming is scheduled to begin July 26. There were many questions about the film that Jeanne was unable to answer, but she did promise more interaction between the principals of the film and the tribal leaders and VCI in the near future.

2. The second new business presenter was David Bearinger, Director of Grants and Public Programs for the Virginia Foundation for Humanities. The VFH mission is to help with projects that tell the stories of communities in Virginia, and they see the attention being focused on 2007 as an opportunity to find additional ways to help the Virginia Indians tell their stories. VFH has considerable experience in finding opportunities surrounding anniversary dates. The Virginia Foundation for Humanities has resources in addition to funding that can be made available to Virginia tribes, such as their radio recording and production studio facility in Charlottesville. They also have experience in providing help for oral history projects, help with drafting grant proposals, and help with publications as well as educational programs. Because of the nearing of 2007, they have additional funding opportunities that can be made available for educational purposes that target issues or concerns related in some way to 2007, such as telling the histories or the current concerns of the tribes. The VFH is interested in using these additional resources to help the Indian community as much as possible. Karenne reported how the Monacan tribe had used the help of the VFH in making their video. During the question and answer period, it was confirmed that the VFH is especially interested in efforts by individual tribes in addition to intertribal cooperative efforts or collaborations with academics.

Old Business:

1. Karenne then opened a discussion on the 10th Annual VCI conference by asking for opinions on what succeeded and what needed improvement. . There were compliments for the conference committee's organizational work. The turnout was very good with over 170 people coming to the dinner. It was unfortunate that the conference had to be scheduled on Easter weekend, as this may have reduced the number of attendees on Saturday. There was positive response on hearing the presentations of the Jamestown 2007 participants. It was requested that the VCI follow up on getting CD's of the PowerPoint presentations that were made by the Jamestown 2007 groups. Jack Trope's timely remarks as lunchtime keynote speaker were praised. The VCI office had received compliments on the dancers' performances, especially the honor dance for the award recipients. There were positive comments on the showcasing of Native peoples for the awards and the performances and on the participation of AIS.

2. The VCI has been asked by the Jamestown 2007 organizations and the Governor's office about how the Indian tribes will be participating in Jamestown 2007, but these

decisions have to be made by the various tribes. Karenne said that the VCI needs to get information from the chiefs as to what projects their tribes would be willing to participate in, even conditionally. Also, do the chiefs want the VCI to convene another meeting with the Jamestown 2007 organizations? Jamestown 2007 has decided to have a cultural awareness training workshop, and Karenne will be participating in that effort. She asked for volunteers interested in working on that effort to contact her. Keith Smith of the Nansemond tribe volunteered to help. Karenne said that the VCI would want to consult with them on such an effort. Karenne asked the tribal representatives to find out from their chiefs what efforts they would be willing to support and what the next steps should be on Jamestown 2007.

3. Regarding planning for next year's conference, Karenne said Felipe Rose had contacted her about the possibility of bringing some people from the Native American Music Awards to do a presentation on Native American music. He also wants to propose that the VCI consider moving the conference to a different hotel where there was an auditorium and include an optional concert of Native American music and performances that attendees could see for an extra fee. Also Felipe reported that he had been approached by the Jamestown 2007 organization about putting on a concert of Native American music that Jamestown 2007 would sponsor. The suggestion was made that perhaps Felipe could work with VITAL on sponsoring a benefit concert for that organization.

Project Reports:

1. Mitchell Bush reported on the Governor's Interstate Indian Conference spring meeting, held this year in Denver, Colorado. The primary purpose of the meeting was planning for the GIIC Annual meeting to be held this summer in Michigan. Other highlights of the trip were a powwow to which all delegates were invited, and a late-night hotel evacuation for a fire alarm.

Announcements:

1. The next business meeting of the VCI was announced for June 15, 2004. (**Note:** this meeting has since been rescheduled for June 8, 2004.) The meeting will be in House Room 2, as House Room 1 is undergoing repairs.
2. Gene Adkins announced that VITAL's blue-grass festival, a fund raiser, would be held June 19 from 10 AM to 7 PM at the Chickahominy Tribal Grounds. Tickets are being sold at Plan 9 music stores.
3. The city of Virginia Beach wants to host the National Indian Education Association conference in their city and would like the VCI to write a letter in support. It was agreed that this would be appropriate.
4. Red Wing Park Powwow in Virginia Beach is scheduled for April 24, 2004.

5. AIS Mother's Day Powwow is May 8-9, 2004 in Ruther Glen.
6. The Monacan 12th Annual Powwow is May 22-23, 2004 in Elon. There will be a student's day on Friday, May 21.
7. The Upper Mattaponi Annual powwow is May 29-30, 2004 in King William.
8. The Nansemond-Chesapeake Powwow is June 5-6, 2004 in Chesapeake.
9. The Mattaponi Annual Powwow is June 19, 2004 on the Mattaponi Reservation in King William County.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.