



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Council on Indians

P. O. Box 1475, Richmond, VA 23218

W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Karenne Wood
Chair

Virginia Council on Indians Meeting August 17, 2004

Present: Chair Karenne Wood (Monacan), Reggie Stewart (Chickahominy), Frank Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Frank Richardson (Rappahannock), Gerald Stewart (Eastern Chickahominy), Buck Woodard (Lower Muskogee Creek, Indian At Large), Paige Archer (Meherrin, Indian at Large), Sonya Lawrence (NC Nottaway, Indian at Large), Deanna Beacham (Weapemeoc, Council Program Specialist)

Absent: Juanita Smith (Nansemond), Dante Desiderio (Sappony, Indian at Large), Mitchell Bush (Onandaga, Indian at Large), Danielle Moretti-Langholtz (Citizen At Large), Floyd Miles (Delegate), Allen Louderback (Delegate), Ryan McDougle (Delegate), Bill Bolling (Senator)

Attending: Edmond Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Gene Adkins (Eastern Chickahominy), Gary Cooke (Patawomeck), Carol Cooke, Roger Archer (Meherrin), Anne Adam (Shawnee), Gerald Epps (Sappony), Jack Kotvas.

Administrative Business:

1. The meeting was called to order, and the invocation was given by Gerald Stewart.
2. The minutes for the July 20, 2004 meeting were approved, with the motion being made by Frank Adams and seconded by Frank Richardson.

New Business:

1. Proposed State Historic Highway markers for review: The proposed text of the markers was included in the members' packets, and had previously been emailed to the VCI members as well. Members were requested to send their comments directly to Scott Arnold of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.
2. Planning for 2005 GIIC Conference: Karenne reported that Maryland has had difficulties in arranging for the hosting of the next Governors Interstate Indian Conference, scheduled for September 2005. The Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs asked if the Virginia Council on Indians would be interested in hosting this conference in Virginia. Karenne and Mitchell agreed to pursue this. A tentative plan would be to host the conference in the DC area to run in conjunction with the National Museum of the American Indian powwow scheduled for that

month. After that the delegates could be brought by bus to the Richmond area to visit with some of the tribes in Virginia. There are generally about 50 delegates from both federally recognized and non-federally recognized tribes. The focus of the conference is improving interactions between tribes and state governments. In the ensuing discussion it was agreed that the VCI should partner with the Maryland CIA on programming for the conference. The North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs is willing to lend staff support. To make all this happen, the GIIC would have to receive a letter from the Governor of Virginia inviting them to have their conference here. Karenne will work on asking for this. Several programming suggestions were put forth, including asking members of Congress to participate, and having various state representatives speak of the tribal recognition situations and Indian commission organizations in their states.

3. General planning session: Karenne then opened the floor for discussion on the kinds of issues and concerns that Council members felt the Virginia Council on Indians should be working on. She has already met with the chiefs of the Virginia recognized tribes to gain their input at both the summit in January and a follow-up meeting in July. The first topic brought up was that of beginning planning on the signature event for Jamestown 2007. Karenne is currently preparing a brief concept paper on the idea of the intertribal cultural festival to share with the Jamestown 2007 operations group. Willie Cohn of Jamestown 2007 suggested the possibility of scheduling this event early in September 2006 so that it would be the very first signature event. The chiefs have affirmed that the VCI will be the organizing body for the event. Frank Richardson agreed to take the lead on researching possible venues for the signature event, with Reggie Stewart assisting. Frank Richardson is also willing to put together a time line of VCI commitments for the next three years in order to help the VCI best utilize their limited resources.

It was then suggested and agreed upon by the Council that the VCI convene a day long retreat at a convenient meeting place such as a hotel, in order to brainstorm on ideas for the Jamestown 2007 signature event as well as other plans for the future. (Note: subsequently this retreat was scheduled for October 30, 2004 at the Holiday Inn Central in Richmond.)

Another suggestion made was that the Virginia Council on Indians pursue the possibility of organizing the consolidated delivery of health services for the Indian community. This is something that has been done in North Carolina and other states. Buck Woodard agreed to gather materials on health programs that have been brought to the VCI, and on how other states have accomplished delivery of services. Sonya Lawrence also expressed an interest in assembling announcement information in a newsletter format that could be distributed via the VCI email list, or to the tribes for mailing via regular mail. Others suggested that the VCI should continue to look into ways to access state and federal resources, as well as working on educational programs and materials. It was also suggested that the VCI could pursue additional ways for Virginia Indian college students to access higher education.

Old Business:

1. Report on the 2004 Governors' Interstate Indian Conference: Karenne Wood and Mitchell Bush attended. The conference was in Grand Traverse, Michigan. Twelve federally recognized tribes in Michigan worked together to organize it. In her role as Repatriation Coordinator for the American Association of Indian Affairs, Karenne spoke at the conference on the topic of repatriation. Michigan's tribes have established a consortium for dealing with NAGPRA on the repatriation of remains and funerary objects, thereby eliminating potential rival claims between tribes. Karenne and Mitchell felt that the cooperative efforts of the Michigan tribes gave them many good ideas for progressive tribal collaboration in Virginia.

2. Update on Jamestown 2007: This topic was covered during the general planning discussion.

3. Update on Virginia Indian Highway Marker project: Several ideas have been turned in, but we need many more. Another query for ideas will be sent out to the Council members and tribal leaders.
4. Update on Colonial Williamsburg plans. Invitations are going out for the Virginia Indian day on October 23. This will be a special tour for tribal representatives and VCI members. Also, the upcoming symposium on Native interpretation in museums has been scheduled for November 5 at 6 PM. Many excellent presenters from Indian country will be participating in this symposium.

Announcements:

1. The next business meeting of the VCI is scheduled for September 28 at 6 PM in room 5 West of the General Assembly Building. (Please note: This meeting was later cancelled due to scheduling problems and lack of agenda items. The next business meeting of the VCI will be held October 21 in room 5 West of the GAB.)
2. The 17th Annual Nansemond Indian powwow will be held at Lone Star Lakes Lodge, Suffolk, VA, August 21-22, 2004.
3. Reminder: Opening ceremonies for the National Museum of the American Indian will begin with a procession September 21, 2004.
4. The 53rd Annual Chickahominy Fall Festival/Powwow will be held in on the tribal grounds in Charles City County, VA, September 25-26, 2004.
5. A Celebration of the American Indian will be held in Yorktown November 20, 2004, 9 AM to 5 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8 PM.