



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 October 21, 2004

Present: Chair Karenne Wood (Monacan), Reggie Stewart (Chickahominy), Frank Richardson (Rappahannock), Gerald Stewart (Eastern Chickahominy), Juanita Smith (Nansemond), Dante Desiderio (Sappony, Indian at Large), Buck Woodard (Lower Muskogee Creek, Indian At Large), Danielle Moretti-Langholtz (Citizen At Large), Deanna Beacham (Weapemeoc, Council Program Specialist)

Absent: Frank Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Mitchell Bush (Onandaga, Indian at Large), Paige Archer (Meherrin, Indian at Large), Sonya Lawrence (NC Nottaway, Indian at Large), Floyd Miles (Delegate), Allen Louderback (Delegate), Ryan McDougle (Delegate), Bill Bolling (Senator)

Attending: Gene Adkins (Eastern Chickahominy), Gerald Epps (Sappony), Pinky Smith (Cherokee/Nansemond), William Cumbo (Tuscarora NC), Julia Phipps (Sappony), Charlene Martin (Sappony), Lisa Kaplowitz, Kim Allen, Angela Daniel

Administrative Business:

1. The meeting was called to order at 6 PM, and the invocation was given by Gene Adkins.
2. The minutes for the August 17, 2004 meeting were approved, with the motion being made by Frank Richardson and seconded by Juanita Smith.
3. It was decided by consensus to hold the next business meeting of the VCI on December 2, 2004.
4. The date of the 2005 VCI Annual Conference was originally scheduled for March 18-19, but that is the same weekend as the North Carolina Unity Conference, which a Council member may wish to attend. Karenne agreed to research the possibility of holding the conference on March 11-12, 2005 or another weekend in March which was not a holiday. Karenne also will put out a call for members to serve on the conference committee.

5. The VCI retreat for discussion of members' vision for the VCI will be October 30, 2004 at the Holiday Inn Central in Richmond, 9:30 AM to 5 PM. Items for discussion will include the duties of the Council members, the next annual conference, plans for the future, including Jamestown 2007.

New Business:

1. Lisa Kaplowitz and Kim Allen of the Virginia Department of Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Program were presenters. This program was created August 2002 to develop public health preparedness for emergency situations. Funds have been used to hire epidemiologists and planners for public health departments as well as state-wide positions. The program has responded to floods and hurricanes in the past year. They want to reach out to any special populations, and are willing to make presentations to tribal councils. Materials were distributed to Council members attending. A question was asked about the distribution of flu vaccine. More information is expected within a week on the availability. Tribal representatives were advised to contact their district public health departments in the near future.

2. There is public hearing on an amendment to the master plan for the Occoneechee State Park coming up on October 28 in Clarksville. The staff's review of research on the amendment obtained from the Department of Conservation and Recreation was included in the members' packets. The decision on this amendment will not be made until after the DCR Board meeting in January 2005. All were in agreement that the situation should be monitored for information, and that it was important for all the tribes with an interest in the area should have a chance to weigh in. It was suggested and agreed by consensus that the VCI would send a letter to the Department of Conservation and Recreation asking that the VCI be included in their planning and strategy on this matter. Dante will write a draft to be edited by Karenne, and the letter will go out over Karenne's signature. Deanna will send out information on the exact time and place of the meeting for those who wish to attend.

Old Business:

1. Karenne has a meeting scheduled for October 22 with the Governor's Chief of Staff Bill Leighty to discuss the Jamestown 2007 signature event, the American Indian Heritage Trail, and the GIIC Annual Conference. There was a brief discussion among the Council on their thoughts about Jamestown 2007 and Karenne agreed that at this point only the minimum could be said about the signature event. Dante stated that the Sappony Tribe also were planning to participate in Jamestown 2007.

2. Deanna gave a brief report on the status of the John Smith Gateway Project. The most recent meeting was held in September, at which time the comments from the VCI members on the draft text were presented and were very well received. Dr. Helen Rountree, who is on the Project team and one of the authors of the text being prepared, wanted the VCI to know that information on the current Virginia Indian descendent communities will be presented throughout the text. It was suggested that in the future when VCI members are asked to submit comments on material that it would be appropriate to ask to have the names of the Council members listed as having been consulted.

3. Julia Phipps and Charlene Martin of the Sappony Tribe gave an update on the status of the Virginia Indian Development Americorps project. The Tribe has completed the groundwork administrative phase, and would now be beginning the operational and funding portion of the project, for which \$112,000 in grant funds would be available over the next three years to hire tribal representatives. These representatives came to inform the Council that the offices of the

Sappony Tribe would not be able to continue administering the project, due to lack of support from the Virginia tribes. Only 3 of 9 tribes approached had agreed to participate. A cash match for the grant offered would be required, and this was difficult to obtain with minimum tribal support. Karenne thanked the Sappony Tribe for the work they had put into this project over the past year. The Sappony representatives said that Americorp had indicated that the development program would be available for the Virginia Council on Indians or a suitable Indian organization to administer in the future. Members of the Council suggested that it would be good to try to continue to solicit tribal support for the project for the future.

4. Danielle then reported on the Brafferton School video (about the Indian school that preceded the College of William and Mary), produced by Colonial Williamsburg for an "electronic field trip" for satellite broadcast to participating schools who subscribe. She gave a brief background on the production of the video, which has been broadcast twice previously. The program will be re-broadcast on November 4, with Danielle and possibly Chief Anne Richardson taking questions. This program was produced by another group at Colonial Williamsburg, not the American Indian Initiative.

Announcements:

1. The next VCI business meeting will be December 2, 2004.
2. Colonial Williamsburg's invitational day (for VCI and tribal representatives) will be Saturday, October 23. This is being sponsored by Colonial Williamsburg's American Indian Initiative which is coordinated by Travis Henline. Participants should have received a confirmation letter from Travis with directions. The group will meet with Colin Campbell, president of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. The AII has funding from the Rockefeller Foundation to train 12 costumed interpreters in American Indian historical interaction and events that took place at Williamsburg. The visiting group will consider when and how to mention the Indian components of Williamsburg's history.
3. There will be an arts exhibition put on by the Intertribal Women's Center opening at the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center Friday, October 22, with a public reception at 6 PM. Prior to the public reception, a special reception will begin at 4 PM. VCI members are invited to come to the early reception. A fundraiser for the Intertribal Women's Center is also being held at the Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center on Saturday, October 23, 2004, featuring performances by Jeff Ball and the Red Crooked Sky dancers.
4. John Trudell will speak Wednesday, October 27, at Virginia Tech at 7 PM. He may also be available for a dinner preceding the presentation. Virginia Indians interested in attending should contact Sam Cook, Coordinator of the American Indian Studies program at Virginia Tech, as soon as possible.
5. VCI and VDHR will give a joint presentation at the upcoming Council of Virginia Archaeologists fall meeting in Lexington, VA, October 29.
6. The Upper Mattaponi tribe is hosting a Brunswick stew sale as a fundraiser for VITAL on Saturday, October 30 at Hamilton Holmes Middle School on Route 30, 9 AM to 1 PM.
7. A symposium entitled "Telling the Stories" about Native museum interpretation will be Friday, November 5, at 6 PM. There is a great lineup of speakers scheduled to appear, including Chief Richardson and Chief Branham. Karenne will make opening remarks. Please RSVP to Travis Henline at Colonial Williamsburg.

8. Looking ahead: Wilma Mankiller, former chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, will speak at Lane Auditorium in Colonial Williamsburg December 4, 6 PM, with a reception to follow.

9. And further ahead: The NMAI National Powwow will be held at the MCI Center in DC on August 12 - 14, 2005.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 PM.