



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 July 12, 2005

Present: Chair Karenne Wood (Monacan), Gerald Stewart (Eastern Chickahominy), Paige Archer (Meherrin, Indian At Large), Deanna Beacham (Weapomeoc, Council Program Specialist)

Absent: Frank Richardson (Rappahannock), Juanita Smith (Nansemond), Reggie Stewart (Chickahominy), Frank Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Mitchell Bush (Onondaga, Indian at Large), Buck Woodard (Muskogee Creek, Indian At Large), Dante Desiderio (Sappony, Indian at Large), Sonya Lawrence (NC Nottaway, Indian at Large), Danielle Moretti-Langholtz (Citizen At Large), Ryan McDougale (Delegate), Floyd Miles (Delegate), Allen Louderback (Delegate), Bill Bolling (Senator)

Attending: Asst. Chief Gene Adkins (Eastern Chickahominy), Roger Archer (Meherrin), Mary Ellen Cardwell, Scarlett Bowes, Barry Carter (Saponi)

Administrative Business:

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 PM, and the invocation was given by Gene Adkins.
2. The minutes for the May 17, 2005 meeting were approved with the motion being made by Gerald Stewart and seconded by Paige Archer.

New Business:

1. The first item of new business was a presentation by Mary Ellen Cardwell, Public Relations Specialist with the Social Security Administration, on the new Medicare prescription drug benefit, and available extra help to pay for prescriptions. The new program is part of the Medicare modernization act passed in 2002. It goes in effect January 2006. Anyone who is on Medicare is eligible to enroll in the prescription drug coverage. Multiple plans will be available, and these plans will be described in the annual handbook that is mailed to Medicare recipients every October. Extra help to pay for prescription drugs is also available according to one's income and resources. Those who are also on Medicaid do not have to apply. Ms. Cardwell distributed information sheets and stated that she and others in the state are available to speak to tribes and other Indian groups about the program, as part of Social Security's public outreach. Anyone interested in having an outreach presentation can contact her. Her telephone number is 804-771-8130 and her email address is mary.ellen.cardwell@ssa.gov.

2. Next on the agenda was Scarlett Bowes, who is a PhD student in Public Policy and Administration at VCU in the Health Policy track. Her research interests are the Health Status of Virginia Indians and the impact that federal recognition of six of Virginia's tribes may have on improving the quality of care. Ms. Bowes, who is of Cherokee heritage, wanted to formally introduce herself to the Virginia Council on Indians, having already met many members of the Virginia Indian community informally. Among Ms. Bowes health interests is the premise that children with behavioral, learning, mental and/or emotional problems are physically ill due to nutrition, food allergies or sensitivities, faulty metabolism or environmental factors. Based on experience in her own family, she advocates the use of traditional Native foods for those who are of Native heritage as a way to improve health. She wants to offer something back to the local Native community by helping determine the health status of Virginia tribes and finding ways to track and improve that status. She has focused on the tribes looking for federal recognition because she is in the Public Policy department at VCU, but is willing to work with all the tribes. Ms. Bowes can be reached at telephone number 804.794.1785 and her email is scarlett2@comcast.net.

Old Business:

1. Karenne made a brief verbal report on the Tribal Leadership meeting which took place on July 9, with 5 tribes represented, as other tribes had conflicting schedules for that day. The leaders discussed the trip to England that Chief Adkins and Chief Adams were planning and their goals for that trip, which was to set the stage for a much larger group from the tribal community to visit in 2006. A send-off ceremony is scheduled for Friday, July 15, at the airport and an announcement was sent out to tribal members for that event. The group also discussed Jamestown 2007 event plans, the Virginia Indian Heritage Trail, and the film being created by the tribes about Virginia Indians via a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities to the Upper Mattaponi tribe.

2. On the Jamestown 2007 event project, Karenne had met with Amy Ritchie and Jeanne Zeidler a couple of weeks previously, where they discussed the planned teach-in event. They also determined that the originally expected budget for the Virginia Indian signature events was too low, and that a more realistic projection was in the neighborhood of \$500,000 for the tribal leaders symposium and the intertribal festival to take place in 2007, with an anticipated date of July 7-8 of that year. Interviews by the Advisory Committee for a liaison person for the events are underway. Frank and Amy and Karenne visited the Hampton Convention Center as a possible event venue for the intertribal festival. Karenne expects to have more complete report next months.

3. A brief update on the Virginia Indian Heritage Trail was then given. Karenne reported that projected funds for the project now total \$135,000, with partnership funds from the Department of Historic Resources of \$25,000 and Jamestown 2007 of \$50,000, a budgeted amount of \$25,000 to come from the General Assembly, and a partnership funding of \$25,000 expected from the Virginia Tourism Corporation, in addition to the \$10,000 grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities for the beginning of the research and consultation portion. The research phase is already underway with Deanna administering that portion of the project. The original full project budget request was for \$270,000, so we still do not have enough to complete the proposed work, but we are going ahead with what we have. Karenne pointed out that we had not anticipated having to work so hard to find funding sources, but work is continuing on that front as well. Deanna reported that research consulting visits with potential sites have already begun, and that she has contacted the Department of Conservation and Recreation about a partnership also, because there were 25 state parks on the formulated list of possible potential sites for the Trail.

4. Karenne announced that Deanna's position of Program Specialist for the VCI became full time as of July 1, 2005.

5. Karenne had an informal meeting with Mitchell about the GIIC and learned that the GIIC members were still planning to attend the NMAI powwow in August, but were no longer planning a stay in Virginia, or a visit to the Virginia tribes. They plan to stay at a Native-owned facility in D.C. during the powwow. She pointed out that this may be for the best, as the idea to have the GIIC come to Virginia originated with the administrator of the Maryland Commissioner on Indian Affairs, who has since left that position, and Karenne had informed the GIIC months ago that she would not be available on that weekend because of a previous commitment.

6. Deanna gave a brief report on the Diversity Highway Marker project, for which 10 historic highway markers about Native Americans in Virginia are to be funded by the Department of Historic Resources in 2005. The diversity marker committee has been meeting regularly. In addition to discussing and finding researchers for topics, the committee has addressed finding alternate funding for several of the marker suggestions, so that eventually more than the 10 DHS-funded markers can be produced from the ideas received from the Native community. Other groups have indicated possible interest in funding several markers. The committee hopes to be able to present at least 5 potential marker texts with references and locations for DHR-funded markers to the VCI for review by August, so that the markers can go to the VHS marker review committee meeting in September.

Announcements

1. The next VCI business meeting will be August 16, 2005, at 6:30 PM in room 7 West in the General Assembly building.

2. The Accohannock 2nd Annual Powwow and Festival is July 16-17, 2005 in Fruitland, MD.

3. The AIS 39th Annual Powwow is in Mt. Jackson, VA, August 6-7, 2005.

4. The Governors' Interstate Indian Council conference is August 12-14, 2005, now to be in D.C.

5. The NMAI National Powwow is at the MCI Center, Washington, DC, August 12-14, 2005.

6. The Nansemond 17th Annual Powwow is at Lone Star Park in Suffolk, August 20-21, 2005.

7. The Chickahominy are holding a take-out spaghetti dinner, 4:30 - 6:00 PM, and a social dance on at 7:30 PM Friday, August 5, both at the Chickahominy Tribal Center; proceeds will go to VITAL.

8. A radio interview of Chiefs Adams and Adkins by Bill Bevins of 98.1 FM is expected Thursday, July 14th at 8:15 AM, about their trip to England.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM.