



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 18, 2005 (amended and approved November 15, 2005)

Present: Chair Karenne Wood (Monacan), Juanita Smith (Nansemond), Frank Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Gerald Stewart (Eastern Chickahominy), Frank Richardson (Rappahannock), Buck Woodard (Muskogee Creek, Indian At Large), Mitchell Bush (Onondaga, Indian at Large), Deanna Beacham (Weapemeoc, Council Program Specialist)

Absent: Reggie Stewart (Chickahominy), Dante Desiderio (Sappony, Indian at Large), Sonya Lawrence (NC Nottaway, Indian at Large), Paige Archer (Meherrin, Indian At Large), Danielle Moretti-Langholtz (Citizen At Large), Ryan McDougle (Delegate), Floyd Miles (Delegate), Allen Louderback (Delegate), Bill Bolling (Senator)

Attending: Chief Ken Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Powhatan R. Owen (Chickahominy), Pinky Smith (Cherokee/Nansemond), Jack Kotvas, Bob Deans, Sean Rogers, Faye Adams, Dionne Walker

Administrative Business:

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 PM, and the invocation was given by Chief Ken Adams.
2. The minutes for the September 20, 2005 meeting were approved with an amendment that it should be added that a suggestion was made for circulating a copy of the members' email addresses among the members. The motion for the amendment was made by Frank Richardson and seconded by Juanita Smith, and the motion for approval was made by Frank Adams and seconded by Frank Richardson.
3. During the discussion of the amending of the minutes, it was also suggested that the members of the Council have an email group where information about Council business could be distributed to Council members via email. It was also pointed out that all Council discussion and business must be done in public. Jack Kotvas from the Office of the Attorney General's office said that care must be taken when exchanging Council information in email that a discussion did not ensue, as electronic discussion was also a violation of the Freedom of Information Act. He said the preferred way for one member to share information with other Council members was to send it to the Council office, which would then distribute the information to Council members.

The Council office currently has an email list for distribution of information to Council members, with hard copy going to any member who does not have email. Mr. Kotvas said that all such communication is subject to FOIA requests. It was also agreed by the Council that VCI information that needs to be discussed and/or acted upon by the VCI should be distributed in advance whenever possible.

Karenne asked Mr. Kotvas if he would make a presentation on the Freedom of Information Act at a VCI business meeting for the members, and Mr. Kotvas agreed to do this at the November 15, 2005 meeting.

New Business:

There were no new business items on the agenda.

Old Business:

1. The first item of old business was a report on the activities of the Jamestown 2007 Tribal Advisory Committee. This committee is affiliated with Jamestown 2007, not with the Virginia Council on Indians, but their activities are shared with the VCI because of interest on the part of the Virginia Indian communities in what is happening regarding Jamestown 2007. A meeting of this committee is scheduled for October 29 at the Holiday Inn Central in Richmond from 10 AM to 12 PM, and another on Friday, December 2, from 7 PM to 9 PM in the Bay Room of the Holiday Inn Central in Richmond. Frank Richardson, who is a member of the Jamestown 2007 Committee, reported that there had been little activity in the last month. The signature event Intertribal Festival is now considered scheduled for sometime in July 2007 at the Hampton Coliseum Complex, although a contract with the Convention Center has not been finalized. Plans are also being discussed with the College of William and Mary and Colonial Williamsburg for the Symposium signature event, which is scheduled for September 2006, to see how those institutions can help with the event. A date for the Symposium should be finalized at the next committee meeting. There has also been discussion about Indian participation in the National teach-in scheduled for November 2006. The Jamestown Advisory committee suggests that they brief the Virginia Indian community on this teach-in participation at the VCI conference next March. He said more details regarding Indian activities with Jamestown 2007 would be made available at the next VCI meeting.

2. Next was an update on the activities of the Virginia Indian Nations Summit for Higher Education group. This group is not VCI related, although the VCI has contributed to its support in past years. Karenne reported that this group has not met in recent months. The committee has plans for meeting with the state School Board in the near future, and for a summer institute for teachers. Also, recently the group organized and delivered the first section of a three-session "Virginia Indians 101" class taught via the Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning at the University of Richmond. The first session was held on October 14 and additional sessions are scheduled for October 21 and 28. Instructors included Wayne Adkins, Powhatan Owen, Chief Steve Adkins, Reggie Tupponce Jr., Chief Ken Adams and Deanna Beacham.

3. The next report was an update on Chief Adams' suggestion at the previous VCI meeting about addressing Virginia law schools on the question of presenting classes in Indian law. With the assistance of Jack Kotvas, a meeting with Dean Smolla of the University of Richmond has been scheduled for Thursday, October 20. Council members expressed an interest in being kept informed of further developments. Mr. Kotvas said he would be willing to write a short report on the meeting with Dean Smolla, and send it to the Council office to be shared with the VCI and tribal leaders.

4. Next the Chair gave an update on the Virginia Indian Heritage Program discussions. A meeting was held last week in Washington with representatives from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and representatives from the offices of Senator Warner, Congresswoman Davis, and Congressman Moran. The attendees learned that it was unlikely that we would be able to get any appropriations or authorizations at the federal level, but that there may be grant monies available via the federal Department of Education or other federal agencies. Plans are to create a proposal that could be shared with federal agencies who might have funding initiatives for this kind of educational program. Karenne will also be meeting with Rob Vaughan of the VFH on the topic of having VFH administer the distribution of the \$125,000 currently in the Virginia Heritage Trail source fund, as well as any additional partnership funds acquired for the development of the trail. As a part of the Governor's Cabinet, the VCI does not have the administrative support to handle the distribution of program funds at this level. Karenne has also discussed this option with several of the chiefs. In addition she is planning to meet with the provost of the University of Virginia on ways to get future funding for the Virginia Indian Heritage Program. In response to a question from Buck Woodard on how the distributions of funds for the Heritage Trail program by the VFH would be determined, Karenne explained that a Memorandum of Understanding between the VFH and VCI would be developed, and that the tribal leaders would make those determinations with the VCI acting as a liaison with the VFH as administrative agent. The Memorandum of Understanding would be subject to discussion and approval by vote by the VCI. Mr. Woodard wanted it in the minutes that he asked the question because of his concern about adequate representation in the Heritage Program for non Virginia Indians who live in the state.

Deanna reported that there had been little progress on the initial research component this month, due primarily to time constraints on the part of the research consultants. However, response from the institutions visited has been uniformly positive.

5. For the Diversity Highway Marker Program, Deanna reported that good progress had been made in writing researching the final five markers that the Department of Historic Resources would be funded, and that the final selection was ultimately boiling down to those markers for which the recommending parties had adequate and substantial texts and references. Placements had been selected with VDOT for four of the six previously approved markers, one of which was funded by the College of William and Mary. Buck Woodard pointed out the team working on the Native markers had been able to provide a wide selection of topics and regional placements. Deanna will continue to work with Scott Arnold of DHR on finding sponsors for additional markers on Indian topics. One option is asking VDOT for highway markers as part of mitigation when highway construction makes archaeological excavations necessary.

6. Next the Chair spoke on the upcoming VCI planning session to be held at the Holiday Inn Central on October 29th at 1 PM. The point was made that this was also a public meeting, and that it should be published on the website, and the general public could attend. Karenne also distributed a copy of the budget that was given to the Secretary of Natural Resources last year for this fiscal year's anticipated expenditures. Hard copies will be made available to any members who did not attend the meeting.

7. A motion was made and passed that an addendum be made to the minutes of this meeting that would show the names of the members of the VCI and when the current term of each will be completed. The list is appended as requested.

8. Chief Adams asked about a grant program in past years where the VCI received grants from the General Assembly that were administered by the VCI for various projects. Karenne said she would research this topic and report to Chief Adams on what she found.

Announcements

1. The next VCI business meeting is scheduled for November 15, 6:00 PM in room 7 West, GAB.
2. The Virginia Farm Bureau has interviewed Arlene and Jack Milner (Upper Mattaponi) for an upcoming segment on the Down Home Virginia cable TV program.
3. The 3rd Indigenous Women's Conference will be held Saturday, November 5, 8:30 AM to 4:15 PM at the Rappahannock Tribal Center, Indian Neck, VA. A flyer and registration form is included in the members' packets.
4. Jeff Corntassel (Western Cherokee), formerly of the American Indian Studies program at Virginia Tech, and now Assistant Professor and graduate advisor for the University of Victoria's Indigenous Governance Division, will be speaking at VCU on Tuesday, November 9, 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM, along with his colleague Taiiaike Alfred (Mohawk). The topic of the presentation is Being Indigenous: Resurgences Against Contemporary Colonialism. Further information is in the members' packets.
5. The VITAL Veterans powwow is scheduled for November 12-13, 2005 at the Upper Mattaponi tribal grounds. There will be a bonfire Dance-a-thon Saturday evening at 7 PM.
6. The Governor's Scheduling office anticipates that the 2005 Tax Tribute ceremony for the Pamunkey and Mattaponi tribes will be held on Wednesday, November 23, at 9:15 AM at the Executive Mansion.
7. On October 22, there will be a fish breakfast at the Chickahominy tribal center from 7 - 10 AM.
8. The VITAL Christmas dinner will be Sunday, December 4 at the Chickahominy tribal center.
9. The dates for the 2006 VCI conference have been confirmed as March 17-18.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 PM.

Appendix to minutes for October 18, 2005

Non-legislative Virginia Council on Indian members with term expiration dates:

Karenne Wood	Tribal representative, Monacan	6/30/07
William F. Adams	Tribal representative, Upper Mattaponi	6/30/07
Frank Richardson	Tribal representative, Rappahannock	6/30/07
Juanita Smith	Tribal representative, Nansemond	6/30/07
Gerald Stewart	Tribal representative, Eastern Chickahominy	6/30/07
Reginald Stewart	Tribal representative, Chickahominy	6/30/06
(unfilled)	Tribal representative, Mattaponi	
(unfilled)	Tribal representative, Pamunkey	
Dante Desiderio	Indian at large, Sappony	6/30/06
Mitchell Bush	Indian at large, Onondaga	6/30/07
Paige Archer	Indian at large, Meherrin	6/30/07
Buck Woodard	Indian at large, Muskogee Creek	6/30/06
Sonya Lawrence	Indian at large, North Carolina Nottaway	6/30/07
Danielle Moretti-Langholtz	Citizen at large	6/30/06