



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Council on Indians

P. O. Box 1475, Richmond, VA 23218

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Karenne Wood
Chair

Virginia Council on Indians Meeting April 18, 2006

Present: Chair Karenne Wood (Monacan), Frank Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Juanita Smith (Nansemond), Reggie Stewart (Chickahominy), Gerald Stewart (Eastern Chickahominy), Mitchell Bush (Onondaga, Indian At Large), Danielle Moretti-Langholtz (Citizen At Large), Deanna Beacham (Weapemeoc, Council Program Specialist)

Absent: Frank Richardson (Rappahannock), Buck Woodard (Muskogee Creek, Indian At Large), Paige Archer (Meherrin, Indian At Large), Dante Desiderio (Sappony, Indian At Large)

Attending: Chief Ken Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Chief Gene Adkins (Eastern Chickahominy), Chief Steve Adkins (Chickahominy), Gerri Reynolds (Rappahannock), Powhatan Red Cloud-Owen (Chickahominy), Archie Elliott (Nottoway of VA), William Wright (Nottoway of VA), Pinky Smith (Cherokee/Nansemond), Ethel Johnson (Cheroenhaka), Joel Dunn, Catherine Slusser, Jack Kotvas (Attorney General's Office).

Call to Order:

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 PM, and the invocation was given by Chief Steve Adkins.

New Business:

1. The first item on the agenda was a presentation on the John Smith Historic Water Trail by Joel Dunn of the Conservation Fund, an organization that is promoting and supporting the establishment of this trail, and wanted the Council's endorsement for the legislation that would establish the Water Trail. Mr. Dunn had brought a draft resolution of support for the Council's review. He pointed out how this trail would offer many opportunities for the true Native history to be shared with the public. Council members suggested that Native voices should be used in telling their own stories, and Chair Karenne Wood offered to write a letter to the organizers with points regarding the teaching of our history. Juanita Smith made a motion that the Chair write such a letter. In the discussion that followed, it was suggested that the Council could approve the resolution and send the letter as well, whereupon Vice Chair Smith withdrew her motion. Frank Adams then made a motion that the Council approve the resolution and send it with a letter, which was seconded by Gerald Stewart. The vote was unanimously in favor. The Chair requested that the minutes also reflect the fact that Joel Dunn had highly praised both Chief Steve Adkins and Deanna Beacham for work they had done in explaining the Indian viewpoint to organizations working on projects related to the John Smith Historic Water Trail.

2. Next on the agenda was Catherine Slusser, Deputy Director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, speaking on behalf of Katherine Kilpatrick, the agency Director on three topics. She first announced that the Department intended to continue the historic highway marker diversity initiative, partnering with the Virginia Historic Society, with funding for an additional 8 signs each on Native and African American topics. She further announced that DHR was requesting that the Virginia Council on Indians co-sponsor this year's archaeology month in October, on the theme of First Peoples of Virginia. Some preliminary work on a poster for this has already begun. In the following discussion on this topic, the Chair asked that the VCI see a copy of the proposed poster, to which Ms. Slusser agreed. Also, the Chair pointed out that in the past there had been participants in archaeology month with museum displays that the Virginia tribes objected to. Ms. Slusser said that previously the DHR had not vetted participants in archaeology month, but perhaps it was time for this policy to be reconsidered, or a disclaimer could appear on the calendar. Following the discussion, Council Member Adams made a motion that the VCI co-sponsor archaeology month in 2006. The motion was seconded by Reggie Stewart, and passed unanimously. On the third topic, the Department was requesting support and guidance in finding the appropriate candidate for the second Virginia Indian summer college student internship at DHR. Those who wished to suggest a potential internship candidate who was a member of a Virginia tribe were urged to contact the agency director, Kathleen Kilpatrick.

3. Next the Chair called attention to the recent Federal request for public comment on the draft "Policy Statement Regarding Treatment of Burial Sites, Human Remains and Funerary Objects". A hard copy of the draft was included in the members' packets and it is also available via email. She pointed out that it is very important that Virginia tribes weigh in on this serious matter, and asked the tribal representatives to convey this information to their tribes. Comments may be submitted by email, and would become part of the public record. The deadline is June 28, 2006. Council member Juanita Smith suggested that a copy of the draft be mailed to Chief Emeritus Oliver Perry because of his expertise on this matter, to ask for his input, and Karenne agreed that this would be done.

Administrative Business:

1. The minutes of the VCI meeting on February 21 were then addressed, with the Chair stating that a suggestion had been made by Council member Woodard that the minutes reflect more clearly the fact that the Chair had initiated the move to remove a previous member for non-attendance. The motion to accept the minutes with this change reflected was then made by Council member Adams, with Gerald Stewart seconding. The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

2. Following this action, Council member Adams then moved that in the future if the Chair or any Council member were to suggest the removal of a member for absences or other dereliction of duties, that this be discussed at a Council meeting prior to any action being taken. Reggie Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. The Chair then read into the record a letter of intent to petition for state recognition from the Cheroenhaka Nottoway in Southampton County. A letter attesting to this fact will be sent to the group as well as to their state Senator and Delegate.

Old Business:

1. The first item of old business was the Virginia Indian Heritage Trail budget. A copy of the budget with the revisions discussed at the VCI conference meeting was distributed by the Chair.

A motion was then made by Council member Adams, and seconded by Gerald Stewart, that the budget be approved with the provision that money could be transferred one time from one category to another, without the approval of the VCI, if the amount was not over \$500. This motion passed unanimously.

2. Next was a discussion of the position descriptions for the Heritage Trail, which Council members had reviewed. Several minor changes and enhancements were made to the wording of the descriptions with general agreement, and these were incorporated into a motion made by Council member Adams and seconded by Gerald Stewart. The motion passed unanimously. Following this action, there was a discussion of the appropriate process for reviewing the applications. General agreement was that a subcommittee would review the applications and decide on the selection. The Chair suggested that Chief Adkins be one of that subcommittee. Council member Gerald Stewart made a motion that the subcommittee consist of Chief Steve Adkins, Frank Adams, and Reggie Stewart, who would review the applications, make a decision, and advise the chiefs and the VCI. Juanita Smith seconded the motion, and this motion passed unanimously.

3. The next agenda item was for the VCI to determine who would administer the grant process for the Virginia Indian Heritage Trail line item of \$25,000 designated for tribes and Indian organizations who wanted help with improving their signage or tourist information or interpretive content for their facilities. The Virginia Foundation for Humanities cannot administer a grant program that is not an open grant program. The suggestion had been made that the United Indians of Virginia might administer the grant program, with all the board members serving as a review committee. Chief Adams, who was present at the meeting, said that he would have to ask the United Indians of Virginia members. Karenne agreed to work on a draft of possible grant guidelines.

4. The next item of business was a follow-up on a request from Chief Emeritus Oliver Perry that VCI consider sending a letter of protest to the city of Virginia Beach concerning their not including a Native American category in their public Human Resources reports. At the previous VCI meeting it had been agreed that the Chair would check to see if this was all right with the Nansemond tribe, but Karenne stated that she had not done this beyond discussing it informally with Chief Bass. She asked Tribal Representative Juanita Smith if she would bring this item up at the next Nansemond meeting, and Juanita agreed to this. If the tribe is okay with the VCI writing a letter, it will be done.

5. The next item was a follow-up to a concern expressed by the Nansemond Tribe regarding a letter sent by the VCI to the John Smith Gateway Project. The Chair reiterated that she had authorized a letter which stated that there were some areas of concern on which the Virginia Indian tribes were united, as for example the display of remains or funerary objects in publications, as the tribal leaders had agreed at previous meetings. Apparently the Nansemond tribe had heard misinformation to the effect that the VCI had written a letter which said they were speaking for the chiefs, and Assistant Chief Earl Bass had stated at the previous meeting that this was not appropriate. The Chair went on to say that since the last meeting she had an in-depth conversation with Chief Barry Bass on this topic, explaining the actual situation, and he had agreed that what the letter said was not a problem.

6. The Chair then called attention to a follow-up letter from Isle of Wight County regarding their "Publique Ffaire" event to be held November 4, 2006. Copies of the letter were distributed to all the Council members. The County is working closely with the Nansemond tribe in their planning. Nansemond tribal secretary Sandy McCreedy is coordinating the Native participation in the event.

7. The Chair next addressed the topic of an archaeology committee, an idea that had been put forward in the past regarding creating a policy paper on the topic of treatment of burials and funerary objects. She suggested that the United Indians of Virginia be involved if such a committee were to be created, because of their expressed interest in working with the Smithsonian on the return of Virginia Indian remains. Chief Adams said the UIV would be willing to do this, as long as they received the appropriate information when it was made available. The Chair also said that Jack Trope of the Association for American Indian Affairs had expressed an interest in working on repatriation regarding the remains that were being held by the Smithsonian. As standing committees are not appropriate for advisory boards, Council member Reggie Stewart suggested that an archaeology committee be formed when a need arose and disband when the project was completed.

8. A brief update on the recognition criteria documents followed. At the VCI conference, it was suggested by the Council's legal counsel Jack Kotvas that the language should be modified to reflect more accurately the Council's role of making recommendations regarding state recognition. It was also suggested that the brochure for petitioners and the handbook for recognition committees be merged into one document. A subcommittee consisting of Mr. Kotvas, Chair Karenne Wood, and Frank Adams have made the editorial changes, and they are being reviewed by Frank Adams and Reggie Stewart. The document will be shared with the VCI so that the editorial changes can be presented for ratifying at the May meeting.

9. A copy of Frank Richardson's proposed goals and strategies had been distributed to all members and was included in the packets, and addressed as the next topic on the agenda for discussion. The Chair suggested that due to the late hour, the goals be considered individually for approval, delaying discussions on strategies until the next meeting. Council member Smith asked if the topic could be tabled until the next meeting. Chief Adams suggested that the goals be prioritized before being considered. Chief Adkins suggested that an entire meeting be devoted to the discussion, pointing out that some of the statements were strategies rather than goals. Other members pointed out that some of the goal statements were part of the VCI's mission rather than goals, and that discussion would be required to amend or change various goals to reflect the opinions of all the Council. Council member Smith made a motion that due to the lateness of the hour, the topic be tabled until the next meeting, when it would be discussed in full. Frank Adams seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. It was suggested that the topic be the first agenda item following the ratification of the criteria document language changes.

10. The topic of Jamestown Settlement's new museum was briefly introduced with comments by Council members that the Virginia Indians had been asked for little or no input into its interpretations or representations of Virginia Indian history. The Chair suggested that she contact the museum director to ask if the Virginia Indian community could be invited to preview and comment on the museum, and the Council members agreed with this plan.

Announcements:

1. The next business meeting will be May 16 at 6:00 PM in Room 7 West of the GAB.
2. Linda Hogan, Chickasaw novelist and poet, will be at Ashland Theatre April 25 at 7:30 PM.
3. The Virginia Nations Powwow will be May 6-7 at the Chickahominy tribal grounds.
4. AIS Mother's Day Powwow May 13-14

5. Monacan Indian Nation Annual Powwow May 20-21

6. Upper Mattaponi Spring Festival May 27- 28

7. Chesapeake/Nansemond Festival June 3-4

8. Applications for the International Youth Democracy Summit are in the members' packets and extra copies are available. Scholarships to attend this summit, which is a program of UVA, are available for Indian students. Please take some applications to your tribe. The deadline to apply is May 6. The Chair recommended this summit for Indian high school students.

9. A public forum on cultural revitalization will be held Friday, April 28 at 4 PM at Virginia Tech's student center, as part of the Virginia Indian Nations Summit on Higher Education.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 PM.