



# 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 May 16, 2006

**Present:** Chair Karenne Wood (Monacan), Juanita Smith (Nansemond), Frank Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Reggie Stewart (Chickahominy), Gerald Stewart (Eastern Chickahominy), Frank Richardson (Rappahannock), Mitchell Bush (Onondaga, Indian At Large), Paige Archer (Meherrin, Indian At Large), Chris Peace (Delegate), Deanna Beacham (Weapemeoc, Council Program Specialist)

**Absent:** Buck Woodard (Muskogee Creek, Indian At Large), Dante Desiderio (Sappony, Indian At Large), Danielle Moretti-Langholtz (Citizen At Large)

**Attending:** Chief Gene Adkins (Eastern Chickahominy), Gerri Reynolds (Rappahannock), Powhatan Red Cloud- Owen (Chickahominy), Pinky Smith (Cherokee/Nansemond), Roger Archer (Meherrin), William Wright (Nottoway of VA), Lynette Alston (Nottoway of Virginia), Teague Alston (Nottoway of Virginia), Allard D. Allston III, Leroy Hardy Jr. (Nottoway of Virginia), Jack Kotvas (Attorney General's Office).

#### Call to Order:

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 PM, and the invocation was given by Chief Gene Adkins, after which Chair Karenne Wood welcomed Delegate Chris Peace, who was newly appointed to the Council.

#### Administrative Business:

1. The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from April 18, 2006. Minor corrections were made, and after a motion by Council member Gerald Stewart and a second by Council member Paige Archer, the minutes were unanimously approved.
2. The next item on the agenda was the ratification of the newly revised Tribal Recognition Criteria document. Chair Karenne Wood stated that the document had been edited to clarify the language, and that no changes had been made in the criteria or procedures. The document combines two previous documents, one that enumerated the criteria for state recognition as a tribe, and the other which contained the procedures followed by the Council in considering petitions for state recognition. She stated that ratification of this document would put the Council in a better position to respond in a timely way when a petition for tribal recognition was received by the Council. After some discussion, Council member Gerald Stewart moved that the revised document be ratified as presented, and Council member Paige Archer seconded. The vote

for ratification was unanimous. It was further agreed that the ratified document would be sent to the groups who have filed letters of intent to petition for state recognition and to the chiefs, posted on the VCI website. The assistance of Jack Kotvas of the Attorney General's office was requested in having the document listed at the state Office of the Registrar.

### **Old Business:**

1. The main item for discussion was the proposed goals for the Virginia Council on Indians for 2006. At the March VCI conference, Council member Richardson had submitted eight potential goals. During the April meeting, it was pointed out that some of the proposed goals, such as supporting the interests of the Virginia Indian community and educating the public on Virginia Indians, directly reflected the duties of the Council as written in the Code of Virginia. Council members suggested that these might be considered overarching goals, or perhaps a mission statement for the Council. After some discussion, it was decided that these two goals and a third goal of tracking VCI recommendations made to the Commonwealth would become a mission statement. Council member Richardson proposed a vision statement as well, which he and other members worded as "Continuing to build relationships of mutual understanding between the Virginia Indian community and the public at large." Of the other five proposed goals, it was agreed that a goal of submitting VCI reports in a timely way would be subsumed as a proposed strategy under another proposed goal for business activities. During the ensuing discussion, the four remaining goals were also classified as two administrative goals of developing better procedures for business activities, and maintaining full visibility and accountability for VCI funds, and two project related goals of supporting Virginia Indian tribal activities related to Jamestown 2007 signature events, and continuing to work on historic highway marker suggestions for DHR's historic highway marker program.

At this point in the meeting, there was a fire alarm announcement with the request that the building be cleared. The Council agreed that they should evacuate the building, and the Chair said that the results of the goals discussion would be typed up with the suggested reorganization and vision and mission statements for presentation at the next meeting.

### **Announcements:**

The announcements were not read, but those on the agenda are included here for reference.

1. The next business meeting will be June 20, 2006 at 6:00 PM in room 7 West of the GAB.
2. Noel Hume talk and book signing, noon, Library of Virginia, Richmond, May 16.
3. Monacan Indian Nation Annual Powwow, Elon, May 20-21
4. Upper Mattaponi Spring Festival, King William, May 27- 28
5. Chesapeake/Nansemond Festival, Chesapeake, June 3-4
6. Mattaponi Powwow, Mattaponi Reservation, June 17

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:10 PM.