



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Council on Indians

P. O. Box 1475, Richmond, VA 23218

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

William P. Miles
Chair

Virginia Council on Indians Meeting January 15, 2008

Present: Chief Bill Miles (Pamunkey), Chief Ken Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Chief Anne Richardson (Rappahannock), Assistant Chief Earl Bass (Nansemond); Sharon Bryant (Monacan), Sherry Munford (Indian at large, Sappony), Deanna Beacham (Weapemeoc, Council Program Specialist)

Absent: Chief Carl Custalow (Mattaponi), Chief Stephen Adkins (Chickahominy), Joanne Howard (Chickahominy Eastern Division), Mitchell Bush (Indian at large).

Attendees: Pam Talbott (Monacan), Reggie Stewart (Chickahominy), Loleta Bass (Nansemond), Lynette Allston (Nottoway of Virginia), Leroy Hardy (Nottoway of Virginia), William Wright (Nottoway of Virginia), Charlotte Joyner, Ken Munford, Dave Kearney, Helen Rountree, Jack Kotvas.

Call to Order:

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 PM by Chief Bill Miles, who asked Chief Ken Adams to give the invocation. Chief Miles then asked those present to introduce themselves.

Administrative Business:

1. Chief Miles welcomed newly appointed Indian at-large member Sherry Munford, and stated that Mitchell Bush has also been appointed as an Indian at-large member.

2. The next order of business was the approval of the minutes from the November 27, 2007 meeting. There being no corrections or changes, the minutes were accepted as presented.

3. The next order of business was correspondence from the Sappony Nation's Executive Director, who had written prior to Ms. Munford's official appointment as an at-large member to Council. He wrote about receiving communications from the VCI, and about sharing information about the Sappony projects and request for support. Chief Miles had responded clarifying the concern about communication and referencing a full agenda for January 15. He suggested an agenda item for a future VCI meeting on the Sappony Nation's projects.

Old Business:

1. Copies of the VCI budget report for the months of November and December October 2007 had been distributed to the VCI members for their review. There being no discussion on these, the reports were accepted as presented.

2. The next item on the agenda was the geographic placement of a historic highway marker on the Treaty of 1646, in which there is reference to the lands north of the York River. After some discussion a motion was made by Chief Richardson and seconded by Chief Adams that the marker be placed on state Highway 33 East at the point where a motorist enters King and Queen County after crossing the Mattaponi River Bridge. The motion passed unanimously. The VCI decision will be forwarded to the Department of Historic Resources and the Department of Transportation for implementation.

3. The next item was the appointment of new members to the Recognition Committee considering the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia petition. The previous chair of the committee, Paige Archer, had resigned, as had three other committee members. Chief Miles suggested the following appointments: Committee chair, Assistant Chief Earl Bass; Mitchell Bush, who had already been a member; Chief Anne Richardson; Helen Rountree; and Arlene Milner. A motion to ratify the new members was made by Chief Ken Adams and seconded by Sharon Bryant. The motion passed unanimously. As soon as a meeting for the committee can be scheduled by the committee chair, the meeting time and place will be posted on the Commonwealth Calendar and the VCI website.

4. An agenda item concerning the duties of the Advisory Committee to the Council and suggestions of members for the Advisory Committee was carried over to the next VCI business meeting, and will be an item on the next meeting agenda. The Program Specialist will send out a memo to VCI members and tribal leaders asking them to consider potential members and duties and to bring ideas on the committee's duties to the next meeting.

5. The next item on the agenda was consideration of items that needed to be changed in the VCI bylaws, due to Code of Virginia changes or other considerations. The members pooled and discussed the potential changes they had brought to the meeting. The Program Specialist will draft an amended bylaws document on the basis of these suggestions, to be considered at the next VCI meeting.

6. Also under Old Business, a motion for a ratification of the ballot vote for Assistant Chief Bass to be the Vice Chair of the VCI was made by Chief Ken Adams and seconded by Sharon Bryant. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

There were no requests for comment from the guests.

New Business:

1. A publishing company known as Five Ponds Press sent draft chapters of a new textbook on Virginia history that they hope to publish in 2009 for distribution to VCI members. These

were the chapters with content on Virginia Indians. The publishing company would appreciate hearing from VCI members who have suggestions and comments on the draft chapters.

2. General Assembly is in session and the Program Specialist gave a brief update on the bills under consideration that might be of interest to VCI members. These included HB 96 and its companion bill SB 359, and HB 1373.

3. Chief Adams mentioned that the VCI had heard previously from guest Dave Kearny on the subject of a Native sports event. Chief Miles asked Mr. Kearny to present a proposal on what this event might be like, including what would be expected of the tribes in terms of participation, to be made at the next VCI meeting convenient for him.

Announcements:

1. The next VCI business meeting of the VCI will be February 19, 2008 at 6:30 PM in room 5 East of the General Assembly Building. Please note the temporary change of rooms, brought on about by the prioritized requests of the General Assembly committees.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was brought by Chief Adams and seconded by Chief Richardson. The motion passed unanimously and the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.