



# 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 February 19, 2008**

**Present:** Assistant Chief Earl Bass (Nansemond); Chief Ken Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Chief Anne Richardson (Rappahannock), Sharon Bryant (Monacan), Chief Stephen Adkins (Chickahominy), Joanne Howard (Chickahominy Eastern Division), Mitchell Bush (Indian at large, Onondaga), Sherry Munford (Indian at large, Sappony), Deanna Beacham (Council staff, Weapemeoc)

**Absent:** Chief Bill Miles (Pamunkey), Chief Carl Custalow (Mattaponi).

**Attendees:** Pam Talbott (Monacan), Karenne Wood (Monacan), Keith Lucas (Monacan), Jerry Fortune (Rappahannock), Arlene Milner (Upper Mattaponi), Jack Milner (Upper Mattaponi), Fred Bright (Nansemond), Lynette Allston (Nottoway of Virginia), Allard Alston, Archie Elliott (Nottoway of Virginia), Leroy Hardy (Nottoway of Virginia), William Wright (Nottoway of Virginia), Greg Stephenson (Nottoway of Virginia), Edwin Dukes (Nottoway of Virginia), Sidney Turner (Nottoway of Virginia), Ken Munford, Dave Kearney, Helen Rountree.

#### **Call to Order:**

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 PM by Assistant Chief Earl Bass, Vice Chair, who led the meeting in the absence of the Chair. He asked Chief Anne Richardson to give the invocation. He then asked those present to introduce themselves.

#### **Administrative Business:**

1. The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the January 15, 2008 meeting. There being no corrections or changes, a motion to accept was made by Chief Adams, seconded by Chief Richardson, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

2. The next order of business was acceptance of the monthly budget report. A motion to accept as presented was made by Sharon Bryant and seconded by Chief Steve Adkins. The report was accepted unanimously.

#### **Public Comment:**

Mr. Allard Allston had requested a minute of public comment, during which he expressed his concerns regarding the including of Dr. Helen Rountree as a member of the recognition committee considering the petition for state recognition by the Nottoway Tribe of Virginia. His concern was based on statements previously made by her in an email that had been obtained via

FOIA. He asked that a letter previously submitted to the VCI be kept as a formal record of his complaint. Mr. Allston's remarks are appended at the end of these minutes. His letter to the VCI members will be kept on file as a record of his complaint.

Assistant Chief Bass then asked for comments from the Council members. Member Sharon Bryant stated that she wanted to go on record as disagreeing with Dr. Rountree being on the committee. Chief Richardson stated that she felt better with Dr. Rountree being on the committee because of her academic expertise. Chief Adkins stated that the criteria are an outgrowth of the 1983 studies which relied on the federal criteria for recognition. Member Sherry Munford stated that it would be better for the committee to avoid any appearance of bias, so she had researched other potential expert members willing to serve as an alternative, and had found one who was highly qualified. Assistant Chief Bass stated that as Chair of the recognition committee, he would not allow any bias in its proceedings, and that if any member showed bias he would want that member removed. There was some additional discussion and no further action was taken.

### **Old Business:**

1. Assistant Chief Bass reported that the recognition committee had met earlier in the day with 4 members present. This was the first meeting with the reconstituted committee. Criteria items 2 and 4 had already been accepted by the committee, and currently the committee members were being asked to review information submitted for items 1, 3, 5 and 6. The committee drew up a list of questions and the petitioners responded. Some items were being reproduced to be included in the petitions under more than one criteria. He felt all were on the right track to get things done in a timely way. The date of the next recognition committee meeting will be announced as soon as it is determined.

2. The next item on the agenda was consideration of members and duties for the advisory committee which is to be made up of members of the state-recognized tribes and other descendant community groups. Chief Anne Richardson stated that Jerry Fortune would be on the committee. No other tribe had found anyone to be on the committee yet, and no potential candidates from descendent communities were identified. The item was tabled once again.

3. The next agenda item was a brief discussion of two highway markers that are intended to go before the Board of Historic Resources in early March. One of these markers concerns the poisoning of Indians who met with the English at Pamunkey to return prisoners in 1623. With the agreement of the Council, Chief Ken Adams offered to discuss placement of the marker with King William County officials, and asked for a list of references for the text.

4. Next a message from State Archaeologist Mike Barber was read. He is asking members of the Virginia tribes and other Virginia Indians to contact him if they are aware of important Native sites that need to be protected or preserved.

5. The next agenda item was consideration of the bylaws draft which had been prepared from the previous month's meeting and sent out to members prior to the meeting. The acting Chair asked all members to review the bylaws and send to the VCI office any changes or questions, to be distributed to the members. This item will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

6. The final item of old business was distribution of a new draft of textook material for a Virginia Studies 4<sup>th</sup> grade textbook from Five Ponds Press. Chief Adams expressed concern that he had reviewed the previous material but now a changed draft was being circulated. Members were asked to submit any suggestions or comments directly to Five Ponds Press.

## **New Business:**

1. The first item of new business was a request from Professor Sam Cook of Virginia Tech for \$2500 to support the opening forum of the 2008 Virginia Indian Nations Summit on Higher Education to be held at Virginia Tech in April. This request had been previously circulated in email to the members. Funds to fulfill this request are available in the VCI budget. After some discussion, a motion was made by Chief Adkins and seconded by Joanne Howard to give this amount to Tech for this purpose. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Next was a report concerning the Virginia Indian Heritage Program, much of which director Karenne Wood said had been covered previously at a tribal leaders' meeting in January. The second edition of the Virginia Indian Heritage Trail book is ready to go to press, with help from funds from the Virginia Tourism Corporation. 30,000 copies are anticipated. The principal changes include a new archaeology essay by Jeff Hantman, an updated calendar, the addition of two sites and the removal of two that have closed. Virginia Indian events in 2008 have been put on the Heritage Program online calendar.

Two exhibits supported by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities have been moved. Beyond Jamestown has moved to the Discovery Museum in Charlottesville, and Lynn Rainville's exhibit of early 20<sup>th</sup> century Virginia Indian portraits, formerly showing at Sweet Briar College, opens at UVA's Newcomb Hall on Friday, February 22. There will be a reception there Friday night, and all VCI members are invited. Chief Ken Branham and Powhatan Owen will be speaking.

Karenne also reported on a new development regarding the State Fair's new location. At the tribal leaders' meeting, she had announced that Glenn Martin and Lorraine Blackwood of the State Fair had approached the Virginia Indian Heritage Program for help in developing additional content for Fair exhibits as well as help in creating an American Indian component to the "Heritage Village". Karenne and Chief Adams met with State Fair's staff. After discussion with the chiefs, it was determined that the tribes would appoint members to a committee to work with the State Fair, particularly on the "Heritage Village" component. Ben Adams, George Whitewolf and Powhatan Owen had volunteered to help. The Heritage Program would assist with working on a field trip plan incorporating the SOL's and the content for a permanent exhibit on both historic Virginia Indian cultures and the current tribes. Karenne is interested in having the tribal dancers at the State Fair. Chief Adkins said he would like see information like the Beyond Jamestown exhibit at the Fair permanently. Karenne agreed and added that she would also like to provide information about the descendant communities and other American Indians living in Virginia. Chief Adams suggested that the VCI advisory committee might work on this as one of their duties, and this idea met with approval. Chief Adkins suggested that United Indians of Virginia could also be used for State Fair work. Karenne said that she was concerned about time lapsing and would like to get started working with the State Fair, even if the group working with them did not yet have all of its members. Chief Richardson agreed that this opportunity should not be missed. It was also suggested that members of non-recognized Indian communities should also let the VCI know if they would be interested in being on the advisory committee.

## **Old Business:**

As petitioners for state recognition, the Nottoway Tribe of Virginia asked officially that the letter of concern they presented at the recognition committee meeting be distributed to the VCI

members and this was done. The letter is also appended to the recognition committee meeting minutes for the February 19, 2008 minutes.

**Announcements:**

1. The next VCI business meeting of the VCI will be March 18, 2008 at 6:30 PM in room 7 West of the General Assembly Building.

2. The counsel for the VCI, Jack Kotvas, is retiring. An invitation to his retirement party was included in the members' packets. The VCI will be advised when a replacement is named.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was brought by Chief Adkins and seconded by Sharon Bryant. The motion passed unanimously and the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:25 PM.

Vice Chair Bass and Members of the VCI:

**I am Allard A. Allston III, and reside at 25274 Barhams Hill Road, Drewryville, Virginia 23844, in Southampton County.**

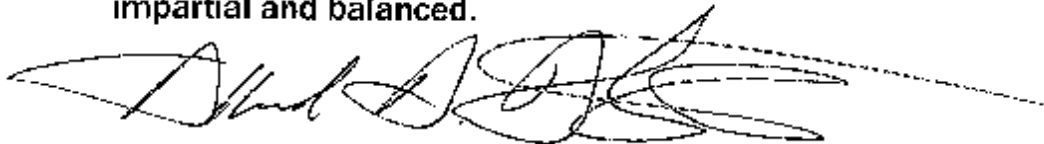
**On January 23, 2008 I mailed each of you a letter outlining why I believe it was improper for the VCI to name Helen Rountree as one of five voting members of the reconstituted VCI Recognition Committee.**

**I do not wish to cause anyone discomfort or to embroil the new VCI Council in controversy, but Ms. Rountree's appointment as a voting member was an invitation to controversy.**

**I sent a copy of my January 23, 2008 letter to the VCI office. I now request that the letter be kept as an official record of protest to Ms. Rountree's appointment.**

**I requested this one minute of public comment time to formally ask that the members of the Virginia Council of Indians reconsider their ratification of Ms. Rountree's appointment by Chairman Miles, and remove her from any further official role in the consideration of the petition of the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, Inc.**

**This is the first time any Virginia tribal entity has had to petition for recognition in accordance with detailed criteria. It is in everyone's interest that the process be impartial and balanced.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allard A. Allston III", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.