



## 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 June 17, 2008

**Present:** Chief Bill Miles (Pamunkey); Assistant Chief Earl Bass (Nansemond); Sharon Bryant (Monacan), Chief Ken Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Joanne Howard (Chickahominy Eastern Division), Reggie Stewart (Chickahominy), Mitchell Bush (Indian at large, Onondaga), Deanna Beacham (Council staff, Weapemeoc)

**Absent:** Chief Anne Richardson (Rappahannock), Sherry Munford (Indian at large, Sappony), Chief Carl Custalow (Mattaponi)

**Attendees:** Lynette Allston (Nottoway of Virginia), Allard Alston, Archie Elliott (Nottoway of Virginia), Leroy Hardy (Nottoway of Virginia), Nancy Hardy (Nottoway of Virginia), William Wright (Nottoway of Virginia), Katherine Thompson (Nottoway of Virginia), Beth Roach (Nottoway of Virginia), Crystal Joyner (Nottoway of Virginia), Carolyn Joyner (Nottoway of Virginia), Helen Rountree, Jane Hickey.

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

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

#### **Administrative Business:**

1. Chief Miles announced that Chief Stephen Adkins of the Chickahominy has appointed Reggie Stewart as first tribal alternate to the VCI, and Wayne Adkins as second alternate. Reggie Stewart attended this meeting for the Chickahominy.

2. The next order of business was the approval of the minutes from the May 20, 2008 meeting. A motion to accept was made by Assistant Chief Bass, seconded by Chief Adams, and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

3. The next order of business was the annual election of the VCI Chair and Vice Chair for the next fiscal year, as required by the bylaws. Chief Miles opened the floor for nominations, and Chief Adams nominated the slate of Chief Bill Miles for Chair and Assistant Chief Earl Bass for Vice Chair. There were no further nominations. Mitchell Bush then moved that the nominations be closed and that the Chief Miles and Assistant Chief Bass be elected by acclamation, and Reggie Stewart seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. The next item on the agenda was the VCI financial reports. The monthly reports for April and May were distributed to the members. Anticipating a funding request later in the meeting, staff Deanna Beacham drew the members' attention to the fact that an estimated \$5000 would be unspent at the end of the fiscal year. Chief Adams moved that the financial reports be accepted as presented, and Joanne Howard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

**Old Business:**

1. The first item of old business was Committee Chair Earl Bass's report on the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia recognition committee. He recalled that at the last VCI meeting, following the May 20 meeting of the recognition committee, it was reported that the votes on criteria 3, 5 and 6 had been tied 2-2, with only 4 of the 5 committee members present. Council members had suggested that another meeting of the recognition committee be held with all of the members present to break the tie votes on these criteria. Committee Chair Bass spoke with the member who had not been present at the previous meeting, Chief Richardson, who stated that she would abstain from voting on these criteria if a revote was called. Other committee members told Chair Bass that they did not wish to hold another meeting to reconsider criteria, but wanted to move the process along by working on the report to the Council that was the next required step of the procedure. Chief Miles invited legal counsel Jane Hickey from the Office of the Attorney General to advise as to the best course of action. Ms. Hickey first announced that a new legal counsel for the Virginia Council on Indians, Eric Gregory, had been hired and would begin work July 1. She then suggested that the recognition committee wait for 2 to 3 weeks before starting to work on the final report. During that time the Office of the Attorney General will meet with the Nottoway regarding their concerns about the process and afterward will meet with Chairman Miles and Committee Chair Bass to review next steps in creating the report for the Council.

Chief Adams indicated that he would like the committee's report to explain why some committee members were consistently absent from meetings, especially during the committee's earlier meetings. He also stated that, in order to be able to make a fully informed decision, he would like the committee's final report to include each committee members' reasons for their votes as to whether or not each criterion was met. Chief Miles said that he would also like to see supporting documentation for each vote cast for

or against a criterion being met. Chair Bass pointed out that the recognition procedure calls for the complete report to be provided to the Council at least 30 days before the Council meets to vote on their recommendation.

2. The next item on the agenda was a discussion of ideas submitted for the VCI 2009 conference. The VCI Advisory Committee is meeting to address this topic on June 24 at 6:30 PM in room 4 West of the General Assembly Building. Suggestions previously submitted by member Sherry Munford had been distributed to the VCI members and advisory committee members via email. No further suggestions or discussion were offered by the VCI members.

3. Further action on concerns expressed at earlier VCI meetings by the Sappony were postponed until representatives of the tribe could be present.

### **New Business:**

1. The only item of new business was a request for funding for the Virginia Indian Heritage Program from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. This request came in a letter to Chief Miles from the program director, Karenne Wood. The request was for \$1000 to be used to expand the Family Portraits exhibit recently donated to the Heritage Program by Sweet Briar, by adding additional photographs from the Rappahannock, Upper Mattaponi and Eastern Chickahominy. An additional \$2500 was requested to aid in transporting both the Family Portrait exhibit and the enhanced Beyond Jamestowne exhibit being co-curated by Karenne Wood and Ashley Atkins, as these exhibits travel around the state. After it was determined that the funds transfer could be made against the FYE 2008 budget, a motion to provide the \$3500 was made by Sharon Bryant and seconded by Chief Adams. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Announcements:**

1. A communication from Chief Stephen Adkins pointed out that tribal leaders had been invited a reception which conflicted with the July meeting of the VCI. Therefore it was agreed that the next VCI meeting will be August 19, 2008, at 6:30 PM in room 7 West of the GAB.

2. The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Mattaponi Indian Reservation Powwow will be held June 21 on the reservation in King William County. Rain date is June 22.

3. In conjunction with the opening of the Family Portraits Virginia Indian exhibit at William and Mary, there will be a panel discussion featuring Karenne Wood, Powhatan Owen and Sharon Bryant on June 26 at 6:30 PM at Lane Auditorium, Bruton Heights School, in Williamsburg. The public is invited free of charge. The topic will be Virginia Indians in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

4. An unveiling ceremony for the statue commemorating Powhatan will take place Friday, June 27, at 3 PM at the Williamsburg- James City County Courthouse. The public is invited. Chief Stephen Adkins will be a speaker.

5. Monday, July 21 at 10:30 AM there will be an unveiling of the new Civil Rights Monument on Capitol Square in Richmond. There will be a reception afterwards at 11:30 AM. Both events are open to the public. If you work near Capitol Square, please try to attend.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 PM.