

**Virginia Council on Indians Meeting
October 21, 2003**

Present: Chair Karenne Wood (Monacan), Frank Richardson (Rappahannock), Reginald Stewart (Chickahominy), Mitchell Bush (Onandaga, advisor), Buck Woodard (Muskogee Creek, Indian At Large), Nita Smith (Nansemond), Danielle Moretti-Langholtz (Citizen At Large), Floyd Miles (Delegate), Deanna Beacham (Council Program Specialist, Nansemond), Dan McGuire (Indian At Large)

Absent: Gerald Stewart (Eastern Chickahominy), Dante Desiderio (Sappony, Indian At Large), Frank Adams (Upper Mattaponi), John Ficklin (At Large), Allen Louderback (Delegate), Ryan McDougale (Delegate), Bill Bolling (Senator)

Attending: Chief Anne Richardson (Rappahannock), Wayne Turnage (HHR), Anne Adam (Shawnee), Jeff Brown (Pamunkey), Pinky Smith (Cherokee/Nansemond), Gerard Epps (Sappony), Melissa Deane (Chickahominy), Lynette Alston (Cheroenhaka/Nottaway), Keith Smith (Nansemond/Cherokee), Debora Moore (Pamunkey), Kirk Moore (Pamunkey), Mildred Moore (Pamunkey), Shereen Waterlily (Mattaponi), Sierra Rayne (Mattaponi), Sequoia Raven (Mattaponi), Jason Fortune (Rappahannock-Portabago), Tony Fortune (Rappahannock-Portabago), Nokomis Fortune Lemons (Rappahannock-Portabago), Edmund Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Martin Gallivan, Randy Turner, David A. Brown, Hilary Malawer, Faye Adams, Eric Bryan, John Potthast, Mike Klein, Catherine Slusser, Helen Rountree, Christine Lucero, Jason Zacchetti, Amy Ritchie, Anne D. Dale, Ross Richardson, Stacey Hood.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Karenne Wood. The invocation was given by Reggie Stewart.

Administrative Business:

1. Sandra Waugaman had asked permission to photograph members of the Council for an update to the book "We're Still Here." Members and staff of the Council signed a photo release stating that these photographs were to be used only for the book.
2. The minutes from the August 12 meeting were reviewed and approved, with the motion being made by Nita, and the second by Danielle.
3. Virginia Tech has made their annual request for funding to help with the Native initiatives: the Education Summit and the Pre-College Initiative program. This year they requested \$2500, which is consistent with previous requests. The motion to approve was made by Danielle, with a second by Reggie. The motion passed unanimously.

4. The next agenda item was the approval of the completed recognition criteria documents (website content, procedure specification, and brochure for potential petitioners.) Comments had already been received in from Council members that more time was needed for new members of the Council to review the documents and for tribal representatives to share them with their chiefs. Karenne presented the options of voting on the documents as they stood, or of the current Council members going into executive session following the public meeting for brief discussion on the documents, or to put off the vote until a later meeting. Several new council members commented that they were not ready to vote on the documents yet, but that they would prefer a brief executive session after the meeting to come to some agreement on how to proceed. There was consensus on this plan. It was agreed to go into brief executive session following the public meeting, for discussion on the scheduling of additional meetings for review and to confer on input from the chiefs.

Old Business:

1. A report on the first year of research at Werowocomoco was presented by the Werowocomoco Research Group, Martin Gallivan of the College of William and Mary presenting. Other members of the Research Group present were Randy Turner, Dave Brown, Danielle and Deanna. Martin gave a brief history of the last year's initial consultation with the VCI and the meeting with the chiefs last February, the formation of the Virginia Indian Advisory Board, and the five-week field school held last summer. The initial goals of the research were to determine the archaeological integrity of the site, to determine if there was a history of occupation, and to determine something of the spatial organization of the site; all three goals were met satisfactorily, with work on the third goal just beginning. An abundance of features and artifacts dating to the contact period was found. Currently work is being done in the lab to catalogue the artifacts and both technical and public reports on the findings are anticipated next spring. All work is being done with the collaboration of the Virginia Indian Advisory Board. A member of the Advisory Board also spoke about the project. Additional presentations on the research will be made to the United Indians of Virginia and to the individual tribes if they wish and a website to report on the project is in progress.

New Business:

1. Eric Bryan, of the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton, Virginia, informed the Council that the museum was planning new exhibits, which are to include a Native American section. They are at the very beginning of planning and research on this section. The museum is open to suggestions from the Native community. They also want to open a dialogue with the Monacan Nation. Eric's email address is ebryan@frontiermuseum.state.va.us.

2. Chief Anne Richardson spoke next on the proposed seminar on VCI/Virginia Indians for state agencies. The idea of training for other state agencies and entities came about as a result of a meeting during which there was a report of the Virginia Indian oral history video being used without permission. Chief Richardson said that she wanted to create a cultural diversity video on Natives in Virginia, which would include information on the tribes, on the benchmarks of devastation that make us sensitive to various issues, protocol, appropriate contacts, how to approach tribes, tribal values, redefining "minority status" in Virginia, identifying and reversing cultural stereotypes and possibly issues of tribal spirituality as the core of our values. She would like to get input from the tribal community on this.

3. The next presentation was by Hilary Malawer of the Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy on a program called Ticket to Work which focuses on people who are on Social Security benefits to encourage them to work for income. Research has determined that most people who receive Social Security don't choose work as an option, often for fear of losing their benefits. These people are frequently the recipients of misinformation about working and benefits. The program provides accurate information, and maintains an employment network for those seeking work. The contact information for this program is telephone number 888-833-2967.

4. Council member Dan McGuire presented to the Council his proposal concerning a statue of Powhatan. Dan proposes that the Council and the Virginia tribes participate in the 400th anniversary of Jamestown by sponsoring a statue of Powhatan to be placed on Jamestown Island. His implementation plan includes establishing a committee consisting of the VCI and the tribal chiefs to develop a plan addressing fund raising, contacts, legal requirements, agreements with other organizations, and the like. Dan's written proposal given to Council members included a motion to this effect that he would like to make after tribal representatives take his proposal back to their tribes. The chair commented that such a project would have to have the approval of all eight tribes.

5. The Department of Historic Resources has presented 7 new or changed historical markers that concern Virginia Indians or mention interactions with Indians to the Council members for review. Council members or others from the Native community should contact DHR directly with their comments and suggestions.

6. John Potthast of WETA television spoke next on the PBS television project on Jamestown, which is being collaboratively produced by the public television stations of Virginia in time for Jamestown 2007. The project is currently being researched and developed and the board of advisors includes Helen Rountree, Karen Kupperman, Bill Kelso and Warren Billings. Production of a two-hour TV program will begin in 2005 and the project will include accompanying documentation such as a website, educational material and DVD's. The story is to cover the period from the mid-16th century through the 17th century. They would like the support of the African-American and Virginia Indian communities and would like one or more persons from the Virginia Indian community on the advisory board. The Council asked Mr. Potthast to submit a written presentation of his proposal, including a timeline of the project and the details of the discussion at the Council meeting, to the Council. The presentation would then be distributed to chiefs of all the tribes and Council members. He agreed to do so. It was also suggested that someone from WETA arrange to address the Council annual conference in March.

The Chair informed the Council that the VCI is not supposed to have standing committees but only ad hoc committees; therefore, the Education Committee will be dissolved and the work will continue on a project-specific basis.

Project Reports:

1. NMAI educational materials - Danielle Moretti-Langholtz. Research is still on going with Virginia and Maryland tribes and production of education materials will begin in November.
2. Colonial Williamsburg - Danielle Moretti-Langholtz. Work from the project two years ago resulted in a \$100,000 grant to the corporation for the development of Indian interpretation. This has not yet begun, but Colonial Williamsburg has promised to work with the Council when they begin the grant work.
3. National Park Service Jamestown interpretive design - Danielle Moretti-Langholtz. NPS has announced a half-time position for a liaison with the Virginia Indian community on the interpretive portion of the changes for Jamestown 2007. Danielle will send the Council the job description for distribution.
4. Oral history project - Danielle Moretti-Langholtz. The video will be shown in Norfolk on two occasions in November. The interactive CD is ready. Only 100 copies have been made so far. It will be shown to the Virginia social studies coordinators on October 23. Bookmarks about the oral history project, the video and the CD have been made to help tell others about the materials.

Announcements:

- Paula Gunn Allen will be speaking on her new book about Pocahontas at the College of William and Mary on October 22.
- UVA is sponsoring a panel on the collaboration of the Monacan with archaeologist Jeffery Hantman on October 23.
- The United Indians of Virginia First Annual Cultural Arts Festival is November 1-2. Member Buck Woodard offered to share his tables with the Virginia Council on Indians; volunteers to staff the table are requested.
- Fairfax County would like to have a Council member attend their Board of Supervisors proclamation ceremony for Native American month on October 27. Karenne was invited as Chair of the Council, but will not be able to attend. Dan McGuire offered to attend instead.
- VITAL is sponsoring the 2nd annual Veterans Powwow at Upper Mattaponi tribal grounds, November 8-9. The VCI-sponsored reception for Mike Two Horses will be held Nov. 8 at 6 pm on the Powwow grounds.
- Debora Moore announced that her mother Mildred Moore, Pamunkey potter, has been selected as a master folk artist for the apprenticeship program by the Virginia Foundation for Humanities. Also, she is sending out notices to newspapers and museums about coverage for American Indian Heritage Month.
- The next public meeting of the Council will be November 18th at the State Capitol, House Room 1, at 6 PM.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.