



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 January 17, 2006

Present: Chair Karenne Wood (Monacan), Juanita Smith (Nansemond), Frank Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Frank Richardson (Rappahannock), Buck Woodard (Muskogee Creek, Indian At Large), Mitchell Bush (Onondaga, Indian at Large), Paige Archer (Meherrin, Indian At Large), Danielle Moretti-Langholtz (Citizen At Large), Sonya Lawrence (NC Nottaway, Indian at Large), Deanna Beacham (Weapemeoc, Council Program Specialist)

Absent: Gerald Stewart (Eastern Chickahominy), Reggie Stewart (Chickahominy), Dante Desiderio (Sappony, Indian at Large)

Attending: Asst. Chief Earl Bass (Nansemond), Powhatan R. Owen (Chickahominy), Roger Archer (Meherrin), Pinky Smith (Cherokee/Nansemond), Keith Smith (Nansemond), Aaron Bass (Nansemond), Bonnie Atwood (Creek), Sherry Munford (Sappony), Dionne Walker, Harvey Langholtz, Harry Gregori

Administrative Business:

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 PM, and the invocation was given by Powhatan Red Cloud-Owen.
2. The minutes from the November 15, 2005 meeting were approved, with minor amendments.
3. The Council agreed upon a 2006 schedule of business meetings that would include meetings on the third Tuesday of February, April, May, June, August, September, October and November. Meetings will continue to be held in room 7 West of the General Assembly Building. The February, April and May meetings will convene at 6:30 PM instead of the usual 6:00 PM.

New Business:

1. Council member Frank Richardson had submitted some suggested discussion items for the agenda. It was suggested and agreed that these ideas for discussion be circulated to the Council members, and be included among the agenda items for the February 21 meeting. As planning for the VCI annual conference was among the suggested items, Karenne asked that any member of the Council interested in helping with planning the conference please let her know.

2. Jamestown 2007 welcomed any interested Council members to its Community Conversation program, being held in Williamsburg on January 18. The topic for this meeting is special programs being planned by the African-American and Virginia Indian communities. Karenne Wood is speaking on the Virginia Indian Heritage Trail and other education initiatives, and Frank Richardson will speak on the events being planned by the 2007 Virginia Indian Advisory Council.

3. The VCI received correspondence from an organization in Florida called the Apalachicola River Indian Tribal Organization. The group, which consists of persons who claim descent from families on the Catawba reservation in South Carolina and from various families on the North Carolina/Virginia border (no tribal affiliations were mentioned), asked for support from the VCI in gaining state recognition in that state. The Council members voted unanimously that a letter be sent to this group stating the powers and duties of the VCI, which include establishing criteria for state recognition in Virginia, and stating the role the VCI plays in the Virginia state recognition process.

Old Business:

1. The Chair then gave a brief report on the Tribal Leadership Summit which took place on January 6-7 in Charlottesville. Representatives of all eight tribes were present. Karenne shared the VCI 2005 Executive Summary report and the VCI's recommendations to the Commonwealth with the tribal leaders. To facilitate the timely flow of information to the tribal leaders, Karenne agreed that the VCI's draft minutes for our business meetings would be circulated to the tribal leaders when they are distributed to Council members.

2. Karenne provided an update on the Virginia Indian Heritage Trail. The original proposed budget for the Trail program was distributed. Karenne agreed to provide all members with copies of the revised budget. There was also a request that information about the grant that was obtained from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities be shared. Karenne agreed that the initial grant narrative and the narrative from the July interim grant report, as well as an account of the funds spent so far from the grant, will be sent to all the VCI members.

3. The Chair's 2005 Executive Summary report for the Council was included in the members' packets and was discussed. This report included a list of the VCI's recommendations to the Commonwealth. It was requested that the Chair clarify when writing the Executive Report as to whether the VCI members or the VCI Program Specialist participated in a project.

4. The Governor's remarks at the November 2005 tax tribute ceremony were included in the members' packets. Karenne commended the members of the VCI for their work in assembling these recommendations in time to vote on them at the November meeting, so that they could be submitted to the Governor's office on schedule. She also noted that the Governor addressed action on six of the eight recommendations in his remarks at the tribute ceremony.

Announcements

1. The next business meeting will be February 21, 2006 at 6:30 PM in room 7 West of the General Assembly Building.

2. The Governors Interstate Indian Council 2006 conference will be Honolulu HI in August. Because of the cost, it is unlikely that the VCI will send a representative, but airline fares will be researched.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.