



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 February 21, 2006

Present: Chair Karenne Wood (Monacan), Frank Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Frank Richardson (Rappahannock), Reggie Stewart (Chickahominy), Gerald Stewart (Eastern Chickahominy), Buck Woodard (Muskogee Creek, Indian At Large), Mitchell Bush (Onondaga, Indian At Large), Paige Archer (Meherrin, Indian At Large), Dante Desiderio (Sappony, Indian At Large), Danielle Moretti-Langholtz (Citizen At Large).

Absent: Juanita Smith (Nansemond)

Attending: Chief Ken Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Chief Gene Adkins (Eastern Chickahominy), Chief Anne Richardson (Rappahannock), Archie Elliott (Nottoway of VA), Leroy Hardy Jr. (Nottoway of VA), William Wright (Nottoway of VA), Roger Archer (Meherrin), Anne Adam (Shawnee), Jerry Fortune (Rappahannock), Powhatan Red Cloud- Owen (Chickahominy), Melissa Canaday (Chickahominy), Vernon M. Rogers, Helen Rountree, Jack Kotvas (Attorney General's Office).

Administrative Business

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 PM, and the invocation was given by Chief Ken Adams. The Chair congratulated incoming Chief of the Eastern Chickahominy, Gene Adkins, and Assistant Chief Gerald Stewart.
2. The Chair noted that Sonya Lawrence had resigned as Indian At Large member at the request of the Governor's Office due to non-attendance, an action initiated by the VCI Chair. Council member Woodard expressed concerns about the removal, and those concerns were echoed by Council member Moretti-Langholtz. Other council members supported the Chair's request that the Governor's office remove Ms. Lawrence as provided by the Code of Virginia.
3. The minutes from the January 17, 2006 meeting were approved with minor additions.
4. A Letter of Intent to petition for state recognition was read by the Chair and duly entered in the record as having been received from the Nottoway of Virginia. Council member Richardson moved to send a letter acknowledging receipt; Council member Woodard seconded, and the motion passed. Council members asked to receive a copy of the Letter of Intent along with hard copies of the brochure and handbook pertaining to state recognition criteria.

Old Business

1. The Virginia Indian Heritage Trail budget was discussed. Council member Moretti-Langholtz expressed concerns about the Council's not receiving grant-related materials in a timely manner. Council member Desiderio expressed the desire of the Sappony Tribe to participate in the project and a concern that they were not included in the planning process. Chief Richardson requested a legal opinion from the Attorney General's Office as to why the VCI was unable to administer the funds and whether the transfer of funds from VCI to the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities was legal. The Chair suggested tabling the budget discussion and returning the project to the tribal chiefs. After lengthy discussion concerning the project's conceptualization and who it should represent, it was decided to organize a planning session at the VCI Conference at which tribal leaders and Council members can consider the project's development and administration. Council member Moretti-Langholtz expressed a desire to involve the chiefs in the hiring. Council member Adams moved to table budget discussion until April; Council member Moretti-Langholtz seconded. All were in favor, with Council member Woodard abstaining.
2. Council member Moretti-Langholtz expressed her concerns about a difference of opinion regarding the VCI's role in consultation on the John Smith Gateway Project. Council member Frank Adams requested, considering Nansemond concerns, that that project be put on the agenda for the VCI meeting in April.

New Business

1A. The VCI entered a closed session on Council member Adams' motion, to discuss state recognition cases and FOIA issues with their attorney, Jack Kotvas. Upon return to public session, the Council certified by roll call vote that only the specified items had been discussed.

Upon return to public session, Council member Richardson motioned to have the Attorney General's office review whether it is legal for the VCI to administer grant funds; Council member Moretti-Langholtz seconded. All were in favor.

1. VCI goals and objectives will be discussed at the VCI Conference as previously noted. Council member Moretti-Langholtz motioned to structure the VCI Conference in March as a public planning session, with the Heritage Trail to be discussed in the morning and VCI goals to be discussed in the afternoon; Council member [?] seconded. All were in favor. Council member Richardson will serve as the planning meeting's facilitator. He requested input from tribes regarding VCI projects and goals.
2. The Council discussed a request from Chief Emeritus Oliver Perry that VCI consider sending a letter of protest to the city of Virginia Beach concerning their not including a Native American category in their public Human Resources reports. Council member Moretti-Langholtz suggested that additional research should be conducted to determine the use of the reports and agreed to conduct that research. Council members Bush and Adams suggested that the VCI approach the Nansemond Tribe to determine whether they support the requested action. The Chair will contact the tribal leaders and then contact Council member Moretti-Langholtz for the research.

Reports

1. Council member Reggie Stewart gave a report on the Virginia Indian Advisory Committee regarding the Jamestown 2007 events planning. Interviews with candidates

for the Events Coordinator position are upcoming. The Tribal Leaders Symposium will be held at the Williamsburg Lodge October 4-8, 2006, where 700 people can be seated. A draft agenda and list of participants have been circulated to the tribal leaders. The Intertribal Festival will be held at the Hampton Coliseum July 21-22, 2007, with July 20 as a set-up date.

2. A letter was received from Walt Brown, Cheroenhaka Nottoway, indicating that a Letter of Intent to petition for state recognition was forthcoming to the VCI. The Chair noted that this letter did not yet constitute a Letter of Intent. There was no discussion.
3. The VCI received, by mail, a recommendation from the Gingaskin organization requesting state recognition. Council member Woodard motioned to send them a letter explaining the state recognition process along with copies of the brochure and handbook; Council member Moretti-Langholtz seconded. All were in favor.

Announcements:

1. The next business meeting will be April 18 at 6:30 PM in Room 7 West of the GAB.
2. The VCI Annual Conference is scheduled for March 17-18, 2006.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.