



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Council on Indians

P. O. Box 1475, Richmond, VA 23218

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

William F. (Frank) Adams
Chair

Virginia Council on Indians Meeting February 20, 2007

Present: Chair Frank Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Juanita Smith (Nansemond), Gerald Stewart (Eastern Chickahominy), Frank Richardson (Rappahannock), Mitchell Bush (Onondaga, Indian At Large), Ben Adams (Upper Mattaponi, Indian At Large), Paige Archer (Meherrin, Indian At Large), Sherry Munford (Sappony, Indian At Large), Deanna Beacham (Weapemeoc, Council Program Specialist)

Absent: Reggie Stewart (Chickahominy), Reggie Tupponce Sr. (Upper Mattaponi, Indian At Large), Carole Nash (Citizen At Large), Donald McEachin (Delegate), Chris Peace (Delegate), Harvey Morgan (Delegate), Ryan McDougle (Senator)

Attendees: Pinky Smith (Cherokee/Nansemond), Roger Archer (Meherrin), Kenneth Munford (Sappony), Gerald Epps (Sappony), Gerri Reynolds (Rappahannock), William Wright (Nottoway of Virginia), Lynette Allston (Nottoway of Virginia), Allard Allston, Archie Elliott (Nottoway of Virginia), Anne Adam (Shawnee), Bobbie Adam (Shawnee), Jack Kotvas, Helen Rountree, Amy Ernest, Lila Hedgepeth (Cheroenhaka Nottoway), Bernard Hedgepeth (Cheroenhaka Nottoway), Cheryl Hargrove (Cheroenhaka Nottoway), Teresa Skeeter (Cheroenhaka Nottoway), Ellis Wright (Cheroenhaka Nottoway), Gene Scott (Cheroenhaka Nottoway), Kimberley Tart (Cheroenhaka Nottoway), William Howell (Cheroenhaka Nottoway), Walt Brown (Cheroenhaka Nottoway)

Call to Order:

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 PM, and the commencement prayer was given by Gerald Stewart

Administrative Business:

1. New Chair Frank Adams opened the meeting with the explanation that Karenne Wood had resigned as Chair due to her graduate school and work responsibilities.

2. Following introductions, the first order of business was the approval of the minutes from January 16, 2007. Following a motion by Vice Chair Juanita Smith and a second by Gerald Stewart, the minutes were unanimously approved.

New Business:

1. The first item of new business was the introduction of Virginia's State Archeologist, Mike Barber. Dr. Barber gave the council a brief history of his career activities in Virginia, which includes an extensive body of work at Native archaeological sites, including the Hurt site and the Keyser Farm site. He expressed his willingness to work with the Virginia Indian tribes and the Virginia Council on Indians. The Chair asked for his business cards to be distributed to the Council.

2. The next item of new business was a report on the work of the Standards of Learning committee, given by Gerri Reynolds, Rappahannock. (The committee consists of Karenne Wood, Monacan and former Chair of the Council; Arlene Milner, Upper Mattaponi; and Paige Archer, Meherrin and VCI member, in addition to Gerri.) Gerri will be the Virginia Indian representative on the committee to consider the SOLs for History and Social Sciences this summer. The Chair explained that the choice of the representative was made by the tribal leaders at the January tribal summit. Gerri urged everyone to visit the SOL section on the Department of Education website to comment on suggested changes to the SOLs. Gerri explained how to find the website, and it was agreed that this information would also be circulated via email. The deadline for submission of requested changes is February 28. Input will all be recorded by the Department of Education and considered in the review of the SOLs.

Old Business:

1. For the first item of old business the Chair requested a report on the status of Senate Bill 1136. This is the bill that replaces the current members of the Council with the chiefs of the state-recognized tribes, plus two Indian at large members and a non-voting member from the Governor's senior staff. The bill states that an advisory board to the Council be appointed by the VCI members, made up of members of recognized tribes and other unrecognized Indian groups. Deanna Beacham reported that the bill had passed both houses of the General Assembly and would therefore be enrolled, and go to the Governor to be signed.

2. Next the Chair clarified that the Recognition Subcommittee meeting that had been scheduled to be held immediately prior to this business meeting had been postponed, due to the lack of a quorum. Del. Chris Peace, Powhatan Owen and Reggie Tupponce Sr. were unable to attend. A meeting of the Recognition Subcommittee will be held March 16 at 1 PM at the Holiday Inn Central, prior to the Annual Conference Banquet.

3. The next item was the monthly report on the VCI budget, with written information distributed to the members in their meeting packets. The Program Specialist explained that there were two months worth of reports, for both January and February, had been included in the members' packets. The unspent funds from the previous fiscal year had been added back in to the Council's budget. Also, the annual "continuous charge" expense had been made against the budget, in the amount of \$2005, for the room and utilities utilized in the Executive Office Building.

4. The next item on the agenda was the bylaws draft document. The draft document had been posted on the web along with the minutes for the January meeting, so that it could be reviewed and the public could comment. The Chair then read comments from member Carole Nash regarding her concerns about the bylaws draft. The Chair posed several questions regarding the document. He inquired regarding the duties of the Secretary and Treasurer, to be elected

from the membership of the Council. He asked when these additional officers would be elected, and Jack Kotvas of the Attorney General's office said that could happen at any business meeting after the bylaws were adopted. The Chair also inquired whether or not the document would be binding on the incoming members of the Council following the enactment of Senate Bill 1136. Jack Kotvas from the Attorney General's office said that it would be binding, but that the new Council could change the bylaws according to the change clause, which requires a vote of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members of the Council at any Council meeting. Mr. Kotvas also highly recommended that the Council vote in favor of adopting the bylaws. Following the discussion, the Chair called for a motion, and Council member Frank Richardson moved the bylaws be adopted. The motion was seconded by Paige Archer. The Chair then asked for a voice vote count, and the members of the Council voted as follows: Juanita Smith – Aye, Gerald Stewart – Aye, Ben Adams – Aye, Sherry Munford – Aye, Mitchell Bush – Aye, Frank Richardson – Aye, Paige Archer – Aye, Frank Adams – Nay. The motion therefore carried.

Announcements:

A meeting of the Conference Subcommittee will be held immediately following this business meeting.

1. The next VCI business meeting will be April 17 in room 7 West of the GAB.
2. The VCI annual conference will be held March 16-17 at the Holiday Central in Richmond. Conference registration forms have been emailed to all the VCI mailing lists, and will be posted on the website.
3. The GIIC mid-year conference will be February 27 in Washington DC. Mitchell Bush and Karenne Wood will be attending.
4. On February 24, the VCI members and tribal leaders are invited to the 1:30 PM dedication ceremony for the Chesapeake Indian reproduction section of First Landing State Park in Virginia Beach.
5. The Virginia Historical Society has invited VCI members to meet with president Charles Bryan on March 20 at 4:30 PM, immediately preceding the opening the exhibit Jamestown, Santa Fe and Quebec. Please RSVP to the invitation you receive in the mail.
6. The Virginia Festival of the Book will feature Native speakers at 6 PM Friday, March 23 (Gabrielle Tayac and Karenne Wood) and at noon Saturday March 24 (Chief Steve Adkins, George Whitewolf, Chief Anne Richardson, and Wayne Adkins). For additional information and schedules, see <http://www.vabook.org/site07/program/topic.php?topic=History> .
7. The Nansemond tribe will participate in the Virginia Beach 17th Street Arts Festival with a mini-powwow on April 28. Contact Lee Lockamy or Keith Smith for more information.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 PM.