



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 September 18, 2007

Present: Chief Bill Miles (Pamunkey), Chief Gene Adkins (Eastern Chickahominy), Chief Ken Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Chief Anne Richardson (Rappahannock), Deanna Beacham (Weapemeoc, Council Program Specialist)

Absent: Chief Carl Custalow (Mattaponi), Chief Kenneth Branham (Monacan); Chief Barry Bass (Nansemond), Chief Steve Adkins (Chickahominy)

Attendees: Karenne Wood (Monacan), Paige Archer (Meherrin); Lynette Allston (Nottoway of Virginia), Allard Allston, Archie Elliott (Nottoway of Virginia), Edward Branch (Nottoway of Virginia), Jack Kotvas.

Call to Order:

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 PM by Chief Miles, who had agreed to chair the first meeting of the new members. Chief Miles asked for those present to introduce themselves.

Administrative Business:

1. The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from June 19, 2007. Chief Miles noted that a quorum was not present so no voting could take place. The previous minutes were approved as presented by consensus.

Old Business

1. For the first item of old business, Paige Archer, Chair of the ad hoc Recognition Committee considering the petition of the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia for state recognition, gave an update on the committee's progress. The committee has held 5 meetings to date. The evaluation is steadily progressing, currently working on criteria 2 and 4, which are interrelated and involve genealogy of tribal members. Meeting dates and minutes are posted in accordance with FOIA on the Commonwealth Calendar website and the VCI website. The next recognition committee meeting is scheduled for 2 PM on October 16 at the Holiday Inn Central, 3207 Boulevard, Richmond.

2. The council had hoped for a report on the Governors' Indian Interstate Conference by Mitchell Bush, but he was not in attendance. Chief Miles asked that this agenda item carry over to the next meeting.

3. The next item on the agenda was a review of the VCI budget reports. The July and August VCI monthly reports were distributed to the members. Chief Anne Richardson asked for some clarification of the budget categories, which was provided by the Program Specialist.

New Business

1. The election of the Council Chair could not take place in the absence of a quorum. Chief Miles asked if there were any nominations from the members. Chief Richardson nominated Chief Miles. There were no other nominations. This agenda item will be carried over to the next meeting.

2. The next new business item was a discussion of the VCI meeting frequency and possible meeting sites. Some members would prefer meeting where parking was more readily available and most preferred a later time than the usual 6 PM. It was decided by consensus to schedule the next meeting for October 16 at 6:30 PM in Room 7 West of the General Assembly Building. Chief Miles asked the Program Specialist to investigate the possibility and cost of future meetings at the Holiday Inn Central, which is centrally located, available to the public and has plenty of parking.

3. The next item on the agenda was a report from Karenne Wood on the Virginia Indian Heritage Trail and the Virginia Indian Heritage Program. Of the 40,000 copies of the Heritage Trail book printed, more than 35,000 have already been distributed and the demand is still high. A second printing is planned with additional information and an updated calendar, toward which the VCI has contributed \$4000, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation \$36000. The VTC is extremely pleased with the book and says it is enjoying an unprecedented popularity for a new publication. In response to a question from Chief Miles, Ms. Wood said the second printing is expected to be between 20,000 and 30,000 copies.

Karenne Wood was hired to be the Director of the Virginia Indian Heritage Trail, and this position started on September 17. The program, funded for one year with \$250,000 from the General Assembly through the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities will include the creation of a database and website on Virginia Indian history, cultural traditions and sites; a program for Virginia Teachers with a summer institute and development of new curriculum and resource materials; a grant program to support initiatives on Virginia Indian history and culture; meetings of tribal leaders and scholars focusing on K-12 and higher education issues and to advise on the program; and several kinds of public education and events. Karenne reported on the great success of the Beyond Jamestown teachers' summer institute held last July and the enthusiasm it generated in the teachers attending. She also noted parenthetically that the successful Beyond Jamestown museum exhibit at the Virginia Museum of Natural History will be moving to a Charlottesville museum in January with future plans for James Madison University for the fall of 2008. Upcoming plans for the Heritage Program include convening a meeting with the chiefs to get their input on the program, and Karenne attending tribal meetings get input from tribal members. Other future plans are to develop the guidelines for the grant program, following which the grant program will be advertised, and the hiring of a half-time assistant to the Director.

4. The next agenda item was a brief discussion on the summation of the VCI's accomplishments for the calendar year which is done in the annual Executive Report, due to be

submitted by the Council Chair by the beginning of the General Assembly in mid-January 2008. Chief Miles asked the Program Specialist to work on a draft of that report toward the end of the 2007.

5. The final item of new business was a discussion of any recommendations to be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly 60 days prior to the convening of the General Assembly, which would be approximately mid-November. The Council reviewed the recommendations submitted in 2005. Some of these had been implemented or partially implemented, but many had not. It was generally agreed that it would be desirable to repeat those recommendations that had not been implemented by the state government to date. Chief Miles asked the Program Specialist to draft a list of recommendations to be considered at the October meeting. The Program Specialist will poll the chiefs who were not at the meeting for additional ideas. There was also discussion regarding what had been done in the past or could be done in the future to follow up on recommendations formally submitted.

Announcements:

1. The next VCI business meeting of the VCI will be October 16 at 6:30 PM in room 7 West of the General Assembly. The recognition committee will meet the same day at 2 PM at the Holiday Inn Central.

2. September 22-23. Chickahominy 56th annual festival and powwow, tribal grounds, Charles City.

3. October 6. Rappahannock 8th annual powwow, tribal grounds, Indian Neck.

4. October 13. Monacan annual homecoming, tribal grounds, Amherst County.

5. November 3. Virginia Indian Heritage Day, Jamestown Settlement, Jamestown.

6. November 17. Yorktown Celebration of the American Indian. Chief Richardson will be a speaker. Paige Archer will send material to be distributed.

7. November 21 (expected). Although the Pamunkey and Mattaponi have not yet scheduled the date for the annual tribute, custom suggests it will take place the morning of November 21.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 PM.