

**Recognition Committee of the Virginia Council on Indians Minutes
September 18, 2007**

Chairman Paige Archer called the September 18, 2007, Recognition Committee of the Virginia Council on Indians Meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. Others attending were Chief Gene Adkins, Chickahominy Indian Tribe Eastern Division; Mitchell Bush, Onandaga; Dr. Helen Rountree, consultant; Jack Kotvas, Assistant Attorney General; members of the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, Inc. petitioning group: Chief Lynette Allston, Assistant Chief Archie Elliot, legal liaison to legal counsel; Edward Branch. Allard Allston was also present.

Committee members absent were Powhatan Owen, Chickahominy, Frank Richardson, Rappahannock, and Dr. Carole Nash, consultant because of employment related conflicts.

Chief Gene Adkins gave the Invocation.

Chief Gene Adkins moved and Mitchell Bush seconded the motion to approve the August 21, 2007, Recognition Committee Minutes with the addition that Jack Kotvas, VCI Legal Counsel, read to the Committee Section 2.2-3714 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) pertaining to fines related to violation of the Act, after Chief Lynette Allston pointed out that she had not received a copy of the July 9, 2007 unsolicited email from Dr. Helen Rountree, after this email was pointed out to the Committee by Paige Archer. Dr. Rountree stated that she had expected Chairman Paige Archer to forward it to Chief Allston. Chairman Paige Archer replied, that to do so would have been a violation of the FOIA. Dr. Rountree stated that she was unaware of FOIA.

Mr. Archie Elliot presented a letter of concern to the Committee regarding the unsolicited July 9, 2007, email from Dr. Helen Rountree to V C I Recognition Committee Members. Chairman Paige Archer, with VCI Legal Council, Jack Kotvas' agreement, at the request of the Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia's legal liaison to legal counsel, Mr. Archie Elliot, agreed to attach a copy of the submitted letter to the September 18, 2007, VCI Recognition Committee Minutes (attachment 1.).

Mr. Archie Elliot, pointed out that the July 9, 2007, email from Dr. Rountree contained Dr. Rountree's personal opinions on various aspects of the Petition. Its circulation outside of public access violated the FOIA. Also, Jack Kotvas, VCI legal counsel, reminded the VCI Recognition Committee that members had signed a Conflict of Interest Statement stating that they had no bias for or against the Petitioners.

The Committee proceeded to discuss Edward Branch's Nottoway Tribal Ancestry Documentation. Chief Gene Adkins moved and Mitchell Bush seconded the motion that Edward Branch presented documentation that satisfied the VCI Recognition Committee that Louisa Branch is validated as Edward Branch's Nottoway ancestor. The roll call vote was as follows: Chief Gene Adkins-yes; Mitchell Bush-yes; Paige Archer-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Next, discussion followed related to William Wright's Nottoway Tribal Ancestry Documentation. Chief Gene Adkins moved and Mitchell Bush seconded the motion that William Wright presented documentation that satisfied the VCI Recognition Committee that William Wright's ancestor, Patsey Hurst, is validated as William Wright's Nottoway ancestor. The roll call vote was as follows: Chief Gene Adkins-yes; Mitchell Bush-yes; Paige Archer-yes. The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Recognition Committee is scheduled for October 16, 2007, from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Holiday Inn Central, 3207 N. Boulevard, Richmond, Virginia. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Paige Archer
Chairman

Attachment (1) Petitioners' Letter of Concern