



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Council on Indians

P. O. Box 1475, Richmond, VA 23218

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

William P. Miles
Chair

Virginia Council on Indians Meeting October 16, 2007

Draft minutes

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

Absent: Chief Carl Custalow (Mattaponi), Chief Barry Bass (Nansemond), Chief Stephen Adkins (Chickahominy)

Attendees: Paige Archer (Meherrin), Mitchell Bush (Onondaga), Pam Talbott (Monacan), Roger Archer (Meherrin), Lynette Allston (Nottoway of Virginia), Allard Allston, Archie Elliott (Nottoway of Virginia), Sherry Munford (Sapony), Kenneth Munford; Jennifer Clarke, Jack Kotvas.

Call to Order:

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:45 PM by Chief Bill Miles, who asked Chief Gene Adkins to give the invocation. He then asked those present to introduce themselves.

Administrative Business:

1. The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from September 18, 2007. As there were no corrections or changes, Chief Miles said the previous minutes would stand accepted as presented.

2. Chief Kenneth Branham of the Monacan Indian Nation sent a letter announcing the appointment of Sharon Bryant as his designated representative from the Monacan. Also, Chief Gene Adkins announced that beginning at the next VCI meeting, Joanne Howard would be his designated representative to the VCI from the Chickahominy Indians Eastern Division.

3. The members' attention was drawn to the language from the Code of Virginia concerning the Virginia Council on Indians, which was included in the members' packets. Chief Adams suggested that the Council consider the appointment of an advisory committee as indicated in 2.2-2629.1. Chief Miles suggested that Council members think about this and that a discussion about forming this committee be an agenda item for the next VCI meeting.

Old Business:

1. Mitchell Bush gave a report on the annual Governors' Interstate Indian Conference, which he attended as the appointed representative from Virginia. The conference was held in Nevada in September of this year, hosted by the Nevada Commission on Indian Affairs. At the conference, Mitchell was again elected to the GIIC board. He also reported that Greg Richardson, executive director of the North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs, was a Native liaison for the 2010 census in the mid-Atlantic region.

2. The members' attention was called to the September 2007 VCI budget report which is prepared monthly by the Director of the Special Agency Support office, which handles the accounting for the Governor's Office and Cabinet. Chief Adams moved to accept the report as presented, and the motion was seconded by Chief Gene Adkins and passed unanimously.

3. Paige Archer, the Chair of the recognition committee considering the petition of the Nottoway Tribe of Virginia gave a report on the progress of the recognition committee. She passed out copies of the minutes to the September 18 meeting of the committee with an attachment of a letter of concern written to the committee from the Nottoway Tribe of Virginia. The minutes with the attached letter will be posted as soon as a digital copy of the letter is available. The committee met again on October 12, 2007.

4. Due to a lack of a quorum at the September meeting, the Council had been unable to conduct elections for the Chair of the new Council. At the last meeting Chief Richardson had nominated Chief Bill Miles to be the Chair. The floor was opened for additional nominations, but none were forthcoming. There being no other nominations, Chief Richardson then moved that Chief Miles be accepted as Chair, and the motion was seconded by Chief Adams. The motion passed unanimously and Chief Miles is now the Chair of the Virginia Council on Indians. The Council discussed the election of a Vice-Chair and decided to wait until the next meeting to proceed with that election.

New Business:

1. The first item of new business was the consideration of the biennial recommendations that the VCI would make to the Governor and the General Assembly as determined by the Code of Virginia. These recommendations are due 60 days before the convening of the General Assembly on January 15, 2008 or on approximately November 15, 2007. A draft of recommendations adapted from those previously made that had not been acted upon by the Commonwealth of Virginia had been circulated to the VCI members and was included in the members' packets. Chief Adams suggested the addition of a recommendation concerning the establishment of a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer position for the state, and there was general agreement on adding this recommendation. It was then moved by Chief Adams that the recognitions draft be accepted to be submitted, with the addition of another recommendation concerning the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer position. This motion was seconded by Chief Gene Adkins and passed unanimously. The Program Specialist will add the additional recommendation to the document and circulate it via email to the members for final review before it is officially submitted.

2. The Council then discussed the time and place of the next regular business meeting. The Program Specialist reported that the cost of evening meetings at the Holiday Inn Central would be \$200 plus tax. It was generally agreed that this was too much to pay for monthly meetings on the VCI's limited budget. Meetings will continue at the General Assembly Building for the time being. As the usual third Tuesday would be November 20, the night before the early morning tribute ceremony of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey tribes at the Governor's mansion, it was agreed to hold the next business meeting on the following Tuesday, November 27, 2007. The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM. The Program Specialist will contact the House Committee Operations department to reserve a room.

3. The Chair asked that an agenda item be scheduled for the next VCI meeting to work on the VCI bylaws. He asked that the VCI members review the bylaw before the next meeting.

4. The Chair also asked that an item be added to the agenda for the next meeting to appoint an ad hoc committee for planning the annual VCI conference.

Announcements:

1. The next VCI business meeting of the VCI will be November 27, 2007 at 6:30 PM in room 7 West of the General Assembly Building.

2. November 3. Virginia Indian Heritage Day will be held at Jamestown Settlement in Jamestown.

3. November 9-10. The Chickahominy/Charles City 2007 festival will take place with a Godspeed visit at Rivers Rest Marina, 9100 Willcox Neck Road, Charles City. Saturday November 10 is the public day.

4. UVA programs for American Indian Heritage Month will feature Karenne Wood and Jeff Hantman on November 5 and Powhatan Owen and Chief Ken Adams on November 12. Both events will be in the Kaleidoscope Room in Newcomb Hall, starting at 7 PM.

5. The Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville will feature a presentation by Karenne Wood and Powhatan Owen on November 6 at 6:30 PM, and arts presentations by George Whitewolf and Pam Talbott on November 17 at 11:00 AM.

5. Paige Archer announced that the Yorktown American Indian celebration scheduled for November 17 had been cancelled due to scheduling conflicts.

6. The annual Pamunkey and Mattaponi Tribute to the Governor Ceremony will be held in front of the Executive Mansion on November 21 at 9:15 AM.

Additional Business:

Following the announcements, the Council entered a closed session on Chief Adams' motion, seconded by Chief Gene Adkins, to discuss a membership concern. Legal counsel Jack Kotvas and the Program Specialist were also asked to join the closed session. The motion passed unanimously. Upon return to public session, the Council certified by roll call vote that only the specified item had been discussed.

Chief Gene Adkins then moved that the Council send a letter to the Governor asking that the he appoint Mitchell Bush and Paige Archer to the Council as Indian-at-large members. The motion was seconded by Council member Bryant and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Chief Gene Adkins and seconded by Chief Adams and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 PM.