

Virginia Council on Indians Recognition Committee for the Nottoway Tribe of Virginia
Draft Minutes - March 18, 2008 meeting

PRESENT: Chairman Earl L. Bass II (Nansemond), Chief Anne Richardson (Rappahannock), Arlene Milner (Upper Mattaponi), Mitchell Bush (Onondaga; Indian-at-Large), Helen Rountree.

ATTENDING: Lynette Allston (Chief, Nottoway Tribe of Virginia), Archie Elliott, Jr. (Assistant Chief/Legal liaison, Nottoway Tribe of Virginia), several additional tribal members of the Nottoway Tribe of Virginia, Jack Milner (Upper Mattaponi), and Jane Hickey of the Attorney General's office.

Chairman Earl Bass called the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M., and Arlene Milner gave the invocation. A sign-in sheet for non-committee members was passed around.

The minutes of the committee's February 19, 2008 meeting were approved.

After the committee approved the February 19th. minutes, Chief Allston presented a letter to the committee questioning the content of the minutes and requested the unedited recording made by Helen Rountree. Chairman Bass stated that the minutes had already been approved by the committee. Chairman Bass conferred with Jane Hickey from the Attorney General's office about the tape recording made by Helen Rountree. Ms. Hickey stated that if the recording made by Helen Rountree was used to help prepare the February 19th. Minutes, its use would fall within the guidelines of FOIA. Helen Rountree stated they were used for her personal use.

Chief Anne Richardson suggested we have another official recorder for the minutes, and after additional discussion it was decided Chairman Bass would call the Council staff to see if she was available to come to the meeting to record the minutes. Chairman Bass was able to contact the staff member who was unavailable to attend the committee meeting.

Chairman Bass then asked the committee to review the information presented by Chief Allston on Criteria 1, 3, and 5 that was asked for at the meeting February 19th. The committee members were impressed with the chart Chief Allston presented and the Chair asked each member their view about Criterion 1, a long discussion on the content of Criteria 1 followed.

Chief Anne Richardson asked if the petitioners had considered doing an in-marriage rate assessment amongst its members, Chief Allston said they didn't think it was necessary. Chairman Bass suggested the committee members take the chart presented home and review the information in Criterion 1, 3, and 5 and be ready to vote on Criterion 1 at the next meeting.

Chief Allston voiced her disappointment that the committee was not voting on Criterion 1 at this meeting; Chairman Bass stated that he didn't feel he was able to adequately review the information at this meeting.

Assistant Chief Archie Elliott asked if it was still the chair's policy that no one except Chief Allston could speak for the Nottoway. Chairman Bass stated that Mr. Elliott's request to address the Recognition Committee was denied on the previous day via email. Chairman Bass asked the members of the committee if they wanted to let Mr. Elliott address the committee, but no one said they wanted him to continue. Mr. Elliott stated he would make his address at the Virginia Council on Indians meeting at the 6:30 PM.

The committee meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM. The time and place of the next recognition committee meeting will be announced.

Recorded by Earl L. Bass II