



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Virginia Council on Indians

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Chair

### Virginia Council on Indians Executive Summary - 2004

#### I. Meetings

During 2004, the VCI held eight business meetings, in January, March, April, June, July, August, October and December. In addition the 10th annual VCI Conference on Indians Affairs was held April 10-11, attracting a record number of attendees. Keynote speaker for the event was the Governor's Chief of Staff Bill Leighty. A one-day planning retreat for Council members was held in October.

#### II. Legislative Changes

House Bill 782 passed by the 2004 General Assembly made changes to both the placement and membership of the Virginia Council on Indians. Affiliation was moved from the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to the Secretary of Natural Resources, a move supported by the Governor's office. Membership of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources was deleted and a third Indian-at-large member was added. Indian-at-large members are now required to show verification of status as an enrolled member in a government-recognized tribe. Legislative members are now designated as voting ex-officio members, and a quorum for business meetings is now defined as a majority of nonlegislative members.

#### III. Membership Changes

In July, membership terms expired for Charles McGuire and John Ficklin, who held Indian-at-large positions. Tribal representatives who were reappointed to serve a second term included Karenne Wood, Monacan, who serves as Chair of the Council; Frank Adams, Upper Mattaponi; Frank Richardson, Rappahannock; Juanita Smith, Nansemond; and Gerald Stewart, Eastern Chickahominy. New members appointed were Mitchell Bush, Onandaga, Indian at large; Paige Reid Archer, Meherrin, Indian at large; and Sonya Lawrence, North Carolina Nottaway, Indian at large.

#### IV. First Annual Virginia Tribal Leadership Summit

The first Virginia Tribal Leadership Summit was sponsored by the Virginia Council on Indians in January 2004. Held in Charlottesville, the Summit was attended by leaders or representatives from all eight of Virginia's recognized tribes as well as the directors of major Indian organizations in Virginia. The tribal leaders agreed that such a meeting should be held at least annually. A follow-up tribal leadership meeting was convened in Richmond in July.

#### V. Significant Recommendations and Decisions

A. In January, the VCI voted unanimously to approve new documents related to the criteria required for Indian tribes to be recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the procedure by which groups interested in the process would submit petitions for recognition to be evaluated for recommendation to the General Assembly. Council members had spent many hours on developing these documents in 2003. The documents include a brief synopsis on state recognition of tribes for

the VCI website; a handout clarifying the criteria, meant to be shared with petitioning groups; and an internal procedural document.

B. At the first Tribal Leaders' Summit, one major discussion concerned possible legacy projects that the Virginia Indian community could pursue in conjunction with Jamestown 2007. An option that met with unilateral support from the tribes was the development of a Virginia Indian Heritage Trail, an idea that the Virginia Council on Indians had first considered in 2002. Subsequently, the VCI garnered support for the concept from the Virginia Tourism Corporation, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, and the Virginia Foundation for Humanities. In July, a preliminary planning meeting was held with representatives of those organizations and VCI members. Among the issues discussed were the considerable need for research and consulting assistance for tourist destinations that had interpretive content about Indians in Virginia, and possible funding sources for the required research and the development of the trail. The VCI determined to request funding from the state for this project, because of its multiple outcomes of stimulating economic development through tourism, improving education of the public about Virginia Indians and leaving a legacy that would extend beyond 2007. In October, the VCI formally made a recommendation to the Governor that this project be carried out, and asked for funding. Funding for this project was not included in the Governor's 2005 proposed budget, so the VCI will continue to seek funding in 2005.

C. At the follow-up Tribal Leaders' meeting, a possible signature event for Jamestown 2007 agreed upon by the chiefs was an Intertribal Cultural Festival. The chiefs wished the VCI to take the lead in organizing such an event. Planning for a signature event to be held late in 2006 is in the initial stages.

D. In December, the Council voted to co-sponsor a panel discussion entitled "Myth, Legend, History and Truth" with the Virginia Foundation for Humanities at the 2005 Festival of the Book. The book panel discussion is scheduled for March 19, 2005.

## VI. Major Collaborations, Consultations and Projects in 2004

A. In March, the VCI coordinated a meeting between chiefs of the Virginia tribes and the leaders of the significant participant organizations of Jamestown 2007: the Jamestown 2007 staff; the Federal Commission for Jamestown 2007; the National Park Service; the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities; and the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. At this meeting the Jamestown 2007 officials presented their plans to the tribal leaders and asked for their input. Subsequently the Jamestown 2007 officials made similar presentations to the Virginia Indian community at the VCI annual conference in April 2004. The VCI Chair also participated in a cultural awareness workshop for Jamestown 2007 community partners held in October. In addition, the VCI chair consulted with the Virginia Tourism Corporation in the development of advertising related to the Jamestown 2007 commemoration.

B. A consultation process was begun in March with Haley-Sharpe Design, the firm that is preparing new interpretive content for Historic Jamestowne, operated by the National Park Service and the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Haley-Sharpe has hired a liaison to the Virginia Indian community, who coordinates this consultation process which is ongoing and expected to continue until 2007.

C. At the request of the Virginia Film Office, the Council met with production principals of the film *The New World* and facilitated communication between the production staff and the Virginia Indian community during the casting process and the filming which took place in the Williamsburg/Charles City County area during July and August.

D. Colonial Williamsburg has begun an American Indian Initiative, a program to incorporate interpretive content concerning American Indian historical events that took place at Williamsburg into their overall public presentation. An overview of this program was made to the Council in July, requesting the Council's consultation. In October a delegation of VCI members and tribal leaders was invited to Colonial Williamsburg for a tour and a discussion of potential interpretive content.

- E. Cooperative efforts with Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia, and the College of William and Mary continue. Virginia Tech hosted the third annual Virginia Indian Higher Education Summit in April, in conjunction with their Virginia Indian Pre-College Initiative. Next year's Higher Education Summit is scheduled for March 2005 at the University of Virginia.
- F. The VCI sent Council member Mitchell Bush as Virginia's representative to meetings of the Governor's Interstate Indian Conference in March and August. Chair Karenne Wood also attended the August GIIC as a speaker on repatriation. The VCI also asked the Governor to invite the GIIC to hold their annual conference in Virginia in 2005. This would be scheduled for August 2005, to run in conjunction with the National Museum of the American Indian's annual powwow. The VCI will partner with the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs on programming for the conference.
- G. In September, the Council and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources co-hosted an event honoring the chiefs of Virginia's tribes in conjunction with the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian. The Council chair and chiefs also participated in the ceremonial selection and placement of the Eastern Stone for the courtyard of the museum.
- H. The VCI continues to consult with various federal agencies as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act whenever Virginia Indian sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places may be impacted by development or construction. Current and completed consultations for 2004 include the revised Virginia blanket programmatic agreement for the Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District; the Highway 340 bridge construction project; the Byrdwood Development; the Chisel Run - Highway 199 project; the City of Richmond HUD project; the Colonial Historic National Park Interpretive Concept Plan Elements; the Columbia Natural Gas Virginia programmatic agreement; the Exmore-Nassawadox water treatment project; Fort Eustis; Fort Lee; Fort Monroe; the Jewell Ridge gas pipeline; the Kings Highway bridge replacement project; Langley Air Force Base; Oconeechee State Park; the Maersk Portsmouth Terminals; the Roanoke flood wall project; the Smith Mountain Pumped Storage project; the Virginia Loop pipeline; and the Washington County Service Authority project. In addition, VCI staff assisted in delivering informational sessions on Section 106 to both the Norfolk District of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Council of Virginia Archaeologists.
- I. VCI members and staff have provided consultation to Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation on interpretive material for the new museum at Jamestown Settlement, including the new Visitors' Center movie.
- J. The Chair of the VCI is participating in a Department of Historic Resources-sponsored consortium on the treatment of human remains.
- K. The VCI staff participates in a consortium organized for collaborative efforts among 17th century sites focusing on building sustainable partnerships for 2007 and beyond, and on the Technical Advisory Board for the John Smith Gateway Project.
- L. The VCI regularly consults with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources on state historic highway markers relating to Indians. In addition the VCI has begun coordination of an effort to identify and provide content for prioritized additional Native American-related highway markers to be funded by VDHR sources in the coming calendar year.
- M. The Virginia Council on Indians has submitted legislation for the 2005 General Assembly revising the language for the Council's duties so that the language will be more consistent with similar advisory boards and more accurately reflect the Council's activities. In addition, HB 1712 asks for two additional positions on the Council. At present, if a state recognized tribe does not appoint a member representative, that position is filled by an Indian-at-Large member. Currently two Virginia tribes do not have tribal representatives on the Council. The bill changes the Council's membership requirements to state that if seat is not filled by a tribe, that seat will remain vacant until the tribe does appoint a member. By this change in language, the Council wishes to hold the number of Indian-at-Large members to the current five, and encourage all of Virginia's recognized tribes to have representation on the Council without having to wait until a current member's term is completed. The bill's patron is Delegate Ryan McDougle, a Council member.