

Council on American Indian Concerns

Regular Monthly Meeting, April 8, 2009  
DNR Conference Room, Atlanta

Council members in attendance: Nealie McCormick, Marilyn McGaughey, Ralph Crews, Tom Gresham, Royce McCrary, JB Jones and Sarah Hill

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nealie McCormick at 1:33 pm. Ralph Crews led the opening prayer.

The March, 2009 meeting minutes, which had been emailed to members earlier, were approved with the correction of the spelling of Diane DeShazo's name.

The treasurer's report for expenses to date and a projection of expenses for the remainder of FY 2009 was presented by Ralph Crews (attached).

Sarah Hill and Frankie Mewborn reported that there were no communications to the Council in the past month. JB Jones reported that Eric Lowe called him to ask about Council activities and responsibilities, focusing on how to learn of archeological sites in advance of construction projects.

*Ongoing Business*

Regarding Rules and Regulations, Marilyn McGaughey reported that Sarah Hill incorporated the changes recommended by Diane DeShazo of the Attorney General's office and has produced a new draft document. Sarah agreed to email the draft to all Council members and asked for their review and comment. Ms. DeShazo has said we could get another agency to handle the public hearing required for the Rules and Regs, but Nealie McCormick stated that we probably would have to pay for it. Another option is to use a law judge for the Administrative Hearings. Dave Crass said that his agency (Historic Preservation Division) does this and he believes it is not very expensive.

In news items related to Indians, Marilyn McGaughey noted that a Rosebud Sioux woman has been named director of the U.S. Indian Health Services. Marilyn also mentioned an article referring to the excellent food at the café in the Museum of the American Indian in Washington D. C. Tom Gresham mentioned that the PBS series "We Shall Remain", which is about Native American history, will begin airing on Monday April 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00. The episode on the Trail of Tears is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>.

State Archaeologist Dave Crass presented the Council with a hard copy and a CD version of the report by Dan Elliott on the burial salvage and GPR survey of the south end of Ossabaw Island, adjacent to Newell Creek. He thanked the Council for its support of the project. The

report's conclusion is that burials, other features and important parts of the Newell Creek site (both Indian and Euro-American) will be slumping into the creek steadily, but unpredictably, for the coming decades. The report recommended that DNR develop and implement a preservation plan. Dr. Crass pointed out that most preservation options are very expensive, and that DNR has limited financial resources, especially now.

Dr. Crass followed up with a recap of the recently completed budget session in the General Assembly. He thanked the Council for the phone calls, emails and letters that lobbied to limit the budget cuts to DNR and especially to the Archaeology Services Unit. He said the final result was that the ASU budget had been cut from \$279,000 to \$100,000. The Governor has yet to sign the budget, and the funding could change, but it is unlikely to do so. Dr. Crass reported that he will be able to retain all his staff, but not fill empty positions. The cut leaves him with virtually no budget to conduct the work that is expected of his unit. He pointed out the Parks and Historic Sites Division experienced a large (38 percent) budget cut this year. On the bright side, Dr. Crass is very impressed with new DNR Commissioner, Chris Clark, who is sympathetic with the needs of the ASU.

### *New Business*

Marilyn McGaughey reported that on behalf of the Council she attended the farewell reception for outgoing DNR Commissioner Noel Holcomb. Governor Perdue and many senators and representatives were present. She said she spoke with new DNR Commissioner Chris Clark, and was impressed with his energy and desire to learn about all facets of DNR, including Georgia's Native Americans and the Council. Marilyn recommended that we arrange to meet with him to further introduce and explain the Council and its mission. Marilyn will help Nealie arrange for such a meeting. In addition, Marilyn suggested that we invite him to attend one of our meetings, and she will pursue this possibility.

Nelialie McCormick reported that he will be meeting with the Poarch Band in May about matters of mutual interest.

Marilyn McGaughey then led a discussion of funding priorities for the remainder of the current fiscal year. We reviewed expenditures made last year to a couple of State Historic Sites (Etowah and Vann House), to Fernbank Museum, to purchase copies of *Frontiers in the Soil* and for travel to the Governors Interstate Indian Council meeting. Ken Akins of Etowah Mounds Historic Site discussed last year's very successful projects (planting native grasses, adding an interpretive sign, and building a replica Indian house) and said they have other such projects on the table waiting for funding. He mentioned a reunion of all archaeologists and staff who had worked at Etowah that will take place on April 25<sup>th</sup> at the site. During a discussion of *Frontiers in the Soil*, Mr. Akins said he had been unable to get copies to sell at Etowah. Tom Gresham said he would coordinate with him, DNR purchasing/sales manager Pam Meditz and others to make sure they knew how to order copies from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government in Athens. Tom Gresham described to the Council a new initiative of the Society for Georgia Archaeology, an archaeological outreach vehicle that is a repainted and refurbished used bookmobile. It is to go mainly to schools and libraries to inform students and teachers about archaeology and Native

American cultures in Georgia. He described it as an exciting, innovative project that needs some additional funding. We discussed how important it is for us to have a presence at the Governors Interstate Indian Council meeting each year.

We discussed repeating the kinds of expenditures made the previous year and adding new ones, and proposed the following expenditures for the remainder of FY2009:

Purchase of <i>Frontiers in the Soil</i>	\$1,500
Fernbank Museum for Native American programs	\$1,500
New Echota for earlier commitment	\$1,000
Etowah Mounds for ongoing projects	\$1,000
SGA ArchaeoBus project	\$1,500
Plaque of appreciation for Native economic development	\$ 100
Attend Governors Interstate Indian Council	<u>\$2,000</u>
Total	\$8,600

A motion to accept these expenditures was made, seconded and approved.

Marilyn McGaughey recognized retiring Etowah Mounds Historic Site manager Ken Akins and thanked him for all his hard work in making Etowah a showpiece Historic Site that respects Native American culture.

Tom Gresham reported that Dave Crass's office notified the Council that the American Museum of Natural History had encountered possible Native American human remains while conducting planned archeological excavations on a Late Archaic period shell ring on St. Catherine's Island. The encounter and report requires no action from the Council.

Vonnie McCormick mentioned that a recent *Fortune* magazine article featured a tribal enterprise.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Visitors: Frankie Mewborn, Ken Akins, David Crass, Vonnie McCormick