

Council on American Indian Concerns

Regular Monthly Meeting, May 13, 2009
DNR Board Room, Atlanta

Council members in attendance: Nealie McCormick, Marilyn McGaughey, Ralph Crews, Tom Gresham, Bobby Tuggle, and Sarah Hill

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nealie McCormick at 1:32 pm. Ralph Crews led the opening prayer.

The April, 2009 meeting minutes, which had been emailed to members earlier, were approved with the acceptance of a minor word change in the third paragraph of New Business.

The treasurer's report for expenses to date and a projection of expenses for the remainder of FY 2009 (attached) was read by Ralph Crews. The report indicated an unspent balance of about \$4,145 for FY 2009. Marilyn McGaughey reminded us that it was now too late to spend any more from the account.

Sarah Hill, who had emailed Council members the month's list of written communications, reported that there were only three emails to the Council in the past month. She forwarded two to the state tribes and she answered one about genealogy. Pam Meditz had informed the Council that there were no telephone communications in the past month.

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 which Sarah had emailed to the Council. Sarah stated that there are four outstanding issues/questions that need to be addressed for the final completion of the document. These are:

1. What address to use for the Council? After debating whether to use the Panola Mountain or the twin towers address or to simply use a web site address, the Council decided to use "Georgia Council on American Indian Concerns, 2 Martin Luther King Jr., Boulevard, Suite 1352 East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334" as its official address.
2. Who will conduct the hearings? We agreed that we will try to use the agency/entity cited by Dave Crass at last month's meeting. Tom Gresham will contact Dr. Crass to obtain the agency's contact information.
3. Do we delay seeking payment of a penalty until appeal hearings are complete? After short discussion, the Council agreed to seek payment of penalties after the appeal process.
4. Who hears petitions and if it is someone other than the Council, will the

Council accept their judgment as final? After discussion the Council agreed to rely on an administrative judge to hear petitions and to accept the judge's decision as final.

On a motion, the version of the Rules and Regulations as presented by Sarah Hill and as modified by the above decisions was accepted by the Council. Sarah will incorporate the additional information and move forward on getting the final version approved by state attorneys and the public hearings set up.

Nealie McCormick reported that Dr. Rick Snow, former forensic anthropologist for the GBI, has been appointed by the Governor to the position of physical anthropologist for the Council. Nealie said that Dr. Snow regretted that he had prior obligations and could not attend this meeting, but was looking forward to meeting the Council at our next meeting.

Tom Gresham discussed distribution of the Council's most recent purchase of *Frontiers in the Soil*. Tom said that in light Ken Akins' comment at the last Council meeting about the importance of the teacher's guide, he obtained a few copies for the Council. He reported that our \$1,500.00 allocation for the books allowed us to purchase 126 copies of *Frontiers in the Soil* (at a discounted price of \$10.17 each) and 30 teachers' guides (at \$6.95 each). Tom suggested we distribute the books at the end of the meeting. As with last year's distribution, they are to go to libraries, schools and other educational/outreach facilities. Tom produced labels crediting the Council for the inside covers of the books and a cover letter explaining the book and the Council's reason for providing it. Marilyn McGaughey recalled that Dave Crass had mentioned that he knew of DNR outreach/education facilities that could use it, and the Council agreed to provide his office with 10 copies of the book and six teachers' guides.

In news items related to Indians, Marilyn McGaughey mentioned a report about Georgia Archaeology Day at New Echota State Historic Site on May 16. She also noted that there will be an American Indian festival soon in Gwinnett County. Tom Gresham reminded us that May is Archaeology Month in Georgia and that there are events all over the state throughout the month. Events are listed on the web site www.thesga.org. Tom also mentioned that the Society for Georgia Archaeology will hold its Spring meeting at Wesleyan College in Macon on May 16, with the theme of Indian mounds in Georgia. He reported that the SGA ArchaeoBus would be officially christened at the May 16th meeting, but that it had already served 560 elementary school children in Gwinnett County. Nealie McCormick reported that the *Thomasville Times* ran a story about the Indian company Alpha Security.

Nealie McCormick called on Vonnie McCormick, who then briefly described efforts to get a manufacturing plant to locate near their tribe. The plant could create about 50 new jobs for the area.

Nealie McCormick stated that he has set up a meeting with new DNR commissioner Chris Clark for July 6th at 2:00 pm. The purpose will be to inform Mr. Clark about the Council and its long and successful relationship with DNR.

Tom Gresham reported that a citizen had asked Tom's colleague about a set of human

remains that he had turned over to the state, skeptically wondering what had become of them. Tom was able to inform him that the case was handled and documented by the Council (Washington County, photos from a Wal-Mart) and that the remains are safely curated at the University of West Georgia.

Tom Gresham reported that Linda Moye had directed to him a telephone call to the Council from Robert Walker, a lawyer representing land owners opposed to Whitfield County's plans to build a new high school adjacent to Praters Mill and an old cemetery. Tom said that in his conversation he mostly repeated what we had stated in our letter to the county, which was that we had not verified any information, but had concerns about possible effects of the construction on the cemetery. Mr. Walker informed Tom that the county had hired an archeological company (TRC, of Atlanta) to survey and assess the property and cemetery and that a report on this survey had been submitted. Tom said that he thought no action was needed by the Council.

Marilyn McGaughey asked about the final agenda item, which was budget planning for the remainder of the fiscal year. Nealie McCormick said he thought this was a moot point, since DNR had stopped all further expenditures. Marilyn said that expenditures could be made, but they would have to be approved directly by Commissioner Clark. She suggested that we try to get another \$1,000.00 allocated to the ArchaeoBus project. The Council was generally reluctant to approach the Commissioner with a request, viewing additional donations as a non-critical need. The Council agreed that we would not seek additional funding this year.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

The following *Frontiers in the Soil* were distributed:

Name	Frontiers	Teachers Guides
Dave Crass (via Ryan Kennedy)	10	6
Ralph Crews	20	10
Bobby Tuggle	10	2
JB Jones (via Dola Davis)	10	5
Nelial McCormick	10	6
Tom Gresham	10	0
Sarah Hill	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	70	30

Visitors: Debbie Walsmith, Ryan Kennedy, Vonnie McCormick, Frances Crews, Ann Williams, Dan and Dola Davis