

## Council on American Indian Concerns

Regular Monthly Meeting, February 10, 2010  
DNR Conference Room, Atlanta

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nealie McCormick at 1:35 p.m. Ralph Crews led the opening prayer.

The January, 2010 meeting minutes, which had been emailed to members earlier, were approved as submitted. The treasurer's report presented by Ralph Crews showed a projected balance for FY2010 of \$18,952.00. In response to a question, Parks and Historic Sites Director Becky Kelly said that she was not aware of proposed cuts to the P&HS budget for the remainder of FY 2010. She said DNR in general was cut severely, with the Wildlife Resources and Historic Preservation Divisions taking the largest hits.

### *Ongoing Business*

Neele McCormick called on invited guest Jim Langford, president of the Coosawattee Foundation, to update the Council on initiatives to support Etowah Mounds State Historic Site and the state's other Native American historic sites. Jim reported that he and others have been gathering support for Etowah, and have received contributions that enable the site to be open one additional week day, which facilitates visits by school groups. The site is now fully staffed Wednesday through Saturday. The benefactors are willing to help provide for long term solutions. In response to a question, Frankie Mewborn said DNR has sent out email messages about the newly expanded hours, but he will review the department's web sites and other media to make sure the change is widely known. Jim introduced Jenny Goldemund, president of Georgia Educational Programs, Inc., which is helping train the Etowah staff and support its educational programs.

In response to a question raised at last month's meeting, Marilyn McGaughey confirmed that Etowah is in the State Heritage Preservation Trust program and is a National Historic Landmark. After discussing the advantages and costs of obtaining World Heritage Site status for Etowah, the Council decided to request DNR to look into this matter. Tom Gresham will send a request letter to Commissioner Clark.

Jim Langford continued the discussion by saying that the Coosawattee Foundation will gather ideas from the relevant tribes and other interested parties about what they would like to see happen with Etowah. His initial ideas are to:

1. Visit the country's most important and best interpreted sites to see what works and what is possible, especially in terms of tourism and education.
2. Develop a site plan and vision that is accepted and embraced by all.
3. Make Etowah a compelling destination site.

4. Bring the site's history up to the present, emphasizing that descendants of Etowah are living today as part of modern Native American cultures.

The Council agreed to continue discussion and planning about the site as part of the March 10, 2010 Council meeting. Marilyn McGaughey agreed to inform Joyce Bear of the Muscogee Creek Nation about the meeting.

In regard to communications to the Council, Sarah Hill reported that only routine emails and telephone calls came in the past month.

Sarah Hill reported that our web site now has a reminder about the census with a link to the state census page. Webmaster Michael Chadwick plans to attend a future Council meeting to introduce his new colleague and discuss the Council's web page.

Marilyn McGaughey reported on the issue of tax free status for the Council. She is concerned that the Council might not be able to retain all funds from a grant that is received at the end of a fiscal year. We agreed to put in writing any questions about our tax status and submit them to the Attorney General's office. Sarah Hill has prepared a list of questions regarding the Council's Rules and Regulations as well as the tax status, which Marilyn will convey to the AG's office.

In regard to Rules and Regulations Marilyn McGaughey related Diane DeShazo's information that Judge Oakley holds administrative hearings for a fee of \$175 per hour. Judge Oakley, who handles hearing for many agencies and departments, advised that most people who are notified of a hearing pay the fine and cancel the hearing. On a motion and a second, the Council agreed to contract with the Administrative Courts to handle our hearings. Sarah Hill requested the precise wording for the procedure so that she can insert the proper language into our Rules and Regulations document. Sarah pointed out the Helen Harris of the Attorney General's office has already sent us a three-page guide to processing Rules and Regulations, and thus we now have a roadmap of how to proceed.

Sarah Hill updated the Council on the request she received to review an elementary school Social Studies textbook being produced by McGraw Hill. Sarah commented that the information in the 40 discontinuous pages she has received so far was generally accurate but the tone was sometimes misleading.

Nealie McCormick reported that he sent to the Governor's office a vita and biographical information on Dr. MariaTeresa Tersigni-Tarrant, who is a candidate for the open Council position of physical anthropologist. Nealie stated that Dr. Rick Snow was formally appointed (although not sworn in) and thus he must formally resign before a new appointment can be made. Nealie will ask Dr. Snow to send in a letter of resignation.

Tom Gresham informed the Council that analysis of the pottery, stone artifacts and bone from the looted Burke County site was progressing and that invoices for the work to date had been submitted to the Council. The Council discussed how and when it would receive payment from the two men who were fined restitution costs. Tom agreed to call the private firm that handles probation for Burke County to learn about the payments. At the end of the meeting Nealie

opened a letter he had been given that contained two payment checks. Tom will still call to learn if the payments will be made monthly.

Discussion then ensued about how the remaining FY 2010 budget might be spent, using the FY 2009 expenditures as a starting point. We agreed to allocate spending on certain programs and budget items, and wait on others. The following allocations were agreed upon:

\$ 500	Society for Georgia Archaeology - Archaeology Month
\$1,500	Society for Georgia Archaeology - ArchaeoBus
\$1,500	Fernbank Museum - Native American programs
\$ 100	Governors Interstate Indian Council - dues
\$ 280	Carl Vinson Inst. of Gov. - Frontiers in the Soil teachers' guides

We agreed to consider funding support for the state's three Native American State Historic Sites at the next meeting. Frankie Mewborn said he would gather information on spending deadlines for purchase orders and vouchers.

Ralph Crews informed the Council that a tornado struck and damaged several structures at his tribal grounds. He will send photographs to Sarah Hill so that she can post them on our web site.

In news items, Marilyn McGaughey noted that Choctaw Chief Phillip Martin died recently. He was chief for 28 years and is credited with greatly revitalizing the tribe and getting it in sound financial shape. Marilyn also announced that Dr. David Crass has been appointed as director of the Historic Preservation Division. We agreed to write a congratulatory letter to Dr. Crass.

Frankie Mewborn related that Dr. Thomas Foster, director of the Antonio J. Waring Archaeological Laboratory at the University of West Georgia, has acquired a new 3-D imaging machine and would like to make images of certain artifacts in their collection. Dr. Foster was seeking comments from the Council, and no objections were raised.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Visitors: Becky Kelley, Jim Langford, Ryan Kennedy, Frankie Mewborn, Jenny Goldemund, Linda Baker, Vonnie McCormick, Frances Crews, Gisela Gresham, Dan and Dola Davis.