

Council on American Indian Concerns

Regular Monthly Meeting, March 9, 2011
DNR Conference Room, Atlanta

Council members in attendance: Nealie McCormick, Marilyn McGaughey, Tom Gresham, Royce McCrary, JB Jones, MariaTeresa Tersigni-Tarrant and Bobby Tuggle

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nealie McCormick at 1:34 p.m. JB Jones led the opening prayer.

The February, 2011 meeting minutes, which had been emailed to members earlier, were approved with the condition that the entry about a possible burial in Pickens County would be revised and clarified.

Communications to the Council - Nealie McCormick reported that upon being contacted by State Representative Amos Amerson of Dahlonega (9th District) about state recognition of tribes, Nealie provided him with a copy of the Council's position statement on the subject. Tom Gresham reported that the Council received an email from Atlanta-area attorney Troy McDaniel about Indian artifacts he found in his yard near Buford. Tom said that photographs Mr. McDaniel sent revealed that very few pieces were actually artifacts. Tom told him this and directed him to the Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center and their archeologist, Catherine Long, for more information.

Tom Gresham reported that the Council received an email through a third party about likely human remains that were in the possession of Native American Damion Black Wolf of Savannah, who wanted them verified as Native American human remains and properly taken care of. Mr. Black Wolf told Tom that his neighbor, an artifact collector, suspected that he had some human remains and that he wanted to turn them over to proper authorities. To assist his neighbor, Mr. Black Wolf took possession of the remains and in discussions with Tom agreed to turn them over to the Council for analysis and repatriation. A motion to accept these remains, have them analyzed by MariaTeresa Tersigni-Tarrant and place them with the other holdings of the Council at the University of West Georgia passed. Frankie Mewborn, Tom Gresham and MariaTeresa Tersigni-Tarrant will work out the transfer of the remains.

MariaTeresa Tersigni-Tarrant reported that she had been contacted by the GBI on two occasions to examine sets of bones thought to be human. Both sets were non-human.

Ongoing Business:

Replacement for Sarah Hill - Nealie McCormick reported that Sarah had supplied the names of two individuals who she believed could be replacements for her position, University of West Georgia historian Barbara Kawulich and Emory University historian John Juricek. Tom Gresham mentioned that Sarah had also suggested a third potential candidate, Jace Weaver, director of the

Institute of Native American Studies at the University of Georgia. It was agreed that Tom and Nealie will contact the candidates to determine who would be willing to serve in the position as other scientist. Meanwhile, Council members will learn more about each via the internet so that a decision on who to recommend to the Governor can be made at the Council's April meeting.

In regard to filling Sarah Hill's role as Council web attendant, Nealie McCormick said he would fill that role for the time being.

Discussion then turned to an appropriate means to recognize Sarah Hill's many years of service on the Council. We agreed to present her with a plaque at a luncheon meeting of the Council, either in April or May. Marilyn MacGaughey will contact Sarah to see what date will work best for her, and then will make the arrangements for the plaque and reservations for a luncheon at the Swan Coach House, in Buckhead.

Rules and Regulations - Marilyn MacGaughey reported Linda Moye has been retained by the Council to shepherd the process of adopting Rules and Regulations. Marilyn said that Linda sent the latest version to the Secretary of State's office for review. Tom Gresham asked if this version addressed the comments he sent to Sarah in November, 2010. Marilyn was not sure and asked Tom to email her his comments.

Floyd County Power Line – Tom Gresham informed the Council that it had received an archeological survey report by Brockington and Associates that was commissioned by Georgia Power Company. The Council and GPC had agreed that based on an archival records review by Brockington and Associates, a field survey to look into allegations of important Indian sites and possible burials in a power line was warranted. Tom explained that as a private sector archaeologist who competed with Brockington and Associates he felt uncomfortable passing judgment on the report that had been submitted, but that he was compelled to express some doubts on the adequacy of the investigation. Tom noted that one shovel test was excavated on the 1.5 mile long line; Georgia's guidelines recommend a shovel test every 30 m (100 ft). DNR Historic Preservation Division archaeologist Bob Entorf, who was at the meeting, was asked his opinion, and he said that given the expressed concerns and documentation about sites provided by the landowner, it seemed that more intensive inspection and shovel testing should have occurred. The Council agreed that Nealie McCormick would write a letter to Georgia Power Company expressing the Council's hesitation to accept this an adequate archeological investigation.

Etowah Mounds Historic Site – Marilyn MacGaughey reported no new developments with staffing levels at the historic site.

Burke County looted site - Tom Gresham reported that the looters had almost completed paying the minimal amount of restitution set by Judge Jerry Daniel, but that the site restitution had cost much more than the minimal amount. Tom presented the Council with two additional invoices for the restitution work (one for two days of Jerald Ledbetter's time and one for permanent curation of 12 boxes of artifacts at UGA) and a financial reckoning compiled by Pam Meditz. This showed that \$5,039.77 more was owed by the two men. It was agreed that Tom would send to the probation company (CSRI Probation Services) and to Judge Daniel the documentation of

the expenses incurred and a request that payments continue until this additional amount has been paid in full.

New Business:

Senate Bill 62 – Nealie McCormick informed the Council that a commercial/industrial development near Brunswick included the sale of 300 ac to the federally recognized Kialegee Tribal Town of Oklahoma, who have publicly expressed an interest in developing a gaming facility on the property. Nealie said that, pursuant to our mandated duties (OCGA 44-12-283.2), he wrote to the Governor, Speaker of the House and President of the Senate about these reports of instituting gaming on the tract. Senate Bill 62 seeks to ban private property transfers that would alienate state sovereignty and thus would nullify the transfer of the land to the Kialegee. Nealie testified at a committee hearing on SB 62, and it passed favorably out of committee, but has not been put to a vote on Senate floor.

Ann Williams mentioned that another bill, not related to Indians but concerning gaming, is in the House, this being HB 467 that related to horse racing.

Burial Report, Wiregrass Network – Tom Gresham informed the Council that we received a completed burial report form from the citizens group Wiregrass Network in south Georgia that was concerned about harmful effects of a proposed coal fired power plant along the Ocmulgee River. Tom said he spoke to Dennis Blanton (who was cited on the form) and it appears that the facility is very early in the concept stage, with no specific location for the plant yet identified. Tom also pointed out that such a facility would certainly fall under the auspices of Section 106 and thus be subject to archeological investigation. The Council agreed that Tom would send them a letter thanking them for their concern, but noting that we can take no action at this time for the reasons cited above.

Mary Musgrove grant – Tom Gresham reported that the Coastal Heritage Society in Savannah requested that the Council write a letter of support for their attempt to secure a planning grant for the development of a major exhibit on the excavations of the Mary Musgrove trading post site near Savannah. Tom and Nealie McCormick sent the requested letter.

Finances for FY 2011 – Marilyn McGaughey led a discussion on the Council's finances and remaining expenditures for the current fiscal year. Pam Meditz was asked to join the meeting to provide details on the Council budget. The discussion began with a review of educational services that the Council has purchased or contracted for in previous years, which include programs by the Society for Georgia Archaeology (Archaeology Month and the ArchaeoBus), teacher training through the Coosawattee Foundation, educational excavations by Fernbank Museum and programs at Indian-themed state historic sites. Because the theme of this year's Archaeology Month is Civil War archaeology, and thus not in keeping with our mission, the Council voted to not support SGA's Archaeology Month this year. The Council voted to allocate up to \$2,500.00 to purchase educational services from the Society for Georgia Archaeology's ArchaeoBus program and to purchase up to \$4,000.00 worth of *Frontiers in the Soil* from the Society for Georgia Archaeology for distribution to middle schools. The Council voted to update

and reprint 5,000 copies of the artifact collection brochure, assuming that it can be done at a reasonable cost. Marilyn McGaughey will talk with officials at New Echota about educational programming needs there.

In response to a question, Pam Meditz informed the Council that in its spending it must abide by the State Purchasing Agreement, which among other things states that we must specify services that the Council wishes to purchase and that these services must benefit the state and fit the Council's mission of benefiting Indians. Services exceeding \$5000.00 must be bid out.

Bobby Tuggle informed the Council that the Georgia Indian Culture Society, of which he is a founding member, held its 30th anniversary meeting last weekend. The society meets three times a year to promote and share information about Indian material culture.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:03.

Visitors: Bryan Tucker, Vonnie McCormick, Frances Crews, Ann Williams, Dan and Dola Davis