

Council on American Indian Concerns

Regular Monthly Meeting, September 14, 2011
DNR Conference Room, Atlanta

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nealie McCormick at 1:31 p.m. Ralph Crews led the opening prayer.

The August, 2011 meeting minutes, which had been emailed to members earlier, were approved as sent.

The treasurer's report, which had been emailed to members earlier, was approved as sent. Nealie McCormick announced that the contract between the Office of Planning and Budget and the Department of Natural Resources for the funding of the Indian Council for FY 2012 was finalized, with \$27,750.00 allocated to the Council. A copy of the contract was given to Tom Gresham to be placed in Council records.

Communications to the Council - Nealie McCormick reported that he received no Council emails (via our Web site) since May. Nealie reported that he dealt with the five telephone inquiries to the Council that were logged by Frankie Mewborn. Most requested information that he or Vonnie McCormick were able to supply. One call, from Mr. Jim Lee, was a request to address the Council and Mr. Lee was placed on the agenda.

New Business

Nealie McCormick introduced guest Jim Lee, who is proposing to create a company based in Georgia that will supply affordable (low cost) housing throughout the United States, mainly targeted to American Indians. Mr. Lee presented a business plan that called for building panelized housing from recycled styrofoam coated with interior and exterior finishes. Houses can be built by low skill workers in five days, thus greatly reducing costs. The materials and building concept have been developed by GigaCrete, Inc., a company based in Las Vegas. Mr. Lee's main purpose in meeting with the Council was to introduce himself and the concept in hopes that the Council would support his efforts. The Council took no action.

Ongoing Business:

Rules and Regulations - Linda Moyer, who was off-site, was placed on speaker phone to discuss recent developments with Rules and Regulations. She reported that the Secretary of State's office suggested minor wording changes in section 45-1-3.04(3) to clarify the intent of that provision. Linda had supplied the Council with the original version and the suggested revised

version. The Council approved the revised version with the exception that a party against whom a complaint has been filed be given sixty (60) days instead of thirty (30) to respond to the complaint. A motion to accept the revisions, including the change to a sixty day response period, was made by Bobby Tuggle and seconded by Marilyn McGaughey. The motion passed.

Linda also reported that the Secretary of State's office thought that the public hearing about the Rules and Regulations in south Georgia probably should not be held on the grounds of one of the state's tribes, but rather on clearly neutral ground. In August the Council accepted the offer by Nealie McCormick to hold the south Georgia hearing at a public building on the grounds of the Lower Muscogee Creek Tribe. After several minutes of discussion, the Council agreed to hold the south Georgia hearing in a public room in Perry, to be attended by Bobby Tuggle.

Vacancy on the Council - Nealie McCormick reported that the Governor's Office appointed Dr. Jace Weaver as the Council's "other scientist" in late August. Tom reported that as of yesterday, Dr. Weaver did not know that he had been appointed. Frankie Mewborn asked Tom to supply him with Dr. Weaver's contact info.

Purchasing Procedures - Tom Gresham reviewed with the Council the two forms that had been prepared by MariaTeresa Tersigni-Tarrant in the Spring related to the Council's funding of projects related to its mission. Essentially these were a version of a grant application (or "description of services form") and a type of follow-up reporting form. Tom stated that the Council has learned that it cannot wait too late in the fiscal year to appropriate funds because there is not time for processing and execution of projects, and yet it has been reluctant to appropriate much funds early in the year out of concern for unforeseeable expenses that might arise. In discussion it was agreed that Tom will send copies of the draft forms to Council members shortly, Council members will review and comment on the forms, the Council will discuss, amend as warranted, and approve the two forms at the October meeting, the Council and its members will distribute the revised forms to interested parties with a January 5, 2012 deadline for submission of the grant/description of services form.

Announcements, Other Business

Tom Gresham reported that the Council received notice from Deputy State Archaeologist Bryan Tucker that the Georgia Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association intends to shovel test in Cherokee County in an attempt to locate Fort Campbell. Tom said that since this was low impact excavation with very little chance of encountering a burial, he did not respond to the notice.

Tom Gresham informed the Council that he visited Etowah Mounds Historic Site two weeks ago and saw the replica wattle-and-daub house that has been built and the interpretive display sign that was funded by the Council. Tom said he was very impressed with the display, even though the 3-year old sign was very weathered and thus difficult to read. Frankie Mewborn responded that the sign did not perform as the manufacturer claimed it would, and that it was being replaced by the manufacturer at no cost.

Bobby Tuggle informed the Council that Ocmulgee National Monument in Macon would be celebrating its 75th anniversary next week. He mentioned that it remains the most visited attraction in Macon. Bobby also mentioned that the Georgia National Fair at the state fair grounds in Perry will run from October 6-16, and that he has once again been asked to attend with his teepee and art work.

Marilyn McGaughey told the Council about an upcoming webcast program by the National Museum of the American Indian titled "Does Blood Still Matter?" It will run from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on September 16th.

Nealie McCormick reported that he has been invited to participate in a seminar at Emory University on September 27th regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act. He intends to participate.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:12.

Visitors: Frankie Mewborn, Linda Moye (by telephone), Rachel Black, Jenny Webber, Jim Lee, Frances Crews, Dan and Dola Davis