

Council on American Indian Concerns

Regular Monthly Meeting, October 12, 2011
DNR Conference Room, Atlanta

Council members in attendance: Nealie McCormick, Tom Gresham, Royce McCrary and MariaTeresa Tersigni-Tarrant

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nealie McCormick at 1:40 p.m.

Chairman McCormick noted that we did not have a quorum, so no official business could be transacted.

The September, 2011 meeting minutes, which had been emailed to members earlier, were tabled for approval at the next meeting.

The treasurer's report, which had been emailed to members earlier, was tabled for approval at the next meeting.

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 three telephone inquiries to the Council that were logged by Frankie Mewborn. One from Washington DC requested information on state tribes and specifically our study on the Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee. Nealie will respond to this request. Another call offered economic opportunities for Indians by means of improved telephone systems. A third call requested contact information for Georgia's state tribes. Tom Gresham reported that he responded to two of the telephone calls. Pamela Kirebow of Paulding County was concerned about rock piles on her property that might be Indian graves. Tom spoke to her at length about the complicated nature of such rock piles in northern Georgia. They are not threatened and she said she may un-pile one to see what is underneath. She assured Tom that if she saw anything suspicious, she would stop and call the Indian Council. The other call Tom dealt with was from a citizen who was concerned about the site that has been called the Nodoroc Mud Volcano in Barrow County. This derives from a less-than-scholarly history of Jackson County and seems very far-fetched, but as Tom explained, it has great resonance with the public. Tom recommended that the citizen work with the local historic society.

New Business

Annual Report. Tom Gresham reminded the group that our FY 2011 annual report to the Governor is now overdue. Tom agreed to work up a draft report before the next meeting, using the format that we have used for the past several years.

Election of Officers. It was noted that the Council has not been consistent with the election of officers and that procedures for such elections are not spelled out in our enabling legislation. It was decided that we would hold elections at our January meeting, after the two new members have attended the November meeting.

Ongoing Business:

Rules and Regulations. Nealie McCormick reported that according to Council advisor Linda Moye, the procedures for completing the Rules and Regulations are much simpler than we had previously been led to believe, and require no public hearings, only a posting. The remaining steps are being completed and our Rules and Regulations should be in effect shortly.

Floyd County/Georgia Power Site Issue. Tom Gresham reported that pursuant to the Council's August 2011 acceptance of the two archeological reports and response letter from the Georgia Power Company, and the approval of the minutes reflecting that acceptance in September, he mailed a summary letter and packet of supporting documentation to the landowners who had filed the complaint with the Indian Council. Tom also sent a copy of the packet to Georgia Power Company. Almost simultaneously, the Council received a Georgia Open Records Act request from the landowners that had been routed through GDNR. Tom related that the packet he sent should satisfy the request, and as far he knew, the case was now closed. The Council has not heard from the landowners since.

Indian Child Protection Seminar. Nealie reported that he was invited to participate in a legal seminar at Emory University regarding child protection laws as they affect Indian children in Georgia. The seminar involved attorneys dealing with various aspects of the child protection system, and one focus was on why so many Indian children get adopted outside of the Indian community.

Council Funding Procedures. MariaTeresa Tersigni-Tarrant (MT) led a follow-up discussion to the one held at our September meeting regarding the Council's funding of projects related to its mission. Council members had been asked to review draft versions of a grant application (or "description of services form") and a type of follow-up reporting form. It was agreed that the first form would need to be re-titled to something like "Description of Goods or Services". Otherwise, members felt the forms were good. MT clarified that the forms can be completed electronically or by printing out a paper copy. It was discussed and agreed that forms would be completed for every discretionary expenditure for goods and services, those that were proposed by outside entities and those that originated with the Council. In discussion of the proposal by Ralph Crews to purchase four computers for their tribe's public outreach program, Debbie Walsmith suggested that the Council might want to purchase the computers through state purchasing procedures, thus ensuring quality and competitive pricing. This is the procedure used by the Council in the past, for example, with the surveillance cameras for DNR Law

Enforcement. There were questions about whether this was proper procedure and if this would create liability issues for the Council.

After some discussion, it was concluded that the calendar for appropriating funds for goods and services would be:

January 5, 2012	Completed proposal forms due to Council
January 11, 2012	Proposals discussed at Council meeting
February 8, 2012	Final decisions made for allocating funds at Council meeting
February 28, 2012	Applicants notified of funding decisions
April 30, 2012	Invoices due to Council, with short progress report
August 1, 2012	Follow-up report due to Council
August 8, 2012	Follow-up reports discussed and evaluated at Council meeting

Announcements, Other Business

Nealie McCormick read a farewell letter from departed Council member Marilyn McGaughey.

Nealie McCormick mentioned that seven state-recognized tribes in Virginia were very likely to soon obtain federal recognition.

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

Visitors: Bryan Tucker, Debbie Walsmith, Eleri Tarrant