

# Meeting Minutes

FEBRUARY 10, 2014  
7:00 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis Maryland

Commission Name	Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs
Name of Commission Chair	Chair Thomas W. Windsor II
Commission Administrator/ Staff Present	Keith Colston, Administrative Director Jimmy Kwok, Director of Ethnic Commissions Agnes M. Smith, Project Coordinator
Guest Speakers	Jamie Salabogi, Maryland Environmental Trust Claud Bowen, Archeological Society of Maryland
List of Attendees	Chair Thomas W. Windsor II, Vice Chair Ashley Minner, Virginia Busby, Robert Killen, Leanora Winters
Absent	Patricia (Pat) Carson, Auriel Fenwick, Guy Wells

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Thomas W. Windsor II. Prayer Mr. Robert Gadjys. Commissioner Virginia Busby noted that the agenda for the meeting had been set. Motion for approval of minutes. Voting for approval of minutes would be through email. Chairman Windsor thanked everyone for being here.

## Topics

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR      E. KEITH COLSTON  
REPORT/ADVISORY COMMITTEE    ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Summary Of Discussion	Administrative Director Keith Colston introduced the New Ethnic Commissions Director, James, "Jimmy" Kwok. Mr. Colston stated that in the last month and through the following months the commission had interviews with radio stations and schools systems and universities to address cultural competency training. The annual report has been finalized and will be forwarded to the Department of Human Resources for final formatting and printing. The office will have a number of hard copies to provide to the commissioners and the public. The annual report will also be posted on the GOCI website. Mr. Colston noted that the Advisory Committee needed more active participation and that the cCommittee is helpful to Commission by identifying opportunities such as funding.		
Conclusions			
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM FOR THE      JAMIE SALABOGI  
MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL      VOLUNTEER PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
TRUST                                      MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

Summary Of Discussion	Ms. Salabogi introduced the Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) which is a unit of the Department of Natural Resources. They are a statewide land trust, one of the largest and most successful in the nation. The MET has preserved 130,000 acres all over Maryland. The MET uses conservation easement as a tool to help protect the land. Conservation easement is an agreement between a land owner and a land trust that permanently limits the uses of the land in order to protect its conservation value. Typical conservation values are: scenic view shed, scenic highway, wildlife habitat, water quality, historical and cultural
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	sites, protected agricultural land, forests, and shorelines. Each easement is different and tailored to the donor and landowners. Conservation easement limits the development of the land by limiting the number of residences, billboards, mining, and dumping. The benefits to the donor are: knowing that the land will remain in its current condition in perpetuity, enhancing the environment of the community and tax benefits. The donated land in a conservation easement is monitored on a yearly basis. The stewardship program is essential to helping monitoring the easements. Volunteers help to visit and assess the land. Other volunteers work in the MET office to assist with documents, mapping and writing articles. The tasks can be tailored to particular interests or skills.		
Conclusions			
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	

CLAUD BOWEN  
MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY MONTH ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF  
MARYLAND

Summary Of Discussion	Mr. Bowen notes that archeology has been important to the American Indian community with regard to reburials. Some Piscataway remains have been reburied those that haven't will be reburied where they came from. The process to rebury the remains has been slow and may take an act of Congress to be accomplished. Maryland Archeology Month is a joint effort between the Archeological Society of Maryland and the Department of Planning. Maryland Archeology Month in 2014 will cover reserving environments and landscapes important to indigenous peoples. Mr. Bowen invites the Commission to consider becoming a co-sponsor for Maryland Archeology Month.		
Conclusions			
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Summary Of Discussion	<p>Advisory Committee- Administrative Director Keith Colston stressed the importance and role of the Advisory Committee to the Commission. The Committee should be composed of representatives from different areas, such as education, housing, economic development, etc. The Committee should be able to make recommendations to the Commission as a whole. The Advisory Committee would be a cross-section of support for the Commission.</p> <p>Education Committee- Ms. Minner stated that data is due for Part I of the Federal Indian Education Grant. Local Educational Agencies in the State of Maryland are eligible as long as they have at least 10 Indian students or more than 25% of students enrolled in the school are Indian. The closing date for the grant is February 28 at 11:59 p.m. At this time only Baltimore City and Montgomery County have filed for funding. The program provides benefits for Indian youth.</p> <p>Sweat Lodge Committee-Administrative Director Colston on behalf of Commissioner Guy Wells noted that Secretary Gary Maynard who was</p>		
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	<p>involved with the Sweat Lodge Initiative is no longer with the State of Maryland in the Department of Public Safety &amp; Correctional Services. The Commission will reach out to the person who took his position and keep the conversation open.</p> <p>Recognition Advisory Committee-The Accohannock Petition. The Commission has received additional information that has been forwarded to the Attorney General's Office concerning the redaction of information that was requested by the Commissioners. When it has been redacted there will be comment period.</p>		
Conclusions			
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Summary Of Discussion	<p>Working Group- The group has been working on the reburial of remains discussed earlier by Mr. Bowen. The Committee seeks to develop protocols for future discoveries of remains. They will work with the Maryland Historical Trust and the Archeological Society of Maryland to move forward.</p> <p>John Smith Trail-The trail is working on a Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA) Program, which is a training program for docents to help lead tourism efforts. The Harriet Tubman trail has a model that can be followed and adapted for use. The program will be administered through the Park Service or Maryland Office of Tourism. They are also working on a Potomac River segment plan which the American Indian community is involved with, giving input on where access should be given. The American Indian community is invited to provide comments to the Park Service.</p> <p>Requests for Artists/Consultants-Requesting artists/consultants representing tribal groups to submit information for an online database. Needs assessment, so far one community has responded. The Commissioners should encourage communities to respond. Any type of information that can be provided is helpful.</p>			
	Conclusions	<p>Ms. Busby made the motion to co-sponsor Maryland Archeology Month. To support two symposiums held at Salisbury University, Nabb Center on April 12 from 1-4pm. The symposiums would cover indigenous landscapes. Mr. Killen seconded the motion. The motion was moved forward.</p>		
	Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	

**NEW BUSINESS**

Summary Of Discussion	<p>HB 40- American Indian Heritage Month. Others have been using the Commission as a resource to put forth information for the bill. There have been some technical changes to keep things consistent across the state.</p> <p>HB 41- Maryland Indian Status 1790 to 1900. To keep with Federal</p>		
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	regulations. 1790 is used because that is when the census was enacted. Tribal leaders support the bill. The Commission asked to act as a resource. GOCI provided support letters.		
Conclusions			
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline	

**ANNOUNCEMENTS-  
ADMINISTRATIVE**

Summary Of Discussion	Annual Report-The 2013 Annual Report has gone through all drafts and is with the graphic artist. The graphic artists will do the formatting so that the Annual Report can be posted to the website and printed.		
Conclusions			
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There was a discussion with the Commission and community on the time manner for request of support/comments especially for legislation.

**Announcements**

Basketry Project scheduled for April 26, 2014

Commissioner Leanora Winters – spoke to NAACP who has been working on the issue of racial sterotype, etc. for more than 10 years (Commission stand on mascots).

There was also mention about the Piscataway Award Program and talk on War of 1812.

Vice Chair Ashley Minner – Speaking on panel at UMBC “Constructing Heritage” February 18, 2014 @ 5:00 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn

1<sup>st</sup> Commissioner Robert Killen/2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioner Guy Wells

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.