

## **Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs Minutes**

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Accokeek Branch

15773 Livingston Road

Accokeek, Maryland

**Chair:** Lisa A. Savoy

**Staff Present:** E. Keith Colston

**Commissioners Present:** Chair Lisa Savoy, Vice Chair Ashley Minner, Donna Abbott, Bob Gajdys, Robert Killen, Rebecca Stone, Leanora E. Winters

**Commissioners Absent:** Virginia Busby, Rico Newman

Chair Lisa Savoy called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

### **Minutes**

#### **Administrative Director's Report**

E. Keith Colston

Administrative Director Colston's report gave a synopsis of the meetings attended, festivals, conference calls, site visits, etc. since the previous meeting.

#### **Advisory Committee Report**

Chair Lisa Savoy

The Advisory Committee has not met as of yet.

#### **Educational Committee**

Chair Ashley Minner

Chair Ashley Minner spoke new committee members being recruited, and they join through a formal process that involves nomination and review. Chair Minner has heard back from the new contact at MSDE, Mr. Bruce Lesh. He is trying to locate materials generated by the MCIA/MSDE collaboration. All he's found so far are some lesson plans for a 2012 event. Gave contact for a teacher involved at the time, Ms. Mary Davis. She noted that Commissioner Rico Newman is working on a system to apprise Maryland's tribal communities via MCIA of education offerings throughout the State, such as Native Studies courses. Dr. Dennis Seymour will share the Native Studies curriculum that is in place at CCBC. It was noted that 1/3 of Indian student population from Baltimore City meets the definition of "homeless." These same students get to college and find themselves with no resources. Dr. Seymour has been providing assistance to these students at CCBC and connecting them on individual basis to resources. Trainings for teachers at NMAI interest are very low. Trains are on Saturdays at NMAI at a nominal fee. Title VII Indian Education Baltimore City's Program has relocated from Patterson High School to the Baltimore American Indian Center; Charles County's coordinator is still on maternity leave; Montgomery County no longer has an Indian Education program. Chair Minner and Administrative Director Colston plan to meet with Baltimore County Public Schools

representative to encourage an application this year. Any other districts in the State with 10 or more Indian students should consider applying. A former Title VII Indian Education program student from Baltimore City has been chosen to participate in the “My Brother’s Keeper” Program at the White House.

Chair Ashley Minner has been contacted by a White House representative in reference to Native high school students in the State of Maryland. Will advise as things develop.

### **Archaeology and Environment Committee Report**

Commissioner Virginia Busby report through e-mail: **Land and Water Conservation Fund** research next actions from conservation organization leaders. Write Congressional reps now; **Latex Spill into Potomac** proposed to contact MDE, Potomac Conservancy to get better information. Engage in dialog to identify next actions for prevention instead of clean-up and lament; **Water Quality** proposed to write letters to show recognition of contributions to our healthy Maryland and region, Hoff Dairy Farmers manure containment support from NRCS, Environmental Quality Incentives program, 2-stage ditch to control run-off, Delmarva Land and Litter Challenge initiative to support farms in controlling nutrient pollution, and Hurlock Farm growing a nitrogen-fixing grass that chicken farmers can use as base of chicken houses that can combine with chicken waste for multiple water quality benefits; **MD Dept of Environment** proposed to have speaker come to December meeting for an update on topics and ways to engage; **Environmental Employment for students**; Attended Chesapeake Conservation Partnership Meeting October 5-6, updates on the NPS use of the indigenous cultural landscape concept were provided; Chesapeake Bay Program/Chesapeake Bay Agreement/Diversity Action Team call of DAT on October 8. Noted organization would be a good partner for tribes; Section 106 Consultation materials on project website; MD 355/Bridge 100840 SHA Phase II results are archaeological investigation by State Highways; **Endangered Indigenous Landscape Initiative** MCIA in 2013 got 12 landscapes identified and successfully nominated to Preservation Maryland’s Most Endangered Maryland list. Discussed maintaining a dynamic list annually that adds to the existing list; **Bald Friar Petroglyph Exhibit** communicated with State Parks about one out of a series of dates to have an exhibit debut that would include indigenous people; and **John Smith Chesapeake NHT** the Potomac Segment Plan is complete and the implementation phase will begin.

### **Economic and Social Welfare Committee**

Commissioner Robert Killen

### **Budget and Finance Committee**

Commissioner Robert Gajdys noted that with Business Committee Member Rico Newman a discussion was held per referral from MCIA Chair Savoy for the Business Committee to determine a source of funds to develop means for Native communities to promote and sustain their presence in the State of Maryland. He noted that pages 51 thru 56 Maryland Register Volume 37, Issue 16, July 30, 2010 denoting regulations pertaining to a grants program administered in a partnership Maryland Historical Trust and the African American Commission under the authority of COMAR 13B.02.04. Proposal for a similar Grant Funding Program be established to make available to State, County Government and Native non-profit groups means

to develop and administer programs and projects relative to Maryland Native history, culture, traditions, language, education and economic development to empower Maryland Native communities that they may pursue means in promoting long term community capacity and empowerment. The next step is to acquire State Senate and/or House support for legislation to this end.

### **Health, Mental Health and Budget & Finance Committee**

Commissioner Rebecca Johnson-Stone

Commissioner Rebecca Johnson-Stone noted no meetings were conducted since last MCIA meeting. The Native Round Table is postponed until additional meetings with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) are conducted along with other community outreach coordinators and tribal leaders.

### **Unfinished Business**

Vote for Native American Funding Program

It was noted that an official letter was forwarded to Executive Director Steven McAdams concerning the Watershed Project.

### **New Business**

PSA's

Condolence letter for Delegate James Proctor from MCIA

### **Commission/Commissioner Announcements to the Public**

#### **Invited Guest Speaker**

**Ms. Kerry Wixted, Wildlife Biologist, Department of Natural Resources**

Ms. Kerry Wixted gave a presentation on the Wildlife and Heritage Service Program at the Department of Natural Resources. The website for DNR: [www.dnr.maryland.gov](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov)

### **Public Announcements**

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.