



GEORGIA COUNCIL ON AMERICAN INDIAN CONCERNS MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 23, 2024

Time: 11:30am

Meeting called to order by: Nealie McCormick

INVOCATION

Led by Rhonda Bennett

Council Members Present

Nealie McCormick, Chairman
Donald Kirkland, Vice Chairman
Rhonda Bennett
Heidi Altman
Royce McCrary
Paul Brannen
Terry Raber
Frank Williams
Christian Dane – Program Manager (non-member)

Guests Present

Vonnie McCormick
Natalie Green, Georgia DFCS
Dr. Edward Lo, Georgia Southern University
Matthew Popkin, Georgia Tech

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes for the meeting on September 23, 2024, were distributed for review. Heidi Altman moved to accept minutes; Rhonda Bennett seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TRIBE REPORTS

Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe: Provided by Chief Vonnie McCormick.

- Had meeting with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Elder's Council, provided updates about greenhouses and expressed that communication from NRCS and USDA has been lacking.
- Met with Dr. Josiah Hester from Georgia Tech to discuss the carbon and chuli project.
- Met with pharmaceutical company specializing in colostomy and ileostomy equipment. Partnership with tribe possible in which a factory may be built on tribal grounds.
- Has meeting schedule with Dr. Hund from Grady County about a water project.
- School days will take place on Oct. 17-18 in which children come to the tribal grounds to work with tribe.
- Secure Records Solutions and Valdosta State University to visit tribal grounds on October 4th to discuss records project with tribe.



Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee: Provided by Co-Chief Rhonda Bennett.

- In process of updating tribe's roll.
- Working with the University of North Georgia to create historical videos for archives.
- Working with City of Dahlonega on building a park with educational information about tribe.
- Starting two classes in 2025 for teenagers and younger children on history of tribe.

Cherokee of Georgia Tribal Council: Provided by Paul Brannen.

- Thanked Council for condolence card and read card aloud to tribe regarding passing of Tribal Mother.
- Fall Powwow coming up Oct. 3-5.
- Tribal adoption issue taken care of via Christian connecting tribe with appropriate people at DFCS.

PRESENTATIONS

Christian Dane demonstrates how to use the interactive maps on the Council's website. The maps illustrate the number of American Indian/Alaska Native people in each of Georgia's State Senate districts and House of Representatives districts.

PROJECT REPORTS

Discussion was had on current and potential projects to include:

- A) DNR State Parks and Historic Sites Potential Project(s)
- B) Rock Eagle Signage
- C) Jekyll Island Foundation Archaeological Research
- D) Georgia Tech School of Public Policy Task Force Project
- E) Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe digitization of records.

BUSINESS

Heidi Altman moves to support the digitization, metadata creation, and creation of institutional repository, and server storage of records for the Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe with Council funds not to exceed \$25,000. Rhonda Bennett seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christian Dane shared that Dr. Frank Williams and Dr. Maureen Meyers have recently been appointed to the Council by Governor Kemp.

Christian Dane reminded the Council of the next meeting on November 2nd to take place in Stone Mountain.

Donald Kirkland asked the tribal leaders to begin working on Christmas wish lists of the children in their tribes to present to the Atlanta Braves.

ADJOURNMENT

Terry Raber moved to adjourn meeting. Heidi Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:24pm.