



GEORGIA COUNCIL ON AMERICAN INDIAN CONCERNS MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 24, 2025

Time: 11:34am

Meeting called to order by: Nealie McCormick

INVOCATION

Led by Royce McCrary

Council Members Present

Nealie McCormick, Chairman
Donald Kirkland, Vice Chairman
Rhonda Bennett
Maureen Meyers
Royce McCrary
Christian Dane – Program Manager (non-member)

Guests Present

Vonnie McCormick
Amanda Murphy, Georgia DHS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes for the meeting on January 27, 2025, were distributed for review. Royce McCrary moved to accept minutes; Rhonda Bennett seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TRIBE REPORTS

Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe: Provided by Chief Vonnie McCormick.

1. Upcoming Events:
 - Youth camp from June 9-13
 - School days on October 16-17
 - All-night sing on October 17
 - Powwow on October 18-19
2. Project Collaborations:
 - Meeting with UGA on aquaponics system
 - Ongoing meetings with Georgia Tech on the Cule project
 - Working with Alabama Indian Affairs Commission on facility standards



3. Community Initiatives:

- Continuing record digitization efforts
- Attended Georgia State Council of Machinist of the International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers meeting to discuss tribal obstacles and hopes
- Participating in State Independent Living Council
- Hosting bi-weekly community lunch meetings with Bible study

4. Other Activities:

- Zoom meeting with US Department of Health and Human Services about bird flu
- Obtained barcode approval for tribal photo IDs for voting
- Working on a MOU with Boy Scouts
- Held first ceremony of 2025
- Conducted member survey to plan monthly classes

Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee: Provided by Rhonda Bennett

1. Interactions with Other Groups:

- Met with Johnny Chattin at his request and that of state leadership
- Noted that Chickamauga historically went on Cherokee rolls after the Revolutionary War

2. Upcoming Events:

- Tribal annual meeting on May 17
- Council meeting at 12:00pm at the office
- Invited speakers include Steve Gooze, Will Wade, Mike Shannon from University of North Georgia, and JB

3. Tribal Membership:

- Gained a couple of new members who left Lamar Snead's group and qualified under the Guion Miller roll
- Discussed keeping the Cherokee Rose as part of their history

4. Ongoing Projects:

- Working on new membership cards with Bonnie Glenn
- Starting a new website and social media presence

Cherokee of Georgia Tribal Council: Provided by Christian Dane on behalf of Paul Brannen.

- Annual Spring Powwow taking place April 3-5, 2025
- All books delivered for cultural education program



PROJECT REPORTS

Discussion was had on current projects below.

- A) Physical Records Transfer to Georgia Archives:
 - Submitted paperwork for an independent contractor from Georgia Southern
 - Paperwork is still in processing on its way to the state accounting office
 - Hopeful for completion in the next month or so
 - Record boxes and folders already delivered to Georgia Southern
- B) Native Sites Project (Partnership for Inclusive Innovation):
 - Selected top two intern candidates who have accepted positions
 - Interns will work from May 12 to August 1
 - Maureen Meyers is helping develop the project syllabus
 - Plan to include site visits to locations like northwest Georgia and Ocmulgee
- C) Jekyll Island Archeological Project:
 - Completed analyzing and cataloging 22-24 boxes
 - Documented over 20,000 artifacts, including 9,000 bone artifacts
 - Anticipate completing documentation by end of their fiscal year (June)
 - Still confirming whether artifacts point to Native American origins
- D) Missing Persons Day:
 - Tabled for this year due to inability to secure a venue
 - Will continue communication with Mark Pooley from the Center for Human Identification

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

- A) Updated council website
- B) Reviewed Delano Road development project
- C) Coordinated with Hart County Museum about potential artifact housing

BUSINESS

- A) Rhonda Bennett moved to proceed with adding its recommended guidelines for state recognition of Indian tribes, adopted in an official session on October 10th, 2001, into the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia. Maureen Meyers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Next Meeting is May 17 in Dahlonega at noon
- B) Discussed legislative updates, specifically HB 423, SR 272, and HR 208
- C) Native American All-Star Showcase hosted by Atlanta Braves at Truist Park June 19-22
- D) Georgia Tribe Night is August 9th at Truist Park
- E) Archeology Day at New South Associates May 3, 2025 from 10:00am to 2:00pm.



ADJOURNMENT

Royce McCrary moved to adjourn meeting. Maureen Meyers seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:48pm.