



GEORGIA COUNCIL ON AMERICAN INDIAN CONCERNS MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 17, 2025

Time: 12:00pm

Meeting called to order by: Nealie McCormick

INVOCATION

Led by Royce McCrary

Council Members Present

Nalie McCormick, Chairman
Rhonda Bennett
Royce McCrary
Heidi Altman
Terry Raber
Frank Williams
Christian Dane – Program Manager (non-member)

Guests Present

Chief Vonnie McCormick, Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe
Terri Dension, Small Business Administration
Rosemarie Drake, Small Business Administration
Norberta Pendleton, Equal Employment Opportunity
Commission
Tribal Council, Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes for the meeting on March 24, 2025, were distributed for review. Terry Raber moved to accept minutes; Rhonda Bennett seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TRIBE REPORTS

Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe: Provided by Chief Vonnie McCormick.

1. Meetings held with USDA and National Resources Conservation Service on the elders' board, seeking new members
2. Tribal pastor passed and leading to Chief McCormick handling some church-related matters
3. Working with Roy James of Secure Records Solutions to collect and organize records in the vault
4. Ongoing tribal council meetings to review five-year plan
5. Zoom meeting with Indian Health Services about potential urban Indian health care clinic locations
6. Preparing for a powwow on October 18-19
7. Attending the National Congress treaty workshop
8. Holding Second Berry ceremony



9. Organizing a youth camp from June 9-13 with 16 youth, featuring activities like: Pottery - Archery - Muskogee language - Stick ball - Stomp dancing - Bead work - Basket making - Corn shuck dolls - Henna tattoos
10. Collaborating with the Ma-Chis tribe on language classes
11. Coordinating with the Alzheimer's group for literature distribution and training

Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee: Provided by Rhonda Bennett

1. Preparing for their heritage center
2. Setting up education initiatives
 - a. Working on implementing stomp dancing to education program

Cherokee of Georgia Tribal Council: No report provided.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentations were delivered by Terri Denison of the Small Business Administration and Norberta Pendleton of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

PROJECT REPORTS

Discussion was had on current projects below.

- A) Native Sites Project (Partnership for Inclusive Innovation):
- Maureen Meyers created syllabus and seeking feedback from Council
 - Interns have begun project and off to a great start

BUSINESS

- A) Royce McCrary moves to approve the funding request in the amount of \$11,000 by the State Parks and Historic Sites Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for the following:
- a. Programming supplies for Sweetwater Creek State, Kolomoki Mounds, and Fort King George.
 - b. Heirloom Seeds for the Indigenous Garden at Wormsloe State Historic Site.
 - c. A new AV system for film at Etowah Indian Mounds State Historic Site.

Motion seconded by Heidi Altman. Motion carried unanimously.

- B) Heidi Altman moves to approve the proposed program manager contract assigned to Christian Dane for fiscal year 2026 to begin July 1, 2025, and concluded on June 30, 2026. Motion seconded by Rhonda Bennett. Motion carried unanimously.
- C) Terry Raber moves to adopt Rule 45-2-.04, the recommended guidelines for state recognition of Indian tribes, into the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia. Motion seconded by Rhonda Bennett. Motion carried unanimously.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Next meeting scheduled for July 28
- B) Georgia Tribe Night on August 9
- C) Native American All-Star Showcase hosted by Atlanta Braves from June 19-22
- D) Planning session and Council meeting at Sapelo Island from September 11-13.

ADJOURNMENT

Rhonda Bennett moved to adjourn meeting. Motion seconded by Royce McCrary. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:06pm.