



GEORGIA COUNCIL ON AMERICAN INDIAN CONCERNS MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 24, 2026

Time: 11:30am

Meeting called to order by: Nealie McCormick

INVOCATION

Led by Vonnie McCormick

Council Members Present

Nealie McCormick, Chairman
Heidi Altman
Maureen Meyers
Terry Raber
Paul Brannen
Oretta Kirkland
Frank Williams
Christian Dane – Program Manager (non-member)
Donald Kirkland – Senior Advisor (non-member)

Guests Present

Caroline Beigel, PIN
Anesha Slaton, Yamacree-Guale Nation of Georgia
Chief Moon Hawk, Yamacree-Guale Nation of Georgia
Amanda Murphy, DFCS Policy Unit

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes for the meeting on February 26, 2026, were distributed for review. Maureen Meyers moved to accept minutes; Oretta Kirkland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TRIBE REPORTS

Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe: Provided by Chief Vonnie McCormick.

1. Youth Camp & Cultural Activities

- Planning an upcoming youth camp for June 8–12.
- Planned activities include Pottery making, Talking sticks, Fire starter kits, Canoe making, Agriculture, Stickball, Stomp dancing, Basket and net making for fishing, Archery, Additional activities still being developed.

2. Powwow

- Planning an upcoming powwow, scheduled for October 16–18.



3. Interns and Greenhouse Work

- Tribe approved for two interns from Partnership for Innovation this year:
 - They will work on technology in the greenhouses.
- Continuing work in greenhouses.
- Applied for a food sovereignty grant.
- Working on raising Shrimp, Catfish, Bluegill, Chickens

4. Vocational Rehabilitation & Training

- The State of Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation has signed an MOU with the tribe.
- Several meetings held; ongoing collaboration.
- Planning cross-training for counselors.

5. Education, History, and Outreach

- Working with the City of Albany on Muskogee history content for schools.
- Gadsden County, Florida grant writers have approached her to help with Muskogee history for use in that county.
- Continuing language classes, with plans to expand to citizens off-reservation and out of state.

6. Government, Policy, and Advocacy

- Attended a consultation with:
 - U.S. Department of Education
 - Department of the Interior
- Continues to serve on the USDA NRCS Elderly Council board:
 - Raised concerns that Georgia Natives are being ignored and stressed continued advocacy.

7. Census & Data

- Attending several census meetings.
- Emphasized the need for strong census participation.

8. Health, Disability, and International Briefings

- Attended a national meeting on vision and hearing loss with the Elder Blind Technology Center in Albuquerque, NM.
- Attended a briefing with the Israeli consulate about current events, urging everyone to be in prayer for the situation.

9. Ceremonies and Community Life

- Held the First Berry ceremony on Saturday



Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee: No report provided.

Cherokee of Georgia Tribal Council: Provided by Mr. Paul Brannen.

- Main focus is the upcoming Powwow taking place April 2-4.
- Signed an agreement with a local Boy Scout Troop.

BUSINESS

- A) Oretta Kirkland moved to approve the allocation of \$5,000 to Georgia Partnership for Innovation. Terry Raber seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- B) Terry Raber moved to allocate \$5,000 to Birds Georgia. Maureen Meyers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Next Council meeting on May 2nd at Tama Tribal Town
- B) Smithgall Woods State Park – October 9-11, 2026
- A) DeKalb County Missing Persons Day at Avondale Estates Town Green: May 17th

ADJOURNMENT

Oretta Kirkland moved to adjourn meeting. Motion seconded by Maureen Meyers. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:01pm.