



The Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs

Conference Call/Virtual (COVID-19 protocols)

Meeting Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZclf-CqrD8pGNASH0Y8E-lQhVvBX8r94I8p>

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Monday, February 07, 2022

Meeting Minutes

I. Commissioner Attendance

Donna Abbott	Member	N
Sherry L. Ayers	Madam Chair	Y
Claude A Bowen	Vice Chair	Y
Peter Brooks	Member	N
Kerry Hawk-Lessard	Member	Y
Tiara Thomas	Member	Y
Stanley Thompson	Member	Y
Guy Wells	Member	Y

GOCI/MCIA Staff:

E. Keith Colston, Director Ethnic Commissions/Admin. Director of MCIA
Cheryl Madigan, Project Coordinator – Ethnic Commissions
Christina Poy, Administrative Director of APAA & SAAA Commissions

II. Call to Order and Welcome Remarks – MCIA Sherry Ayers

Madam Chair Sherry Ayers called meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Invocation: Commissioner Guy Wells

Presenters: Kari Sprengeler – Cultural Resources Local Programs Lead – MDOT
Maria Day – Director, Special Collections & Conservation – Maryland State Archives

III. Administrative Report – Administrative Director E. Keith Colston

Governor's Office of Community Initiatives updates:

- a. Covid-19 - Confirmed Cases over 965,000 - Tested Negative 7,116,000 - Testing Volumes 180,000 - Testing Positivity Rate is at 6.1 percent - Current Hospitalization 1,153 and Confirmed Deaths at 13,486
- b. Maryland 250 Commission – Director Keith Colston is now serving as a representative for the MCIA on this commission and the next meeting will be on February 14, 2022. He has been asked to be part of the Executive Committee and he will be presenting a written welcoming remark on behalf of MCI. He also will be contacting a variety of individuals to assist him in some of those comments by making sure that we involve as much as the voice of tribal people, tribal leaders, or tribal representatives as much as possible.
- c. Director Keith Colston has address around 46 events meetings or priority correspondence of emails with a variety of entities. Leola University Maryland Initiative/Partnership, Maryland Developmental Trust w/John Turgeon, Conference in March of 2022 in Baltimore City with the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, in Baltimore City, Garrett Community College Initiative. Upcoming meetings with the Maryland 250 on 02/14, University of Maryland on 02/11 and with Garrett College of Maryland on 02/11 and Reimagine Middle Branch.

- d. Madam Chair Sherry Ayers informed the commission that The Baltimore City Community reached out and wanted to know if GOCI or the State of Maryland can help the tribal communities with donations of masks. The Baltimore American Indian Center is in need additional masks.
- e. Commissioner Kerry Hawk-Lessard sits on the Minority Health and Health Disparities Committee for the state and has raised the issue of data and why it's not collected. She received a comment from Dr. Mann that our numbers are too small, and they are statistically problematic to report. There needs to be a discussion with legislators about a specific piece of legislation that requires inclusion.
Director Keith Colston stated that this is an opportunity for tribal communities to play a larger role by making those same types of requests and referrals of what we'd like to see as far as tribal people here in the state. In a legislative manner, and this is where we can use our greatest strength as a state commission. He suggested that if you do serve on a tribal council or are a tribal representative or a tribal leader that you could assist in contacting those who represent you and making this change take place.

IV. Motions: Approval of Minutes:

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote	
Approval of the Minutes for the 12-06-2021 Meeting	Claude Bowen	Guy Wells	4Y-0N-0A	

V. [Old] Business –

- 1) Webinar – Tribal Leaders Concerning Survey Tribal Youth Entrance to Higher Education
The Educational Committee going to head up and Madam Chair Ayers will discuss this with Commissioner Thomas outside of the meeting.

VI. [New] Business –

- 1) **Initiatives in Partnering with Loyola University Maryland:**
Director Keith Colston - The meeting was an opportunity once again for new initiatives to be created. This is an opportunity for a future location for our kickoff. To initiate perhaps to create summer internships, a variety of ideas that you also expressed during that meeting concerning our youth. Madam Chair Sherry Ayers – The meeting consisted of talk about Outreach, and the fact is that they haven't done any outreach to the tribal communities. She would like them work with our educational committee and making sure that our children are invited to their college.
- 2) **Tribal Community Database(s)**
Director Keith Colston - The reason to have databases is that things come up throughout the year like AIHM, items concerning small businesses, artists, entrepreneurs, speakers, land acknowledgement or agriculture. This would benefit tribal communities, the people of Maryland, as well as the people outside of Maryland. It would also benefit us when we are called upon other States to be representatives/advisors. He would like to request all the commissioners to go back to the tribal communities and tribal representatives and start pulling this information together. This database should consist of names (contacts) that have continuity and expertise. MCIA will then be able to send individuals to those entities.
- 3) National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, Conference March 19-23, 2022
Director Keith Colston - A packet of information has been requested that we can put up on the website that people can go to. They will be contacting each of the tribal communities on their own and it's going to be done virtually. They have reached out to entities like the Baltimore American Indian Center, so please return that phone call or email. One of the main highlights is that they are inviting people to be there on Sunday and present their tribal flags, during this event.
Madam Chair Sherry Ayers – This conference, which is held every year, but is held in a

different state, and they want to honor indigenous people within that state. The contact there is Tiffany Smith, and she did reach out to us, and she wants us to be a part of their opening ceremony and bring your tribal flag.

4) Legislative Session

Director Keith Colston – This is when laws are passed. If there are any permanent legislative situations that do impact us directly as tribal communities, this will be brought to the attention of the commission. All of this is public information, so please involve yourselves in the legislative process that is taking place in our State.

5) MCIA Elections

Director Keith Colston - We need to select a date by either the chair or the majority of the commissioners, as well as the executive director of the GOCI.

6) Scheduling Strategic Planning Session II

New date will be Saturday, February 26, 2022.

VII. Committee Reports –

1. Advisory Committee – No updated report provided.
2. Educational Committee – No updated report provided.
3. Health and Mental Health Committee – No updated report provided.
4. Archaeology Committee – Vice Chair Claude Bowen provided his report.
5. Budget and Finance Committee – No updated report provided.
6. Working Group – No updated report provided.
 - a) Historical Sites and Tourism
 - b) COMAR Regulations for Maryland Indian Status

I. Public Announcements on future community events

Commissioner Kerry Hawk-Lessard – She is working with the Piscataway Conoy Tribe to work with Maryland Vaccine Equity Task Force and the Maryland National Guard to get a vaccine clinic in Waldorf. It looks to be on March 1, 2022. Hopefully it will provide vaccines for the Adults and Peds. They did have two vaccine clinics completed, one in Howard County and one in Baltimore County. Unfortunately, there were three COVID deaths in the last 60 days among the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, which was required to be reported to the Indian Health Service. Commissioner Hawk-Lessard will be sharing this information.

Director Keith Colston – He has been in touch with previous commissioner, Virginia Busby and that he will be assisting and working with members of the Maryland Park Rangers. They are looking for public and people acknowledgements concerning indigenous peoples and their communities. This is in reference to the Maryland Parks and is in conjunction with the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park and Blackwater. There's a variety of things that are being done by other entities and park rangers, who would like to see tribal involvement. He will be working with them to provide them as much data and information from MCIA and pointing them in direction of travel communities.

II. Adjournment

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote	Adjourn: 8:01 p.m.
Adjourn	Kerry Hawk-Lessard	Claude Bowen	5Y-0N-0A	