



The Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs

Conference Call/Virtual (COVID-19 protocols)

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Monday, April 4, 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	Y
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
Winston Wilkinson, Chief of Staff of GOCI
Cheryl Madigan, Project Coordinator – Ethnic Commissions of GOCI
Christina Poy, Administrative Director of APAA & SAAA Commissions
Maureen Regan, GCO Communications Director

Guests:

Lynne Bulhack, Virginia Busby, David Arment, Chief Jessie Swann, Megan Crayon and Maria Day

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

Madam Chair Sherry Ayers called meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Invocation: Commissioner Peter Brooks

III. Chief of Staff - Winston Wilkinson introduced GCO Communication's Director Maureen Regan.

If you have any questions concerning communications, please contact her at maureen.regan@maryland.gov

IV. Guest Presenters –

- a. Kari Sprengeler – Cultural Resources Local Programs Lead – MDOT
- b. Sharon Lipford, LCSW-C and Stephanie Slowly, Director, Systems Management - MDH c/o Maryland Behavioral Health Crisis System.
- c. Ryan Koon - Folklife Specialist from MSAC c/o MSAC Land Acknowledgement Project.
- d. Angela Stoltz – College of Education – University of MD, College Park
 - i. Maryland Indigenous Higher Education Alliance: Update from group
- e. Stephanie T. Sperling, M.A.A., Senior Archaeologist – Dept of Parks & Recreation, P.G. Co. and Dr. Ryan Harrod, Dean of Academic Affairs – Garrett College c/o CfMA - Council for Maryland Archaeology

REMARKS: Vice Chair Bowen informed CfMA that they are offering free for any native American person self-identifying to all of our fuel sessions. We also do this for our symposium, our workshops.
Commissioner Kerry Hawk-Lessard spoke out as a medical anthropologist, which is her area of practice is to

looking at the way of invisibility, it is a type of trauma that impacts wellness in native communities. At her job with Native American Lifelines, they have a youth group, and she would like to assist in any way. She thinks these things are important, being able to bring younger native people in to see that this is a career possibility for them and encouraging them to pursue social sciences.

Madam Chair Ayers suggested that Ryan Harrod and Stephanie Sperling attend a youth-teenager group event, she thinks that would be a great opportunity for them to learn more about archaeology.

Commission Tiara Thomas would like to get involved to bring this information to the youths in the middle and high school range, which she informed CfMA that she is a Chair member for the Charles County-Title 6 Indian Education program. She would also like this information get out to all the tribal communities.

V. Administrative Report – Administrative Director E. Keith Colston

He attended 28 meetings between our last public meeting, and four major events. Those four events were for representing as the Administrative Director for the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs and Director of the Ethnic Commissions. Out of those meetings he had 209 email correspondents were sent. Relate to, yet not limited to the following, Maryland Emergency Management Agency, MDOT executive briefings from the Office of the Governor, Larry Hogan, Maryland State Department of Education and a weekly health resource. These emails correspondents that either would have went out to you or to various individuals that I work with.

VI. Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives Updates

a. Covid-19

Confirmed Cases over 1,013,396 – Total Testing Volumes 19,648,184 - Testing % Positive Rate is at 1.77 percent - Confirmed Deaths at 14,097 and Current Hospitalization 131. For the official record concerning the by race and ethnicity, that native Americans still are not position as other ethnicities are in reference to the data that is on the website.

b. Maryland 250 Commission

Director Colston informed us that the Commission had a tour of the State House Building. They gather some information concerning some upcoming events that they’re going to work on. They were forwarded the bylaws of the Commission. There was some funding that was provided to in the budget for the Commission itself. Director Colston informed the meeting guests that was attended or was listening by phone, which they were witnessing the conduction of the business of the Commission, that the MD 250 Commission needs to have a very strong voice, and information is going to be provided, representing tribal communities in the tribal history relating to the formation of Maryland itself. So, therefore, Director Colston will be encouraging and advising after tonight's meeting that there be a special working group to be established. This will require consultation with tribal leaders and community members. Those who have a skill set that can help us out and providing some needed information, that will go along with all the information that will be provided by a variety of hosts, entities and skilled individuals that are serving, not only on the commission or assisting the Commission. This will be going for the next 4 years and moving into the year 2026. There's a lot of to be done to make sure, that our voices are heard, and the information supplied is to the best of our abilities.

VII. Motions: Approval of Minutes:

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote	
Approval of the Minutes for the 02-07-2022 Meeting	Claude Bowen	Kerry Hawk-Lessard	7Y-0N-0A	

VIII. [Old] Business –

a. MCIA Election Results

Actual results were Madam Chair Sherry Ayers and Vice Chair Claude Bowen ran unopposed. Therefore, both will be re-elected in their positions and will serve for another year as chair and vice chair.

b. Strategic Planning Session 2022

Director Colston spoke about changes for our kickoff event, which is held in the beginning of November. Those changes consist of the awards aspect and the dates and times. Our annual theme, instead of it being just a sentence, they are words that will help to represent not only what we put forth as a commission, but also representing the tribal communities. As for the bylaws and the thirty-day rule concerning any amendments, changes, deletions add-ons, we have past that threshold, and so you have the opportunity vote on those changes and that will be presented on our website.

c. National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. Conference held on March 19-23, 2022

Director Colston said the representation for the Piscataway was well received and Commission Brooks agreed. Director Colston is looking forward to ongoing relationships and partnerships with them due to education and opportunities for us to engage them not only in Maryland, but in other parts of the country. NASPA moves their conference each year from one place to another, but we know where it is being held through 2024. They have invited MCIA and GOCI to continue with this partnership as well as partnering on with some future endeavors. Madam Chair Ayers informed us that one of our contacts for NASPS is Miss Smith. She chairs the American Indian and Science Engineering. If you know of women/indigenous women in the stem program, Miss Smith is looking for some collaborations in that area. If you know of women in science, engineering, or technology, please email Madam Chair Ayers with that information. She is a definite relationship that we want to continue with. Commission Peter Brooks said the Aces presentation at the event was an extremely powerful program, and for native students could finish and go on to advance degrees, and it only 2 or 4 people. If there are any schools that that could use this program, it's tremendous in terms of the mentorship and the number of resources that are given to the students and some funding comes from Maryland, the Jack Kent Cook Foundation.

d. Webinar–Tribal Leaders Concerning Survey Tribal Youth Entrance to Higher Ed – This was tabled.

e. Initiatives in Partnering with Loyola University Maryland

Director Colston that we have yet to confirm April 18th or April 25th for our next meeting that will entail the points of contact.

f. Initiatives Ongoing

Director Colston mentioned that he should be meeting with Susan Thomas from the Anne Arundel County Food Bank next week. One ongoing initiative is working with Commissioner Thomas on the project of working with the Indian Education Directors in reference to the school supplies that we have in storage with Broadway, which we have an MOU. We will be getting those items together, and how decide how we can distribute to the three Indian Education programs.

g. Legislative Session – N/A

IX. New] Business –

a. See Strategic Planning Session (VII., b.) SEE VIII - B

b. Approval of changes to the Bylaws

Motions: Approval of By-law Changes:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote	
Approval of the By-law changes from the SPS meeting II	Claude Bowen	Kerry Hawk-Lessard	7Y-0N-0A	

X. 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

XI. Public Announcements on future community events

Director Colston mentioned the 30th Annual Native American Festival - September 17th and 18th at Ball Field, Vienna, Maryland. This is reference to the Nause Waiwash Band of Indians on the Eastern Shore. He will be in touch with Virginia Busby concerning the Montgomery County Parks Indigenous Interpretation Project. Commissioner Peter Brooks mentioned the Howard County Powwow in July 2022 is a go.

I. Adjournment

Motion	1st	2nd	Vote	Adjourn: 8:30 p.m.
Adjourn	Peter Brooks	Kerry Hawk-Lessard	7Y-0N-0A	