



The Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs

Conference Call/Virtual (COVID-19 protocols)

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Monday, October 3, 2022

Meeting Minutes

I. Commissioner Attendance:

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

GOCI/MCIA Staff:

E. Keith Colston, Director Ethnic Commissions/Admin. Director of MCIA
Cheryl Madigan, Project Coordinator – Ethnic Commissions of GOCI
Maureen Regan, Communications Director of GCO

Guests:

Gabriel Ortiz, Virginia Busby, Rico Newman and John Smith

II. Call to Order and Welcome Remarks – MCIA Claude Bowen

Vice Chair Claude Bowen called meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

III. Invocation: Commissioner Guy Wells

III. Guest Presenters:

a. Kari Sprengeler – Cultural Resources Local Programs Lead – MDOT

k.sprengeler@mdot.maryland.gov

The archaeological monitoring that we've recently conducted along Maryland State Route 5 and Point Lookout State Park in St. Mary's County has been largely completed in August. The bulk of it, is done. They didn't find any evidence of the cemetery or burials. The report you will receive shortly, will state these findings. The Ever-present Managed Lane study, which is the one on I495 and I270, the record of decision was recently signed by the Federal highway administration, which means for the Commissioners that you soon will be seeing the archaeological treatment plan for your review and comments. This will go out to all the consulting parties, including the commission. After that's been reviewed and approved, they'll start the actual archaeological excavations, and you'll start seeing reports coming your way for review and comments for those specific sites. They have approval on their first historical marker on native history and it's in fabrication. She has been working with the Pocomoke Indian Nation on this sign, which is going to be placed in Somerset County, and it involves the history of Manokin, Indian town. This will take up to 4 to 6 months. They have been talking about having an unveiling event. The State Highway Archaeological Research Arm was looking for Ben Ross's house. Ben Ross is Harriet Tubman's father, and they did successfully find his house. They found some native artifacts as well. They found a few projectile points, they found some stone flakes, which is like the waste degree from stone tool manufacturer, and they found some ceramics. In honor of Indigenous People's Day, next week, they have an Instagram page for the Harriet Tubman Archaeology project, they are going to post some photos of those artifacts and talk about

how they believe that given that Ben Ross was born in the 1700 and the deep history of native people in that area, the Black Water National Wildlife Refuge, they believe that there's a history of communication of networking between native people and the African Americans in that area, including most likely Ben Ross and possibly Harriet Tubman as well. <https://www.instagram.com/harriettubmanarchaeology/>

b. Maria Day–Director, Special Collections, Conservation & Library Services–MD State Archives
maria.day@maryland.gov

MSA is about to launch their new resource which is called “Mayis”. It is their indigenous records website, which means many paths to go on. The idea is that it is a path/ guidepost to get you to the historical records that contain information about indigenous people's places and events and the website will be launching on Indigenous People's Day. They will be having an open house to celebrate and for the Commission to invite anyone interested, including members of the public. This will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 350 Rowe Blvd, Annapolis, MD. They will demonstrate the new website and will bring out some of their interesting documents, including a treaty, some land records, some other records that relate to indigenous peoples, 1612 John Smith map and a couple of other artifacts. Ms. Day and one of her colleagues, Megan Crayon, who co-direct the indigenous records project for the archives will be presenting a virtual lunch and learn program. This will be on Thursday; October 13th and it is co-sponsored by the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Maryland State Archives.

https://calendar.prattlibrary.org/event/lunch_and_learn_researching_indigenous_people#.YztJkXbMK7200: MSA did receive the grant for the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority project. This will allow them to do some work on the Eastern Shore. which we have not really been able to do in depth up to this point. Another big initiative that we want to move forward with, is some work of focus groups.

c. Darienne Turner dturner@artbma.org – Asst. Curator of Indigenous Art of the Americas and Leila Grothe lgrother@artbma.org – Assoc. Curator of Contemporary Art – Baltimore Museum of Arts

They presented the “Survivance: Centering Native Voices through Anti-Colonial Actions” presentation.

Wendy Wolff wwolff@mdnonprofit.org and Conner Wolfe – Maryland Nonprofits

They presented the “About Maryland Nonprofits” presentation.

Sign up for a free Maryland Nonprofits trial membership: <https://www.tfaforms.com/5018079>

Use code Partner10 for 10% off the Maryland Nonprofits annual conference:

<https://whova.com/web/IY9usL14u-d8jnRIIYC-T8rGwhGmOtt41XW5gSmustk%3D/>

IV. Administrative Report – Administrative Director E. Keith Colston:

a. 112 email sent concerning Indian Affairs information and opportunity.

b. 21 meetings attended; full reports provided (either Weekly, Administrative or Transitional reports). 3 onsite visits - Ashley Minor concerning tribal artists on 8/2/22 at 2 p.m., MDM-Monkey Pops Outbreak briefing on 8/3/22, met about the Darian Turner project, met with Dr. Patty Perillo concerning the Grand Opening of the dining hall at the University of MD College Park on 8/5/22. He will be a speaker at this event on 11/1/22 at 9:00 a.m. Then he will attend the kickoff event the same day at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Had an introduction meeting with Jeremy Browning, the Administrative Director of the new LGBTQ Commission. Provided Cathy Steele the Administrative report, which occurs three times per month. Met with Chief Donna Abbott for concerning the Nause Waiwash Band of Indians on 8/11/22. He also did a site visit with them on the 8/15/22. Attend and assisted in the MACo Conference in Ocean City, MD on 8/17/22 through 8/20/22. He had staff meetings, director meeting with Steven Adams on 8/23/22, as well as two other times in the month. He also met with Mr. Michael Demardico and staff on 9/13/22 concerning ICWA, which stands for Indian Child Welfare Act, as well as for foster care in the State of Maryland. MCIA has worked with foster care in the State of Maryland since 2015. They have been a part of procedural changes and amendments, and reference to tribal children in foster care. We've had presentations done by them (ICWA) and wanting to see increase in foster families in the State of Maryland for any of our children that may be in foster care. This could be another initiative or an ongoing initiative. Met with Dr. Julia King and Dr. Derceck Rovarius at St. Mary's College on 09/13/22, which is going to be the location for our kickoff. This will be by invitation only event. The next meeting is the Maryland 250, which was held on 9/19/22. This is an ongoing important situation where we want more and more tribal representation and comment. He will bring those comments on behalf of the Commission. This is representing the United States on a Federal level. The last meeting that he attended was concerning the Census Bureau-Tribal Consultation took place on 9/19/22 as well.

V. Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives Updates:

a: Covid-19 - Monkeypox

Confirmed Cases over 1,250,8449 – Testing Positive 8.21% - Confirmed Deaths at 15,130 – Probable Deaths 272 - Current Hospitalization 436 (Adults=424 – Pediatric=12).

In reference to the Monkeypox in the State of Maryland, there is one positive concerning this, is the representation by race in their statistics. American Indian, Alaskan, Native, Asian, Black and Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander, White and Other not reported. As far as American Indian and Alaskan Native reported, we have 9 at one point, 4%.

Commissioner Peter Brooks asked about the Maryland 250 –how they should prepare the tribal communities to participate in The Maryland 250. Director Colston replied, during our last meeting, we went over the Open Meetings Act, the Ethics, and the budget of the Commission. It detailed laying down the groundwork and the foundation of the Commission before the members start going out there soliciting. One of the biggest things is making sure that our current involvement in the State is recognized as we lead up to the actual celebrations that will occur 2026. The Maryland 250 consists of individuals ranging from representatives, doctors, public representatives, and advocates. Director Colston will make sure that he will provide those reports once the agendas are approved. Commissioner Kerry Hawk Lessard spoke about the Indian Child Welfare Act for the benefit of other Commissioners and guests, which will come before the Supreme Court, on 11/9/22, during the native American heritage month. This determining whether the ICWA is constitutional. The argument is that is predicated on race, and not predicated on the trust and treaty obligations, or the historical abuses of the federal government against native children, and their removal from our homes. The concerns with the ICWA is if bracken prevails and the Indian Child Welfare Act is stricken, other parts of Indian law could fall, and that could impact all of us. So, she asks that if Director Colston needs support, to please reach out to her. Director Colston stated the ICWA is a federal law that protects children in foster care, or when they are removed from their home, they are to be placed specifically within their tribal affiliation, if possible, if not placed with a fairly recognized tribal family or tribal individual. If a child identified as being indigenous or American Indian or Native American, that they were to be placed with a native American, family to the best of their abilities as far as Maryland Foster Care. Here in the State of Maryland, this was accomplished by the work of MCIA. The other part about this, is that MCIA has been doing workshops, which gives the people the understanding and importance ICWA

VI. Motions: Approval of Minutes:

| Motion | 1st | 2nd | Vote | |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--|
| Approval of the Minutes for the SPS II Meeting | Kerry Hawk Lessard | Tiara Thomas | 4Y-0N-1A | |

| Motion | 1st | 2nd | Vote | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--|
| To table the approval of the Minutes for the 08/22/22 Meeting | Claude Bowen | Peter Brooks | 5Y-0N-0A | |

VII. [Old] Business:

a. Petition Update:

Director Colston informed everyone that we still need one final representative one final rack member that needs to be chosen, which is the genealogist. This person has not been voted or selected. This will need to take place as soon as possible from the Commissioners. Once this has occurred, they will be given an opportunity to review. Once they have reviewed, then all five RAC members will come together for their proof meeting. They will discuss and write up their report on their recommendation, which will be as a for or not for the petition to the governor, for the Maryland Indian Status.

b. American Indian Heritage Month Kickoff

Director Colston informed us that it will be held at St. Mary's College of Maryland. It will start at 12 o'clock with serving and providing refreshments. The official start of the program will be at 1:00 p.m. The award ceremony, which entails Youth of the Year, Adult of the Year, as well as Volunteer of the Year. This year we had discussed during our strategic planning session that we would have our Native American veteran's to be highlighted for this year for the event. He will be reaching out to each of the Commissioners individually for their nominations. There will be a meeting with the 30 plus students after the event, who identify as American Indian or indigenous. The commissioners will answer any questions they may have.

VIII. New Business:

Vice Chair Claude Bowen informed everyone that the Maryland ApECIAL Court of Appeals has turned down former chairman Mike Hinman's case of overturning the decision on the control be Accohannock Indian tribe. Director Colston said that how this will relate to the MCIA and to Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, Mr. Mike Hinman has every opportunity to arrange a meeting with him, Chief of Staff, Executive Director of GOCI, and any representation that we may need from a legal standpoint concerning involvement.

IX. Committee Reports:

1. Advisory Committee – No updated report provided.
2. Educational Committee – No update report provided.
3. Health and Mental Health Committee – No updated report provided.
4. Archaeology Committee – No updated report provided.
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

X. Public Announcements on future Community Events:

- a. Commissioner Hawk Lessard – 11/10/22 Indigenous Peoples Day morning, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. -- Johns Hopkins Homewood Campus will have its indigenous people PowWow! Baltimore Center Stage will be hosting Native American Lifelines for a free film festival from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. Two films will be shown, and in the middle of those will be plays, and there will also be a potluck, which anyone is welcome to bring food, but do not have to. Kerry Lessard as a representative of Native American Lifelines – They are accepting interns who are in the field of social work, or counseling. They can take undergraduate and graduate level folks who can have an LCSWC as a supervisor and are taking anthropology interns. These are non-paid internships.
- b. Commissioner Tiara Thomas mentioned that Prince Georges County Park and Planning is doing their 14th Annual American Indian festival, which will be held Saturday, October 15th, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Patuxent River Park which is on Chrome Airport Road in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Highlighting again, the Maryland Stem festival, running from October 14th to November 13th. October is Stem education month. Director Colston asked Commissioner Thomas to get in contact with the directors for the Indian Education programs, and if you can establish an actual meeting, in person or virtual, between her, himself, chair and vice chair. If you want to invite some of the other individuals who have email him. This meeting is concerning decisions that have been made on the strategic planning session, as well as ongoing events for education for tribal people in the state of Maryland.
- c. Director Colston mentioned if you are meeting with any elected officials in the State of Maryland concerning the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs and you decide to represent yourself as a commissioner, you are to notify him and the chair before doing so. This will be required before you travel and meet with anyone as a commissioner to get approval before doing so.

XI. Adjournment:

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| Motion | 1st | 2nd | Vote | Adjourn: 8:07 p.m. |
| Adjourn | Guy Wells | Tiara Thomas | 5Y-0N-0A | |