



## The Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs

Conference Call/Virtual (COVID-19 protocols)

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
Monday, December 12, 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  
Cheryl Madigan, Project Coordinator – Ethnic Commissions of GOCI  
Maureen Regan, Communications Director of GCO

#### Guests:

Drew Shuptar-Rayvis, Virginia Busby, Rico Newman, Cheryl Doughty, Emily Paski, Lynn Bullock, Katherine Sterner, Brian Crane, Connor Wolfe, Megan Crayon, Paul and 202-582-2340.

#### II. Call to Order and Welcome Remarks – MCIA

Madam Chair Sherry Ayers called meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

#### III. Invocation: Commissioner Guy Wells

#### III. Guest Presenters:

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

[k.sprengeler@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:k.sprengeler@mdot.maryland.gov)

December 6, 2022, the Commission should have received the final draft of their Archaeological Treatment plan and Cemetery Treatment plan for the I-495, I-200 and I-70 Managed Main Survey and they are requesting comments from consulting parties by January 17, 2022. She wanted to just draw the commission's attention to this again, because there are several sites that are directly relevant to tribal groups in Maryland, that are part of this treatment plan, so the plan includes a number of sites that are slated. The data recovery, which is the most intensive phase of Archaeological studies, is usually reserved for sites that are most likely going to be destroyed or impacted. Several the sites that are slated for data recovery in these plans that you previously received, are pre Contact Native American sites. These sites that date to prior to Euro American incursion of this area. They are in Virginia, just across the Potomac along I-485. These sites are related to one another, which is what they call an archaeological district and what archaeologists call the late Archaic Period, which is roughly 4,000 to 6,000 years ago. As previously mentioned, that they are all related to each other by Topography and these types of sites are Quartz extraction. So, getting stone tools, or stones for tool manufacturers, chords, extraction, and initial reduction, making these pieces of stone transportable basically in these areas, and then the sites, are also related to hunting and gathering in the area. These series of sites are described in the treatment plan. Even though these sites are in Virginia, the State Highway Administration, which is the lead State agency for this

project, will be overseeing the archaeological excavation at the sites. There are also several other pre-contact sites that are being subjected to data recovery, excavations in Montgomery County. These sites date from the late Archaic period, which was mentioned previously. The most intact and interesting site is a site that is probably a hamlet that was repeatedly occupied in Montgomery County. The stratigraphy, the soil, the layers of soil, at this site are relatively intact, and so from that, they can see how activities at the site changed over time. There were a few historic period artifacts found at the site, but it is relatively untouched and undisturbed. This site is near the C&O Canal. This would most likely not be considered a burial site, but if there were to be burial encountered, that would probably be the site that would be most likely to have them, and the archaeologists would stop work immediately. They would consult with the Commission and the other native groups in the area that we're consulting with for this project, before they proceed any further. Then there are phase two excavations. These sites are to be determined whether they are eligible for the National Register for Historic Places. All the sites that are being subjected to data recovery are considered eligible to the N.R.H.P. All these sites are considered to have unique and valuable information, which can potentially offer for everyone's knowledge of the Native history of the area. The smaller update is that SHA will be refining their consultation methods within the next six months or so

**b. Dr. Angela Stoltz, University of Maryland – [astoltz@umd.edu](mailto:astoltz@umd.edu)**

Dr. Stoltz provided MD Indigenous/Higher Ed Alliance updates on the 2023 Meeting Schedule, Book Chapter Published, Native American Student Community Center, Yahentimitsi Dining Hall Interior Design, Native American Studies Minor and Indigenous Student Recruitment and Retention Policies. She also provided COE updates on COE Dean's Grant-Maryland Kidwind Initiative ([kidwind.org](http://kidwind.org)), Honor's College Course and Teacher Recruitment and Education Pathways (MIHEA spring discussions).

**QUESTIONS:**

**1:** Commissioner Brooks asked about the publication of the book, is the indigenous people being seen as a model for collaboration. Dr. Stoltz confirmed that it is. The African author of the book worked in Nigeria with indigenous communities. The book is on Indigenous Methodology, and it will be a great resource, as well the University's contribution of information that can be shared with the indigenous communities.

**2:** Commissioner Thomas asked about the Kid Wind Initiative. Charles County Title 6 had one of public school teacher to sign on to help with teaching STEM with their students and Commissioner Thomas would like some more information because she will be having a parent advisory committee meeting this week. This would be an opportunity for her middle school and high school students. She would like an overview of information and understanding to provide to the parent advisory committee to see if they would be interested in with their STEM teacher. Dr. Stoltz said that there is a lot of information. There are instructors for the after school program, teachers, and community leaders. Students can register as individuals or as teams, but typically students compete in teams of 3 or 4. They are going to build a Wind Turbine. You will walk them through as a curriculum. They have some design constraints, which there is a lot of engineering, which they must follow. KidWind is a partner with Vernier. Vernier provides a lot of materials, but you can also fabricate your own, like three-D printing. Dr. Stoltz will be happy to do a group like training with the founder of KidWind, Mike Arquin.

**3:** Director Colston stated that this would be beneficial for Commissioner Thomas to utilize this information and share it with overriding areas to encourage other Indian education programs to take part in. Dr. Stoltz said that she can come to a location to lead the Coaches Training. Madam Chair Ayers suggested that Dr. Stoltz could have an initial meeting with all the Indian Education Coordinators and then they could follow up with her on a one-on-one meeting.

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

Director Keith Colston attended 18 meetings and 8 events within the past two months.

Those meetings consisted planning of the American Indian Heritage Month celebration and the planning of the American Indian Heritage Day, meeting with GHS, concerning Indian Child Welfare Act, meeting with Montgomery Planning and Historic Preservation Office – the Diversity Council, where he was able to provide a PowerPoint presentation of the history of MCIA and their achievements. Those that attended, was not only by their Diversity Council, but also by a few of the Commissioners. He attended the Opening of the Dining Hall at the University of MD on 11/01/22, as well he attended on the same day the American Indian Heritage Month celebration at St. Mary's College. He also attended the American Indian Heritage Day event on 11/25/22 at the place at Port Discovery Children Museum. They were able to honor Delegate Talmadge Branch as the individual who put forth the legislation and was supported by various other

individuals, including the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs. American Indian Heritage Day is very specific and unique from that of American Indian Heritage Month. AIHD is there to represent the Indigenous people of Maryland and to highlight their contributions history and achievements, whereas AIHM is for all tribal people, and indigenous people that are federal recognized, state recognized and self-identifying, to be celebrated each and every day in the month of November. The meeting with the Diversity Council for the Maryland Historical Capital Park and Planning, he hopes that this will be a continuous opportunity to gather dialogue that will assist MCIA and tribal communities and native people in general.

**V. Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives Updates:**

Director Colston informed everyone that the Governor’s Office of Community Initiative’s Chief of Staff – Winston Wilkinson and the Executive Director Assistant – Cathy Steele has retired/resigned.

**VI. Motions: Approval of Minutes:**

Motion	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Vote	
Approval of the Minutes for the August 1, 2022, Meeting	Peter Brooks	Claude Bowen	7Y-0N-0A	

Motion	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Vote	
Approval of the Minutes for the October 3, 2022, Meeting	Claude Bowen	Guy Wells	6Y-0N-1A	

**VII. [Old] Business:**

**a. Petition Update:**

Director Colston informed everyone that the genealogist has not been chosen yet. He advises from an administrative point, to have a special call meeting to select the individual that is needed and required by the petitioning process to finish out the individual’s review. This will need to take place by the end of year. Then this will be forwarded to the RAC (Recognition Advisory Committee) for their review and their findings, and they will provide their recommendation to the Commission and then MCIA will decide if they want to forward or not forward it the Governor. Commission Brooks requested the information on the petitioning process.

**b. American Indian Heritage Day**

Director Colston thanked Madam Chair Ayers for providing comments and the presentation of the proclamation to the Port Discovery representatives. Also, the comments expressed to Delegate Talmadge Branch and his participation throughout the years concerning AIHD and what it means to MCIA. He suggested that we might want to look at supporting this day prior the specific day, since there is a lot of things going on at this time and it is a State Holiday.

**VIII. New Business:**

- a. Madam Chair Ayers brought up the discussion from our SPS meeting the changing of the bylaws to reflect elections of the Chair in the Vice Chair. Currently the Bylaws state under Article 3- Officers and Staff - Section 1 Appointment of Officers, the Commission annually at the March meeting shall elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the Commissioners. It was discussed making this a calendar year from January to December. She placed a motion to amend the Maryland Commission bylaws to reflect annual elections of Chair and Vice Chair from March to December beginning 2022. This is being sent to you to follow Article 6 of the Amendment of the Bylaws.

Motion	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Vote	
Approval to amend MCIA bylaws to reflect annual elections of the Chair and Vice Chair.	Madam Chair Sherry Ayers	Kerry Hawk Lessard	7Y-0N-0A	

- b. Director Colston is currently working on the Annual Report. He will need a letter from the Madam Chair and any pictures or information from the Commissioners that they would like to submit to be placed in the report. He will need this information by December 16, 2022.
- c. Madam Chair asked for possible dates for the SPS meeting. Possible dates will be January 21<sup>st</sup> of January 28<sup>th</sup>. Director Colston asked the Commissioners to review what was discussed at last year's meeting and gather the information what has not been accomplished.
- d. Director Colston would encourage any and all Commissioners if they have concerns of their safety, fear of individuals that have created situations, that you bring it to our attention. He will bring this to the attention of the Attorney General's office, Ethics Commission and as well as his superiors. He also advised them in these situations that they should also contact 911 and seek legal advice.
- e. Commissioner Brooks would like to motion to have MCIA recommend that the Native American Liaison Committee for the Council for Maryland Archaeology have tribal citizen as a member on this committee. <https://cfma-md.com/index.php/2016-04-29-08-58-29/native-american-liaison-cmte> Madam Chair Ayers requested this to be tabled until all commissioners can do their own research on this matter. He also would like to motion to have a 2008 agreement with Maryland Historical Trust amended. This agreement just speaks about human remains findings, but he would like to amend it to include objects of cultural patrimony. This would include things like wampum belts, rattles, and bowls. Commissioner Brooks will send this information to the Commissioners and would like to discuss this at the next commission meeting. He will touch base with Commissioner Bowen.

**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 – Submitted a 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

**X. Public Announcements on future Community Events:**

- a. Commissioner Brooks – Powwow at John Carroll School in Bel Air, Maryland on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

**XI. Adjournment:**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Vote</b>	<b>Adjourn: 8:15 p.m.</b>
<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>Claude Bowen</b>	<b>Tiara Thomas</b>	<b>7Y-0N-0A</b>	