



**NORTH CAROLINA
COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES**

March 09, 2023

Hilton North Raleigh - Midtown

Grand Ballroom III

3415 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27609

Held in conjunction with the 48th NC Indian Unity Conference, March 9, 2023.

WELCOME: Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 09:51 am.

INVOCATION: Ms. Helen Cook, Commission Member, Cumberland County Association for Indian People, presented the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner W. D. Baucom led the membership and guests in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

TRIBAL AND ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Coharie	Isabell Freeman-Elliott	Present
Coharie	Lenora Locklear	Present
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Helen Cook	Present
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Gladys Hunt	Present
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Joshua Welch	Absent
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Carolyn West	Absent
Guilford Native American Association	Shelia Epps Wilson	Present
Guilford Native American Association	DeVane Burnette, Sr.	Present
Haliwa Saponi	Alfred Richardson	Present
Haliwa Saponi	P. Sunshine Richardson	Present
Lumbee	Larece Hunt	Absent
Lumbee	Ricky Burnett	Present
Lumbee	Vernanda Oxendine	Absent
Meherrin	Constance Mitchell	Present
Metrolina Native American Association	Walter D. Baucom	Present
Metrolina Native American Association	Rebecca LaClaire	Present
Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation	Tony Hayes	Present
Sappony	Dorothy Yates	Present
Triangle Native American Society	Danny Bell	Present
Waccamaw Siouan	Elton R. Jacobs	Present
Waccamaw Siouan	Nadine F. Patrick	Present



ROLL CALL *(Continued)*

STATE OFFICIALS

President Pro Tem Appointee	Gerald Goolsby	Present
Speaker of the House Appointee	Craig D. McMillian	Present
Department of Administration (DOA), Pamela Brewington Cashwell, Secretary		Present
Designee: David Elliott, Deputy Secretary		Present
Department of Commerce/ ESC, Machel Sanders, Secretary		
Designee: Betty Marrow-Taylor, Chief Diversity Equity Inclusion Officer		Present
Department of Environment Quality (DEQ), Elizabeth Biser, Secretary		
Designee: Sharon Martin, Deputy Secretary		Present
Representative: Cardina Jimenez, NCDEQ		Present
Department of Health & Human Services, Kody H. Kinsley, Secretary		
Designee: Debra Farrington, Deputy Secretary Health Equity		Present
Department of Labor, Josh Dobson, Commissioner		
Designee: Julie Ryan, Director of Govt. Affairs		Absent
Department of Cultural Resources, Advisor, John Mintz - Adhoc- Non-Voting Member		Present
Designee: David Cranford, Assistant State Archaeologist		Absent

The Chairman declared that a quorum existed, therefore, the meeting can proceed.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

NCNAYO	Korbyn Walton (Co-Chair) - Non-Voting Member	Present
NCNAYO	Peyten Jones (Co-Chair) - Non-Voting Member	Present
NC NACOHE	Joshua L Richardson - Non-Voting Member	Absent

STAFF PRESENT

- Gregory Richardson, Executive Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs
- Candace Lowry, Deputy Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs
- Daphne Pinto, Administrative Secretary to the Executive Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs
- Kimberly Hammonds, Program Director, Supporting Undergraduate Native Students (SUNS) Program
- Pamela (Shena) Brewington, Program Director, Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)
- Steven (Steve) Maynor, Program Director, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program
- Maria Richardson, Program Director, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Program
- Sue Faircloth, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Program
- Wanda Ammons, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Program
- Ashley Patrick, Trainee, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Program
- Tenley (Nikki) Locklear, Program Director, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program
- Vinu Kamal, Administrative Associate, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program
- Raisa Jones, Advocate, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program
- Kim Archie, Advocate, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program
- Annie Francis, Program Director, Indian Child Welfare Program
- Elk Richardson, Program Director, State Recognition Program
- Kearston Page Freeman, Program Coordinator, COVID-19 Program

OTHER STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice



OTHERS PRESENT: List is on file with the Commission.

ETHICS STATEMENT: Ms. Candace Lowry, Deputy Director read the Ethics Statement on Behalf of Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman. She urged Commission Members to declare any conflicts of interest, or the appearances of any conflicts of interest, which may exist in relation to any business matters before the Commission, as mandated by the State Ethics Act. None were noted.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Commissioner Baucom noted a correction to be made to the agenda. He requested to remove “Executive Director” listed by his name. Rev Ricky Burnett, Chairman requested members to make a motion to adopt the agenda with the correction. Commissioner W. D. Baucom made a motion to adopt the agenda with the correction. Commissioner Tony Hayes seconded the motion. Motion carried with no objection from the membership.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2, 2022, MEETING MINUTES: The minutes of the December 2, 2022, meeting was presented. Secretary Pamela Cashwell, NC Department of Administration, noted a correction to be made on page 7 of the meeting minutes. She requested to delete the sentence that read, “She indicated that 20% of the state funds goes directly to state HUB vendors.”

MOTION: Commissioner Sheila Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes of December 2, 2022, with the correction to strike out the sentence on page 7. Commissioner W. D. Baucom seconded the motion. The Chairman asked if there is any objection to the motion. None noted. Motion carried with no objection from the membership.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS:

Medicaid Expansion – Benefits of Medicaid Expansion: Ms. Debra Farrington, Deputy Secretary for Health Equity/ Chief Health Equity Officer, NC Department of Health, and Human Services (DHHS), Raleigh, NC, presented a brief overview as follows:

- Medicaid Expansion – HB 76 NC Health Works: Effective with approval of the 2023-2024 budget. Medicaid Expansion will be transformative in North Carolina. She noted the website link indicated in the handout as follows: <https://dashboard.ncleg.gov/CalendarItem/2023/S/139/2023-03-07/46016>
Deputy Secretary Farrington discussed the Medicaid federal poverty level; 600,000 additional people will qualify and have access to affordable health insurance, an initial bonus of \$1.5 billion for state of North Carolina, injects over \$5 billion into the North Carolina economy.
- Expansion Impact for American Indians: Ms. Farrington noted that American Indians are 2-3% of NC population; this equals to potential 18,000 people will qualify for Medicaid; Enhanced access to care; Increased revenues at Indian Health System (IHS) as well as tribal providers.
- Eligibility: Low-income parents, Low-income childless adults, Women prior to their pregnancy, Low-wage workers, Veterans, and children who age-out of Medicaid.
- Discussed next steps for Medicaid Expansion.
- Discussed Expansion Costs.
- Discussed Health Access and Stabilization Program (HASP) administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- Deputy Secretary Farrington indicated that \$1 billion is in support of behavioral health, substance abuse, and other needs. She suggested members to advocate strongly to make sure that some of the funding goes to the American Indian communities.



- Deputy Secretary Farrington introduced Ms. Abby Carter Emanuelson, Care4Carolina's critical Medicare Expansion partner. Ms. Emanuelson indicated that 174 organizations advocate for the legislation supporting Medicare Expansion. She briefly commented on the flyer that was distributed at the meeting. She discussed that the flyer indicates speaking with Councils to request a Resolution of Support to join Care4Carolina. She noted that resources are available online for anyone to view.

The handouts of the PowerPoint presentation “NCDHHS - Medicaid Expansion Update” and flyer Care4Carolina were distributed and are on file as an official part of the minutes.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

- Commission members asked clarifying questions. If an individual makes less than \$20,100 or less or for a family of three approximately \$38,000 or less. Ms. Farrington noted that Medicaid Expansion is for poor people.
- Mr. Greg Richardson referenced “18,000 people benefiting from Medicaid Expansion” and asked a clarifying question. He noted that when the plan is implemented, will the Indian tribes be the recipients of any of the funding that might be administered as part of the Medicaid Expansion plan.
- Ms. Farrington responded that the House and Senate will put forth the budget; this is part of the reason Medicaid Expansion is tied to the budget. She stated an initial bonus of \$1.5 billion willing to be allocated across the North Carolina system. She encouraged members to advocate to legislators to seek funding for American Indians due to the high rate of chronic diseases and low rate of access to health care.

Understanding the Needs of Children Aged Birth – Five and Their Families in North Carolina: Ms. Karen McKnight, Deputy Director of Early Learning Programs, and Ms. Emily Chavis, Associate Policy Analyst Hunt Institute, Cary, NC, together presented the following:

- Hunt Institute was founded in 2001 by former Governor Jim Hunt. She stated that Governor Hunt was an ardent supporter of education. He was primarily a champion for early childhood education. Hunt Institute brings people together and inspires others, to inform elected state officials, policy makers providing them with the key issues on education, prenatal, K-12, higher education, and workforce.
- Ms. McKnight stated that the Early Learning Programs has been working on a special project for the state of North Carolina in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Division of Childhood Development and Early Education, which oversees childcare and Pre-K in North Carolina. The program partners with the agencies to complete a birth to-five needs assessment to be released soon. This includes data and literature review, focus groups, childcare providers and families, and interviews with state and local administrators, all to better understand better the needs of families and children birth to five.
- Ms. Chavis, Hunt Institute indicated that the focus groups interviewed parents of American Indian children who were accessing childcare, interviews with tribal leaders in the state, interviews with Commission of Indian Affairs leaders, and the Department of Indian Education. Out of all these focus group interviews, the institute heard a need for culturally appropriate services geared towards the child population. It was noted that these services include early childhood services, not only childcare but home visits for birth to five. She expressed a need for enhanced trust between tribal nations and state governments with respect for tribal sovereignty.



- It was stated that Hunt Institute found difficulty recruiting American Indian families to participate in this process. She noted that North Carolina does not collect data on those who access non-traditional care. Non-traditional care includes relative care, such as care from grandparents and close relatives. She indicated that it is difficult to know how many American Indian families are accessing childcare.
- Ms. Chavis expressed through the Commission that the Hunt Institute hopes to find ways of enhanced partnerships between NC tribal leaders, tribal communities, state agencies, and local leaders. This will enable them to communicate more about the needs of young children of tribal communities and develop access to early learning and care services.
- Ms. Chavis indicated that the Hunt Institute will continue to partner with the Commission of Indian Affairs. They would like to hear from the Commission how the early childhood system can better serve American Indian children from age birth to five and their families.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

- Commission members asked clarifying questions with regards to having a bridge for assistance Ms. Chavis noted they are trying to inform the state agency for relative care assistance because some families prefer grandparents and close family to care for age birth to five. This is also a form of childhood home base care.
- Commission members asked what they can do as tribes to help. Ms. Chavis indicated that the state needs to have a better relationship with the tribal leaders and tribal communities and respect the sovereignty of tribal communities, in order to better serve American Indian children.
- It was stated that the presentation is to express awareness, communicate the findings, and discuss the next steps.

No handout was distributed.

Broadband -Equitable access to high-speed internet and digital literacy resources: Ms. Annette Taylor, Director of Office of Digital Equity and Literacy, and Ms. Emily Gangi, Policy Director, Division of Broadband and Digital Equity, presented this item. The handout “The Digital Divide in North Carolina” was distributed to the Board. The following was discussed:

- The Internet has become a necessity; many are left behind because of a lack of access to broadband connectivity.
- It was stated that Governor Cooper’s plan to close the digital divide ensures all North Carolinians will have access to affordable high-speed internet, digital literacy skills, and the need to participate in a full economy.
- It was noted that communities are disadvantaged, and tribal communities are no exception. She expressed that her office is ready to partner with the Commission to close the digital divide.
- The presentation today is about “Closing the Digital Divide.” The following topics were discussed: (1) Key Barrier: Affordability; (2) Digital Equity; (3) State Broadband and Digital Equity, Planning for 2023-2028; (4) Opportunities to Share Input, Summit Event – May 23, 2023, Website: www.ncboardband.gov/BEAD; (5) Takeaways; (6) Contact Information.
- A flyer on the “Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)” handout was distributed. This program provides: (1) Up to a \$30 per month discount on internet services; (2) Up to a \$75 per month discount for households on tribal lands; (3) a \$100 discount for a laptop, computer, or tablet bought through a participating provider.



- Ms. Taylor indicated that many people have income at or below federal poverty guidelines. They may participate in specific assistance programs like Supplement Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Supplement Security Income (SSI), Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Lifeline and Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Programs or the School Breakfast Program.
- Consumers may also get high-speed internet plans for no more than a \$30 per month discount. She referenced the website “getinternet.gov” for additional details.
- Ms. Gangi, Policy Director, Division of Broadband and Digital Equity, gave a brief overview of the Comprehensive Digital Equity Plan for the state of North Carolina (Plan B). They anticipate the state of North Carolina will get \$800 M-\$1.2 billion of those funds. This initiative will ensure everyone has access to the internet and has the devices and skills to access the internet.
- The strategic plan launch is Tuesday of next week. The goal is that more people should benefit from the Broadband infrastructure and Digital Equity initiatives, such as digital literacy training and device and skills to access the internet.
- Ms. Gangi noted that the back page of the flyer has information on the Digital Equity Grant to be launched in 2023.

The handouts “The Digital Divide in North Carolina” and flyer “Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), were distributed and are on file as an official part of the minutes.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

- Commission members asked for clarification on the information indicated on the flyer, “discount for households on tribal lands” as to what is the definition of tribal lands. Ms. Gangi responded that the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a federal program.
- Commission member asked if a priority be put on tribes and tribal communities for digital and broadband internet connections. It was stated that the tribal communities are struggling with these ongoing issues. Ms. Gangi indicated that the data reflects this problem and acknowledged it must be a priority.

Solar Energy Briefing-Highlights of Upcoming Electric Rate Increases: Ms. Laura Combs, Eagle Solar and Light, presented a PowerPoint presentation. A handout of the exhibition “Solar 2023 Maximizing Opportunities” was distributed. Ms. Combs stated that there are opportunities for clean energy. The following was discussed:

- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Incentives: Ms. Combs indicated that IRA incentives are a direct pay to tax-exempt organizations. The federal government will provide 30% of the baseline cost. It was noted that it is uncertain how quickly the federal government will reimburse. The reimbursement is only after solar energy is connected. IRA also offers 10% adders for economically distressed areas, pending final federal guidance; 10% for American-made components; 20% solar adders for low income or community housing for Indian tribes focused on the federal level. Ms. Combs indicated that the individual still must produce 50%-60% of the cost.
- Grants: Duke Energy rebate has expired. Eagle Solar and Light company is seeking additional opportunities to raise funds to compensate for the losses. Leasing opportunity is available.
- Bridge Loans: Ms. Combs indicated that her company is waiting for guidance on bridge loans. The reimbursement funding from the federal government comes after 2-3 years of the system being turned on.



- Difference between Solar Leasing v Solar Purchasing: Ms. Combs indicated that solar leasing is about one-third of the cost of the installation needed. To make leasing costs affordable for the first year. The Duke Energy Rebate offer has expired, so the Eagle Solar and Light company is seeking grants. To avoid disrupting one's operating budget, she noted that leasing helps with money going out of pocket. Operation and Maintenance (O&M) is included with the lease and includes a minimum production guarantee. Includes the cost of removal when the lease ends. Ms. Combs noted that for purchasing the total full cost of the system upfront, full utility savings are immediate, operation and maintenance can be purchased separately, and there is no production guarantee unless O & M is purchased. The owner pays for the removal cost at the end of the system's life.
- Ms. Combs presented individual graphs on the proposed percentage rate increases of Duke Energy Carolinas and Duke Energy Progress. Duke Energy Carolinas increases are at least 40% which will be spread over 3-years.
- Ms. Combs stated that Eagle Solar & Light company is working on a community solar bill to make it more affordable. She discussed Tier 1 and Tier II counties. They are listed on the company website.
- Ms. Combs opened the floor for comments from Commission members. None noted.

The handout PowerPoint presentation "Solar 2023 Maximizing Opportunities" was distributed and is on file as an official part of the minutes.

Native American Tribal Communication Plan for Carolina Long Bay Leases (OCS-A 0545 and OCS-A 0546): Ms. Jen Banks, Permitting and Development Director, Carolina Long Bay, Total Energies Renewables USA, LLC and Ms. Danielle Peoples, Duke Energy Renewables Wind, LLC together presented a PowerPoint presentation as follows:

- Discussed the Offshore Wind Project. Ms. Peoples noted that due to the challenge of climate change and rising demand for energy, offshore wind energy will play a pivotal role in electricity and limit global warming. She expressed that Total Energies Renewables and Duke Energy Renewables Wind work together.
- Ms. Banks stated that two projects are going on simultaneously. One is off the coast in New York, and the other is off the coast in North Carolina. The location is selected after data collection and studies.
- Presented a map of Carolina Long Bay.
- Discussed multiple opportunities for tribal involvement. A draft plan is available at the booth during the Indian Unity Conference for members to review.
- Ms. Banks indicated a Tribal Engagement Survey for members to complete. This is for communication purposes.
- Discussed future project development activities.

The handout "Duke Energy and Total Energy Renewables" was distributed and is on file as an official part of the minutes.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

- Mr. Greg Richardson asked questions on tribal consultation if it will include state and federally recognized tribes.



- Ms. Banks responded that she has the American Indian tribe communication plan for discussion. The comments from tribal members will be noted. The program will be updated accordingly. She said the meetings will be scheduled in the next two months with federal and state tribes to discuss the plan and future activities.
- Copies of the tribal communication plan will be available at the booth this afternoon for tribes to review and take back to their communities.

Small Business Development Fund: Mr. Kevin Dick, President/ CEO of Carolina Small Business Development Fund, presented a brief overview as follows:

- Mr. Dick indicated that Carolina Small Business Development Fund (CSBDF) is a nonprofit and US Treasury-certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). The company has been in business since early 1990. The company provides financial capital to small businesses. It was noted that the company offers technical assistance and fosters economic development and policy research to the underserved communities in all the one hundred counties in the state of North Carolina.
- The company provides direct loans to small businesses from \$5,000 up to \$350,000 range, sometimes higher, based on individual circumstances.
- Mr. Dick explained, in brief, the difference between equality and equity. He stated that Carolina Small Business Development Fund is focused on equity and that 60% of its resources must go to people of color, women, and those who identify as low to moderate income.
- A handout of the Carolina Small Business Development Fund 2021-2022 Annual Report was distributed to the Commission members. Mr. Dick referenced the \$1.4 M capital deployment milestone indicated in the handout.
- Mr. Dick noted that rates go up between 6% and 12%, with no predefined credit score. It was stated that the Carolina Small Business Development Fund wants to see two years of profitability.

The handout of the “Carolina Small Business Development Fund 2021-2022 Annual Report” is on file as an official part of the minutes.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

- Commission members asked questions on the type of loan program for start-up companies and what kind of interest rates and terms on the loan provided. Commission members requested more details on the loan services offered and their rules.
- Commission members asked if tribes could apply as an entity as a form of economic growth opportunity. Mr. Dick responded that the company only lends to “for-profit businesses.” Companies that have two years of profitability and show managerial experience.
- Mr. Dick responded to the previous question: Interest rates go up from 6% to 12%. He expressed that the company lends across industries to mainstream businesses. He noted that Carolina Small Business Development Fund is also involved in transportation trade, construction, and manufacturing. He noted that the company is leaning towards high growth industries designated by the NC Department of Commerce.
- Commission member asked a follow-up question on how long the loan term is. Mr. Dick responded seven-to-ten-year term based upon the specific business and its circumstances. The company is flexible with terms based upon each situation.



- Commission members asked how the company defines a small business. Is it based on the number of employees? Mr. Dick responded that their typical client has zero to ten employees, and less than \$5M in annual revenue.
- Commission members asked a follow-up question if they have a cap. Mr. Dick responded they do not have a cap, but the company is adhering to its rule on equity. It is providing loans to people of color, women, and those who identify as low to moderate income. He noted that he will share his business card and could provide additional information.
- Commissioner Hayes thanked Mr. Dick for his presentation and stated that Carolina Small Business Development Fund is a service provider for “Retool.” In conclusion, Commissioner Hayes noted that the Carolina Small Business Development Fund is also trying to help and provide service to the Indian communities for small start-up businesses.

Business Items:

Executive Director Report:

Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director NC Commission of Indian Affairs, presented his written report. The highlights of his presentation are as follows:

- Mr. Richardson introduced Ms. Candace Lowry, Deputy Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs.
- Mr. Richardson introduced Mr. Michael Billiot, Indian Affairs Commission, Louisiana. Mr. Billiot attended the State Recognition Committee meeting yesterday. It was noted that the Louisiana Indian Affairs Commission is in the process of developing its initial process and wanted to see how the NC Commission of Indian Affairs conducts business here in North Carolina. Mr. Richardson thanked Mr. Billiot for attending the Commission meeting and the NC Indian Unity Conference 2023.
- Mr. Richardson thanked Dr. Vin Steponaitis, UNC-Chapel Hill, for attending the Commission meeting and Indian Unity Conference. He thanked Dr. Steponaitis for protecting the American Indian artifacts and burial remains.
- Mr. Richardson thanked and appreciated Dr. Alfred Bryant, Campbell University, for helping and assisting the NC Commission of Indian Affairs in hosting the Commission meetings and events at Campbell University. Mr. Richardson expressed gratitude for the new partnership.

Acknowledgments:

Department of Administration (DOA) Employee Awards: Staff received Secretary’s Awards for the following categories:

- Public Service Award: Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director, Haliwa Saponi, thanked Secretary Cashwell for presenting him with the award for Public Service.
- Efficiency and Innovation Award: Mr. Steve Maynor, Program Director, Section 8 Choice Voucher Program, Coharie Tribe, for Efficiency and Innovation award.

Special Award:

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Award:

- Ms. Candace Lowry, Deputy Director, Ms. Ashley Patrick, Workforce Program Coordinator, together with Ms. Pamela Cashwell, Secretary, Department of Administration, presented Ms. Maliyah Russ, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Trainee, with the WIOA Academic Award-2023. Ms. Russ was recognized for her excellent grades, determination, and excellence in her commitment and proficiency. Ms. Lowry indicated that Ms. Russ is pursuing a



career in Dental Hygiene. Ms. Lowry noted that this is the first time an award has been presented to WIOA Trainee students.

Announcement:

- Deputy Director Lowry announced that the Commission has received the Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch (TCPB) Grant in partnership with Wake Forest University School of Medicine and the NC Indian Health Board. This is a pass-through grant. The funding allocation per year is \$161,995. It is a two-year grant. It will start in April 2023. Tobacco surveys are being developed. A \$25 gift card will be given for each completed tobacco survey. A program director will be hired to manage the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. Twelve part-time individuals will be employed from tribes and organizations around the state of North Carolina to assist in implementing this project. The completed survey data will be submitted to Wake Forest University School of Medicine and NCDHHS.
- Deputy Director Lowry introduced Ms. Kearston Page Freeman, COVID-19 Pandemic Program Coordinator. Ms. Freeman will collect data for her research on how COVID-19 has affected the American Indian population. This program is funded through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS).

Presentations:

American Indian COVID-19 Research Project Overview:

Ms. Kearston Page Freeman, Program Coordinator presented a PowerPoint presentation of the American Indian COVID-19 Research Project Overview – Phase I, Preliminary Research. Ms. Freeman discussed the highlights as follows:

- American Indian (AI) communities pre-COVID
- AI Health Disparities
- AI Alaskan Natives
- Poverty Rates
- Nationwide data COVID-19 2020-2021
- Pandemic Relief timeline across North Carolina
- NCDHHS Dashboard Data Research
- CDC Count of American Indian deaths is undercounted.
- American Indian or Alaskan Native Vaccination Rates by Zip Codes
- This shot is your shield.
- Discussed goals of the AI COVID-19 Research
- Raising awareness of COVID-19 in American Indian communities
- No comments from the Commission.

No handout was distributed.

Continuation of Executive Report:

- Mr. Richardson thanked Dr. Ronny Bell, UNC-Chapel Hill, for collaborating with Ms. Kearston Freeman.
- Mr. Richardson thanked Dr. Ryan Emanuel, Duke University. Mr. Richardson also thanked the students from Duke University for attending the Commission meeting.
- Mr. Richardson thanked Commissioner WD Baucom for sponsoring the Indian Child Welfare Gathering at Campbell University.



Presentation

Legal Matter, Indian Culture Center – Robeson County,

Mr. Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice, discussed, in brief, the return of \$23,000 received two weeks ago by the NC Department of Administration (NCDOA) as part of a court action settlement.

- The court action involved Robeson County condemning a piece of land (approximately eight acres) that was owned by a non-profit corporation, the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center Inc., established in the 1980s.
- It was stated that Robeson County condemned this property so that it can be incorporated into Lumber River State Park. Robeson County paid approximately \$60,000 for the land as part of the court action. Of that \$60,000, some of it was paid back to Robeson County towards attorney's fees and for a receiver and guardian ad litem. \$23,000 was paid to the Department of Administration for NC Commission of Indian Affairs. The reason that it was delivered to the NC Commission of Indian Affairs was because of the by-laws for the non-profit corporation, North Carolina Indian Cultural Center Inc. The by-laws indicated that "whenever this entity dissolved, whatever asset it had or any money it had was to go to the NC Commission of Indian Affairs, NC Department of Administration."
- It was stated, the money for the 8-acres land, Robeson County paid \$60,000 for the land. Robeson County conveyed this land to the state of North Carolina. The land has been incorporated into the Lumber River State Park.
- Questions was raised whether the Commission of Indian Affairs controls the money or the NC Department of Administration. The policymakers have decided the right thing to do is to return the money to Robeson County. It is their money. The Commission only has it because Robeson County stepped in and condemned the land for a state park. In conclusion, Mr. Teague indicated that DOA policy makers concluded to return the \$23,000 payment to Robeson County.
- Mr. Teague noted that the non-profit organization acquired the land back in 1988. He is unaware of where they acquired the funds for this land. He expressed that it does not appear the money came from the NC Commission of Indian Affairs or from the state of North Carolina.
- It was noted the undeveloped land along the south side of the Lumber River. It is now surrounded by land and part of the Lumber River State Park. The Division of Parks and Recreation viewed the land.

No handout was distributed.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Discussion ensued as follows:

- Commission members asked clarifying questions on the proceeds going back to the county instead of the Commission or tribe.
- Mr. Teague responded that they went through the process of spending county funds to obtain land for the benefit of the state. The land has now been given back to the state. The Department of Parks and Recreation will reimburse the county for the expense incurred.
- Commission member asked a follow-up question is it an additional reimbursement? Mr. Teague responded no; this amount is part of the reimbursement. The only reason the money is there is because the county paid.
- Question was asked if all the tribes were part of the Culture Center. Mr. Teague responded yes; all the tribes were part of the Culture Center. He noted that at that time the tribes were 5 or 6, and they were Board members of the NC Indian Culture Center, Inc. Over time, the tribes lost control



of the Board of the NC Indian Culture Center, Inc. This is one of the reasons why the corporation was dissolved.

- Robeson County went to the court and requested Guardian at Latium be appointed to investigate the corporation to see if it is operating appropriately. The Guardian at Latium investigated and concluded that it is not working properly. It was stated that Guardian at Latium recommended a receiver be appointed to ensure the corporation was dissolved. The receiver negotiated with the county for \$60,000 for the property.
- Commission members asked why the money is not distributed among the tribes involved. Mr. Teague responded to the by-laws indicate that upon the dissolution of the entity, money is to be returned from the NC Department of Administration to the NC Commission of Indian Affairs.
- Commission member asked can the money be returned to the tribes since they initially funded the Indian Culture Center. Mr. Mark Teague noted that this piece of land was never part of the Indian Culture Center, it was owned by the entity.
- Mr. Teague presented a map with a brief description showing the marking of the land.
- A question was asked where the original funds came from. Mr. Teague responded that it came from Robeson County. The court ordered the law to be dispersed in accordance with the by-laws. The remainder of the \$60,000 is \$23,000 to the NC Department of Administration to NC Commission of Indian Affairs.
- Commission member asked if the Indian Culture Center belongs to the Lumbee Tribe. Mr. Teague responded yes. It was noted that the other parts of the land are south of the river and belong to the Lumber River State Park.
- Mr. Greg Richardson noted that Mr. Teague is making awareness regarding the payment received and policy makers decided to return the money back to Robeson County. He stated that the Department of Administration (DOA) will be making decisions moving forward.
- Secretary Cashwell indicated that DOA has reviewed all the legal matters and discussed the funds received. Robeson County made the initial payment to go through the process of condemning this property and transferring it to the state of North Carolina. It was indicated that the Department of Natural and Culture Resources and Department of Administration policy team concluded to return the money back to Robeson County.
- Secretary Cashwell asked members if they had concerns, they needed to express today. She noted that DOA wants to resolve this matter soon.
- Chairman Rev. Burnett asked if there was any objection. None was noted.

Continuation of Executive Report:

Mr. Richardson continued to present the highlights of the Executive Director Report as follows:

- Commission Survey – Strategic Planning, Commission Committees
- Expiring Terms of Commission Members, June 30, 2023
- Expiring Terms of NC Indian Housing Authority Members, June 30, 2023
- Expiring Terms of State Advisory Council on Indian Education, June 30, 2023
- Statement of Economic Interest (SEI), the due date to submit an SEI form by April 15 of each year. Details are listed in the Executive Director report.
- Staff Quarterly Program Reports: Included in Board packet.
- The Executive Director Report was distributed in the Board packet.

The Executive Director Report is on file and is an official part of the minutes.



Presentation

Indian Burial Remains Inventory at NC Department of Cultural Resources

Mr. John Mintz, State Archaeologist, NC Department of Cultural Resources (NCDRC), presented this item. The highlights of his presentation are as follows:

- Mr. Mintz provided information about NCDRC various office locations dispersed across the state of NC.
- Mr. Mintz noted that NCDRC's main task is to preserve the state's cultural heritage. The task includes identification, interpretation, preservation, and collaborating with various tribes to maintain the cultural heritage of North Carolina.
- NCDRC abides by federal and state laws. Mr. Mintz noted that he does not give legal advice. He does not interpret general statutes or federal and state laws.
- NCDRC works with Section 106, Section 110 National Historic Preservation Act, and Section 110. NCDRC needs to ensure that archaeological sites are at least fifty years old or older before they are impacted by construction. Mr. Mintz noted that this is administered through the National Parks Service and the Department of Interior.
- Mr. Mintz indicated that North Carolina also has its own set of laws and North Carolina general statutes. Section 120, Comprehensive Environmental Response, and 121 A, Conspiracy to commit offenses punishable, NCDRC gives expert opinion on the undertaking or any mitigating methods. NCDRC ensures representative areas of past people are not independently or intentionally, or unintentionally impacted.
- NCDRC has other programs and other responsibilities. Mr. Mintz noted that the Office of State Archaeology and NCDRC has other duties bound by federal law and state law to conduct their work archaeologically and anthropologically.
- Mr. Mintz provided examples of the agency's previous work such as American Indian schools to identify and indicate on the map.
- Mr. Mintz discussed American Indian Canoe Dugout Program. Currently, there are twenty-seven to thirty American Indian dugout canoes that the agency can identify the location. It was stated that preservation of Indian canoes is important. It is an artifact. Canoes are relocated and taken to deeper water for preservation.
- Mr. Mintz explained that the canoe is placed back in the water because its predecessors did that, and the cost is cheaper. The Office of State Archaeologists continues this practice. Conserving an American Indian canoe can cost \$10,000 to \$20,000. Once the canoe is removed from the water, it immediately disintegrates. It was noted that they installed GPS on the canoe and know the exact location of the canoe. Mr. Mintz made note that the information is not public. However, if a tribe needs to know the location, they can contact him or his agency.
- Mr. Mintz indicated that sometimes if a canoe is in danger, they relocate to an underwater laboratory to protect it.
- Mr. Mintz gave a brief overview of the Cemetery record initiative and included the record in a database of cemeteries in North Carolina. This helps the genealogy, helps protect the information of cemeteries, and respectfully cares for deceased people. Mr. Mintz referenced NC GS 70, Article 3.
- Mr. Mintz noted the federal national protection and repatriation act enacted in 1990. This act is to help federally recognized tribes, ancestors, sacred objects, and other cultural objects. Under this act, the NC Office of State Archeologists is classified as a museum. Since federal money is received, the office is tasked with ensuring the federal national protection and repatriation act. It



was noted that for the last four years, the office has been working to repatriate the ancestors of tribal people as per federal law NC GS 70, Article 3.

- Mr. Greg indicated that due to lack of time, Commission members must email their questions.

No handout was distributed.

Upcoming Tribal and Urban Community Consultation Meetings: Mr. Greg indicated that he would send out notification regarding the upcoming Tribal and Urban Community Consultation Meetings. The goal is to schedule all the meetings this year.

Land Acknowledgement Statement – Discussion: Mr. Greg noted that he is getting inquiries for guidance on land acknowledgment statement. He requested members to develop a general idea for proposed land acknowledgment.

Other (not listed on the agenda): Mr. Richardson noted that the Commission has partnerships with universities like Campbell University and East Carolina University. They are displaying American Indian artwork and tribal flags. He stated that this is an excellent way to recognize American Indians and their culture.

NC American Indian Heritage Commission: (Not listed on the agenda)

Mr. Richardson introduced Mr. Kerry Bird, Director of NC American Indian Heritage Commission (NCAIHC), and Mr. Quinn Godwin, Associate Director of NC American Indian Heritage Commission (NCAIHC). They presented information on their new project. It is to interview people from tribal communities about years past and make notes of history that is not listed.

Mr. Bird gave a brief overview of the NC American Indian Heritage Commission’s new project as follows:

- To collect history data from tribal members and other urban Indian organizations
- To find out the history of tribal communities and urban Indian organizations and development
- Mr. Bird noted that the NCAIH Commission members were interviewed and obtained video and audio tapes for record keeping as part of the new project.
- Mr. Bird indicated that his Commission has scheduled interviews. If Commission members know of any individuals who would like to be interviewed, contact his office.

No handout was distributed.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairman Rev. Burnett announced he would only entertain Committee reports with action items.

American Indian Culture & Religion Committee: Commissioner Danny Bell, Committee Chair, presented two action items. The handout of the action item was distributed to the Board.

- Action Item #1: Commissioner Bell, Committee Chair, read the excerpt “American Indian Archeological holdings at the universities and other offices across North Carolina. As well as any possibility for their educational purpose in the past and the present. What is their plan for engaging with and sharing the research information with NC state-recognized tribes and the public?”
- Action # 2: Commissioner Bell, Committee Chair, read the excerpt to include American Indian studies in the curriculum. He recommended a motion to contact the relevant universities across



North Carolina through an NCCIA inquiry to determine what/ if any, American Indian studies, and curriculum is being taught at NC Universities. He noted what American Indian studies are currently a part of university curriculums and taught? Is the study of North Carolina state and federally recognized American Indian tribes being conducted for course credit in North Carolina Universities? If not taught, what are the plans to add NC Indian studies to the curriculum?

MOTION: Chairman Rev. Burnett stated that coming from the Committee requires no second. He asked if the Commission would like to discuss the motion brought before the Commission. None noted. Chairman Rev. Burnett requested members to say “Aye” if they are in favor of approving the two action items presented by the Culture Resources Committee. being Aye’s is a majority, with no correction or objections from the membership, motion carried by unanimous consent.

The Action Items from the Culture Resources Committee are on file and are an official part of the minutes.

Economic Development and Employment Training Committee: Commissioner Craig McMillian, Committee Chair, presented the following action items from the ED&ET Committee meeting.:

Action items for January 24, 2023, ED&ET Committee meeting:

Action #1: Commissioner McMillian, Committee Chair, read the excerpt “The Economic Development and Employment Training (ED&ET) worked with NCDOT-Office of Civil Rights in collaborating on an event along the I-95 corridor in the Coharie community due to its centralized location among tribal communities in NC. Choosing electronic vehicle stations, small business certifications, and HUB certification as the focus for the NCDOT event collaboration.” The handout was distributed in the Board packet.

It was noted that the event date will be May 23, 2023, at the Coharie Tribal Center.

Action #2: Commissioner McMillian, Committee Chair, read the excerpt “motioned to adopt the American Indian Agriculture Survey so the ED&ET Committee can gather data serve better and understand the needs of American Indian Farmers.”

MOTION: Chairman Rev Burnett stated that coming from the Committee requires no second. He asked if the Commission would like to discuss the motion brought before the Commission. Secretary Cashwell asked a clarifying question if the Committee will create the survey to provide to Commission staff to distribute. Commissioner McMillian, Committee Chair, confirmed yes. Chairman Rev. Burnett noted that there were no further questions coming from the Commission. None noted. Chairman Rev. Burnett requested members to say “Aye” if they are in favor of approving the two action items presented by Commissioner McMillian, Committee Chair. being Aye’s is a majority, with no correction or objections from the membership—motion carried by unanimous consent.

Action #3: Commissioner McMillian, Committee Chair, read the excerpt “motioned that recognized state-recognized tribes have representation at the table regarding the sports betting bill. Identify what state-recognized tribes would like to participate in and vote on a representative of the interested state-recognized tribes to recommend to the sports gaming commission.”



MOTION: Chairman Rev Burnett stated that coming from the Committee requires no second. He asked if the Commission would like to discuss the motion brought before the Commission.

- Commissioner member LaClaire noted that urban organizations were not included and requested more clarifications. Other Commission members asked clarifying questions. Lengthy discussions ensued.
- Commissioner McMillian, Committee Chair, noted that the decision to appoint representatives will take place as it develops.
- Commission members asked clarifying questions regarding designating representatives. Commissioner McMillian, Committee Chair, responded that this is just the initial discussion asking for representation. He noted that the Commission must decide if there is an opportunity.
- Chairman Rev. Burnett noted that no further questions were coming from the Commission. None noted.
- Chairman Rev. Burnett requested members to say “Aye” if they are in favor of approving the above action item #3 that indicated state-recognized tribes have representation at the table regarding the sports betting bill presented by Commissioner McMillian, Committee Chair. The Aye’s being a majority, with one opposition from the membership. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

The handout of the Action Items from the Economic Development and Employment Training (ED&ET) Committee dated January 24, 2023, is on file and is an official part of the minutes.

Action items for February 21, 2023, ED&ET Committee meeting is as follows:

Action Item #1: Commissioner McMillian, Committee Chair, read the action item in its entirety. A brief excerpt reads as follows “motion to request a specific amount of the funding (40%) to be used to educate, house, and provide other services as identified by each individual tribe. Funding is to be reoccurring monthly as it is provided by the Cherokee Agreement.” The handout was distributed in the Board packet.

Chairman Rev. Burnett stated that coming from the Committee requires no second. He asked if the Commission would like to discuss the motion brought before the Commission.

Commission members discussed the following amendments:

- Commissioner Gerald Goolsby made a recommendation to include Catawba Nation Tribe
- Commission members recommended deleting the 10% and negotiating made the amount.
- Commissioner Tony Hayes recommended an amendment and reiterated to negotiate the amount. He expressed that the Indian monies from state legislatures be used for Indian causes.
- Chair McMillian clarified that the Committee recommendation asking for state tribes to be considered in the bill. He noted that the Committee will request the state legislature to share the revenue with the state-recognized tribes. This will increase the opportunity to become sustainable.
- Chairman Rev. Burnett indicated to include the amendments.

MOTION: Commissioner W.D. Baucom made a motion to approve the action item from the February 21, 2023, ED&ET Committee meeting, including the amendments. Commissioner Constance Mitchell seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued as follows:



- Secretary Cashwell shared concerns about the timing of the legislative session regarding this budget session. She indicated that the bill may be presented at the continuation of the budget session next year.
- Commissioner Tony Hayes agreed with Secretary Cashwell. He noted that the conversation and process need to start.
- Chair McMillian confirmed he would initiate the action.
- Commissioner W D Baucom made an amendment to add “organizations” to the action item.
- Chairman Rev Burnett confirmed that there were three amendments.
- Chairman Rev. Burnett requested clarification and repeated the amendments.
- Chair McMillian noted the amendments are as follows: (1) include Catawba Nation Tribe; (2) delete the 10% and negotiate the amount; (3) To include organizations.
- Chair McMillian repeated the motion by reading the action item with the amendments.

MOTION: Chairman Rev. Burnett suggested a motion. Commissioner W.D. Baucom made a motion to approve the action Item from February 21, 2023, ED&ET Committee meeting with the inclusion of the amendments. Commissioner Constance Mitchell seconded the motion. Chairman Rev. Burnett noted that there were no further questions coming from the Commission. None noted. Chairman Rev. Burnett requested members to say “Aye” if they are in favor of approving the above action item. With the Aye’s being the majority, the action item was accepted by voice vote by unanimous consent, with no further correction or objections from the membership. Motion carried.

The handout of the Action Items from the Economic Development and Employment Training (ED&ET) Committee dated February 21, 2023, is on file and is an official part of the minutes.

American Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Committee: Commissioner Dorothy Yates, Committee Chair, briefly commented on the Indian Child Welfare Gathering held at Campbell University with the theme of bringing our relations home. Chair Yates recognized Dr. Annie Francis, Indian Child Welfare Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs. She thanked everyone for attending the event and making it a success.

Education Committee: Commissioner Dorothy Yates, Committee Chair, read the action item in its entirety. A handout of the action item from the Education Committee and a list of State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE) nominees for the FY 2023-25 was distributed to the Board. Chair Yates presented the nomination for the FY 2023-2025 Term. It was noted that the Commission votes on the nominees for each category listed on the handout for the State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE). She noted that the Commission must maintain the legislative requirements of five parents and five educators to serve on this council.

Ms. Yates read the nominees listed in the handout as follows:

Educator Nominees:

Stephen Bell; Guilford Native American Association, Educator; First term
Will Paul; Sappony Tribe; Educator; the first time

Parent Nominee:

Amanda Frisard; Metrolina Native American Association; Parent; Second term
Tamara Carter; Waccamaw-Siouan Tribe; Parent; First Term. Chair Yates noted a correction to change the second term to the first term.



Brandi Jacobs; Triangle Native American Society; Second Term; eligible to serve as parent or educator. It was noted that Brandi Jacobs will serve as a parent this term to even out the quota ratio of five educators and five parents.

Chair Yates noted a correction on the reverse side of the handout “List of nominees for FY 2023-2025: Tamara Carter to change second term to first term.

Chair Yates noted that the action item comes from the Education Committee for representatives beginning July 1, 2023.

The handout of the action items and the list of State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE) nominees for the FY 2023-25 from the Educational Committee are on file and are an official part of the minutes.

MOTION: Chairman Rev. Burnett stated that coming from the Committee requires no second. He asked if the Commission would like to discuss the motion brought before the Commission. He asked if the Commission had any questions or concerns. None noted. Chairman Rev. Burnett requested members to say “Aye” if they are in favor of approving the above action item from the Education Committee. With the Aye’s being the majority, the action item was accepted by voice vote by unanimous consent, with no further correction or objections from the membership. Motion carried.

Legislative Committee: Commissioner Tony Hayes, Committee Chair, presented the 2023-2024 Legislative Agenda. The 2023-2024 Legislative Agenda handout was distributed to the Board. Commissioner Hayes, Committee Chair, read excerpts from the handout. The highlights are as follows:

Proposed Appropriations:

- Indian Child Welfare Program Funding – Requesting funding in the amount of \$150,000.
- Future American Indian Youth Leadership Program – Requesting funding in the amount of \$375,000 to re-occurring financing.
- Funding for Indian Tribes and Associations – Non-re-occurring basis in the amount of \$500,000.
- Strategic Planning funding for the NC Commission of Indian Affairs. On a non-re-occurring basis in the amount of \$100,000.
- Funding for the Lumbee Indian Cultural Center. On a non-re-occurring basis in the amount of \$125,000.
- Funding for the Strike at the Wind Outdoor Drama, Located at the Lumbee Tribes Indian Cultural Center, Robeson County, Pembroke, NC. Non-re-occurring basis in the amount of \$125,000.

Non-Appropriated Policy Legislation:

- Legislation authorizing Indian Tribes to participate in the state and local government’s employees’ Retirement System.
- NC American Indian Insignia License Plate for Motorcycles. Legislation is being requested to authorize an insignia license plate for motorcycles.
- Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina Insignia License Plate for the Lumbee Tribe.
- Committee Chair Hayes stated that the portion of the license plate fees for the motorcycle plates and the Lumbee Tribe license plate will be allocated to the American Scholarship Fund through the Triangle Community Foundation.



Additions:

- HB 166, American Indians Graduating with Honors Act. The bill entitled “an act to allow American Indian Students to wear Cultural Objects at Public School Graduation Ceremonies.”
- HB 153, Use Tribal ID Cards for Alcohol and Tobacco Purchase. The bill entitled “An act to allow the use of a tribal enrollment card issued by a federally recognized tribe when making alcohol or tobacco purchases.”

The handout from the Legislative Committee is on file and is an official part of the minutes.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:

- Commission member amended the third bullet point above (item c, page 2 of the handout) that the “Non-Appropriated Policy Legislation” is for all tribes eligible and who wish to participate, not the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina
- Commission members asked clarifying questions on HB153, Tribal ID Cards. Chair Hayes stated that he does not have a clear definition, discussions are ongoing.
- Commission members asked questions on the list of proposed appropriations. Mr. Richardson indicated that the items were already voted on at the December 2, 2022, meeting. The list of proposed appropriations is included in the handout “2023-2024 Legislative Agenda”. Chair Hayes confirmed that these items were voted on at the December 2022 meeting.
- Mr. Richardson noted that there is a readiness to issue tribal IDs. Discussions ensued regarding the affordability of machinery, collaborating with other tribes, or having a generic template. It was noted that tribal sovereigns must dictate or have their input.
- Commissioner McMillian expressed that the Commission needs to ensure that the language reads as “all tribes of the state of North Carolina and not list a name of a particular tribe.”
- It was noted that Rep. Lowry is open for discussion.
- Chair Hayes noted that members must attend the Committee meetings they are listed to serve. Members are free to accept or decline a committee.

Environmental Justice Committee: Commissioner McMillian, Committee Chair, presented this item. The handout was distributed in the Board packet. Committee Chair McMillian noted that the Environmental Justice Committee met on January 18, 2023, and November 29, 2022. The following was discussed.

Action Item dated November 29, 2022:

- Committee Chair McMillian stated that Ms. Sharon Martin, DEQ completed the actual test for Lumbee sites Hayes Pond, Maxton Pond, Culture Center, and Lumber River. He noted that the testing had been completed. The committee is waiting for the results. The Committee will have the results at the next Commission meeting.
- It was noted that DEQ had provided water quality analysis and community meeting updates. The Committee will bring the recommendations back to the Commission when they become available.

Action Item dated January 18, 2023:

- Item #1 Committee Chair McMillian brought the recommendation to the full Commission that all tribes and organizations appoint a point of contact for Environmental Justice issues.



- Deputy Director Lowry noted that the point of contact is for DEQ. When DEQ is in the area, they can contact the point person for Environmental Justice at the tribes and organizations.

MOTION: Chairman Rev. Burnett stated that coming from the Committee requires no second. He asked if the Commission would like to discuss the motion brought before the Commission. He asked if the Commission had any questions or concerns. None noted. Chairman Rev. Burnett requested members to say “Aye” if they are in favor of approving the above action item from the Environmental Justice Committee. With the Aye’s being the majority, the action item was accepted by voice vote by unanimous consent, with no further correction or objections from the membership. Motion carried.

- Item #2: Committee Chair McMillian recommended that all tribes and organizations submit bodies of water in their territories or adjacent to their communities for water quality testing.
- Committee Chair McMillian noted that this is the same process as discussed earlier for Lumbee sites.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:

- Commission members asked clarifying questions.
- Discussion ensued regarding specifics of the body of water that need to be evaluated.
- Mr. Richardson noted that the body of water can be creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, ponds and well water. He expressed that a lot of the Indian community uses well water that needs to be evaluated for contamination.
- It was noted that well water testing might be from a different division within DEQ.
- Deputy Director Lowry expressed that a lot of Indian people go fishing and swim in these bodies of water. They eat the fish they catch. It was noted that the water quality needs to be evaluated.
- Deputy Director Lowry noted that DEQ has a weblink for water quality testing. FAQ sheets are available.
- Committee Chair McMillian thanked Ms. Sharon Martin, NC Department Environmental Quality (NCDEQ).

The handout of the Action Items from the Environmental Justice Committee dated November 29, 2022, and January 18, 2023, are on file and are an official part of the minutes.

MOTION: Chairman Rev. Burnett stated that coming from the Committee requires no second. He asked if the Commission would like to discuss the motion brought before the Commission. He asked if the Commission had any questions or concerns. None noted. Chairman Rev. Burnett requested members to say “Aye” if they are in favor of approving the above action item from the Environmental Justice Committee. With the Aye’s being the majority, the action item was accepted by voice vote by unanimous consent, with no further correction or objections from the membership. Motion carried.

State Recognition Committee: Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs, substituting for Committee Chair Larece Hunt, stated that the Committee had a meeting yesterday, March 8, 2023. He introduced Mr. Elk Richardson, State Recognition Program Manager, to update the Commission.

- Mr. Elk Richardson noted that the Recognition Committee met in February 2023 and had a meeting yesterday, March 8, 2023. He stated that the Committee reviewed the pending petitions for state tribal recognition. He noted the current petition, Roanoke Hatteras, NC, from Dare



County. The Committee contacted Roanoke Hatteras and noted the petition lacked data to complete the petition process. Mr. Elk Richardson stated that the Recognition Committee will be in contact with the petitioner and provide technical assistance.

- The Recognition Committee also discussed two other pending groups. The Committee has received a “Notice of Intent” from these pending groups. The Catawba Nation of South Carolina, and New River Catawba.
- The Recognition Committee worked on the potential revision to the Administrative Rules for Tribal Recognition. The Committee worked on details, how to make the rules better for petitioners, the Commission, and the process itself. To make it more time defined, and ensure the regulations are compliant within the law.
- It was noted that the Committee will get back together to review the rest of the rules. It was stated that the recommendations will be brought back to the full Commission for approval. The Committee will also be contacting the legal team at the Department of Administration for the rules process. It was noted that the last time “Administrative Rules for Tribal Recognition” was reviewed in 2006.
- Mr. Elk Richardson opened the floor for discussion. No comment from the Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Secretary Cashwell announced the following:

- The Rules Review Commission requires all state agencies to review all rules. She indicated it is a requirement for DOA.
- Announced Ms. Jillian McNeil, Intern is working on a special project at the executive office, DOA.
- Announced Rep. Lowry will be speaking this afternoon at the Indian Unity Conference
- Announced Governor Cooper will be speaking tomorrow at the Indian Unity Conference.

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS:

By-Laws – Work Session: Chairman Rev. Burnett indicated that the Commission would have a work session in April or May 2023. He requested all members to attend.

Discussion of Member Absence: This item was not discussed.

Flower Fund Report: Commissioner Nadine Patrick, Secretary/ Treasurer, presented the Flower Fund Report as follows:

Collected:	\$444.74 (at the September 2, 2022, Commission meeting)
Credit Union (opened the new account)	\$100.00 (for expenditures)
For checks	\$12.00
Flower Fund Balance	\$332.74

Commissioner Patrick, Secretary/ Treasurer noted that the dues are \$24 per member. She indicated that members could contact her during the conference and make payment.

Chairman Rev. Burnett announced that the meeting will be adjourned shortly. He requested Commissioner Patrick to recite a short prayer to bless the food and lead the Commission meeting to dismissal.



Chairman Rev. Burnett thanked Commission members, state officials, guests, and Commission staff for attending the meeting.

ADJOURNMENTS:

With there being no further items to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs. Commissioner Gerald Goolsby seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:09 pm. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2023. Location to be announced.

Nadine F. Patrick 6-1-23

Nadine F. Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer
NC Commission of Indian Affairs
(Sign & Date)

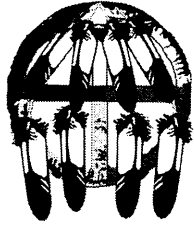
Daphne Pinto 6-1-23

Daphne Pinto, Recording Secretary
(Sign & Date)

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs on June 1, 2023.

Nadine F. Patrick 6-1-23

Nadine F. Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer
NC Commission of Indian Affairs
(Sign & Date)



**N.C. COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING**

Hilton North Raleigh - Midtown

Grand Ballroom III

3415 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27609

March 9, 2023

9:30 am to 1:00 pm

DRAFT AGENDA

Held in conjunction with the 48th NC Indian Unity Conference, March 9-11, 2023

Opening Session	9:30 am
Call to Order	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Invocation	Helen Cook, Commission Member
Pledge of Allegiance	W.D Baucom, Executive Director
Roll Call	Daphne Pinto, Administrator Assistant
Ethics Statement	Candace Lowry, Deputy Director
Adoption of Meeting Agenda	Chairman Burnett
Approval of December 2, 2022, Meeting Minutes	Chairman Burnett
Guest Presentations: (Please be brief-10 minutes maximum)	10:15 am
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medicaid Expansion - Benefits of Medicaid Expansion 	Debra Farrington, Deputy Secretary for Health Equity/Chief Health Equity Officer, NC Department of Health and Human Services, Raleigh, NC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the Needs of Children Aged Birth - Five and Their Families in North Carolina 	Karen McKnight, Deputy Director of Early Learning Programs Emily Chavis, Associate Policy Analyst Hunt Institute, Cary, NC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad Band -Equitable access to high-speed internet and digital literacy resources 	Annette Taylor, Director, Office of Digital Equity and Literacy Gangi, Emily W Emily W. Gangi, Policy Director, Division of Broadband and Digital Equity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar Energy Briefing-Highlights of Upcoming Electric Rate Increases 	Laura Combs, Eagle Solar and Light
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native American Tribal Communication Plan for Carolina Long Bay Leases (OCS-A 0545 and OCS-A 0546) 	Jen Banks, Permitting & Development Director - Carolina Long Bay Total Energies Renewables USA, LLC Spencer Hanes, Managing Director of Business Development Duke Energy Renewables Wind, LLC

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Business Development Fund 	Mr. Kevin Dick, President/CEO of Carolina Small Business Development Fund
Business Items:	10:45 am
Executive Director's Report and Briefing Staff Quarterly Program Reports (Included in meeting packet)	Greg Richardson
Deputy Director's Briefing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WIOA Participant - Presentation of Award New Tobacco Survey Grant, Funded by NC Department of Health and Human Service and Wake Forest University American Indian COVID-19 Research Project Overview 	Candace Lowry Kearston Page Freeman, Project Director
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation - Indian Burial Remains Inventory at NC Department of Cultural Resources <p>John Mintz, State Archaeologist, NC Department of Cultural Resources</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upcoming Tribal and Urban Community Consultation Meeting Meetings 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgement and Introduction of Visiting Duke 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Acknowledgement Statement - Discussion 	

Commission Committee Reports	10:50 am
*Only Committee reports with action items will be entertained.	
American Indian Culture & Religion Committee	Danny Bell, Chair
American Indian Housing	Elton Ray Jacobs, Chair
Economic Development & Employment Committee	Craig McMillian, Chair
Adhoc Indian Health Sub-Committee	Constance Mitchell, Chair
Veterans Affair Sub-Committee	Joshua Rory Welch, Chair
American Indian Child Welfare	Dorothy Yates, Chair
American Indian Education	Dorothy Yates, Chair
Legislative 2023 Legislative Agenda Update	Tony Hayes, Chair
Adhoc Land Trust	Vernanda (Vee) Oxendine, Chair
State and Federal Recognition Work Sessions to Review State Recognition Procedures	Larece Hunt, Chair

Environmental Justice	Craig McMillian, Chair
WORKING LUNCH	12:00 Noon - 1:00 pm
Other Business Items:	
Bylaws - Work Session	Chairman Burnett
Discussion of Member Absence	Chairman Burnett
Flower Fund Report	Nadine F. Patrick, Secretary/Treasurer

2023 Commission Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2, 2023 – Location TBA • September 1, 2023 - Location TBA • December 1, 2023 – Location TBA 	(Now accepting invitations to host future commission meetings)
Adjournment	1:30 pm