



**NORTH CAROLINA  
COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**September 15, 2023**

**James A. Thomas Hall A & B**

**University of North Carolina, Pembroke, NC**

1 University Road

Pembroke, NC 28372

**WELCOME:** Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:19 am. He welcomed and acknowledged the guests, Commission Members, Tribal Leaders, Chiefs, State Officials, and staff. The Chair thanked Dr. Robin Cummings, Chancellor, UNC, Pembroke, for allowing e the commission to hold it meeting at the distinguished James A Thomas Hall.

**ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA:** The Chair requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Sunshine Richardson made that motion. Commissioner Helen Cook. seconded the motion. Motion carried with no objection from the membership.

**INVOCATION:** Commissioner Vee Oxendine, Commission Member presented the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Larece Hunt led the membership and guests in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL, JUNE 1, 2023 (Day 1):**

**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	Present
Lumbee	Ricky Burnett	Present
Lumbee	Vernanda Oxendine	Present
Meherrin	Constance Mitchell	Absent
Metrolina Native American Association	Walter D. Baucom	Present



**ROLL CALL** *(Continued)*

Metrolina Native American Association	Greg Bryant	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

**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		Absent
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- <b>Non-Voting Member</b>		Absent
Designee: Rosie Blewitt, Assistant State Archaeologist and Site Registrar		Present

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE**

NCNAYO	Ariel Locklear (Co-Chair) - <b>Non-Voting Member</b>	Absent
NCNAYO	Korbyn Walton (Co-Chair) - <b>Non-Voting Member</b>	Absent
NC NACOHE	Joshua L Richardson - <b>Non-Voting Member</b>	Absent

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

**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
- Evelyn Simmons, Administrative Assistant, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program
- Maria Richardson, Program Director, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Program
- Tenley (Nikki) Locklear, Program Director, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program
- Sarah McNeese, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program
- Elk Richardson, Program Director, State Recognition Program
- Laury Chavis, Program Director, Tobacco Survey Program
- Kearston Page Freeman, WIOA Program



Lily Hunt, Workforce Trainee, WIOA Program

### **OTHER STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice

**OTHERS PRESENT:** A list is on file with the Commission.

**ETHICS STATEMENT:** Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director, welcomed Chancellor Robin Cummings, Mayor Gregory Cummings, and Mr. John Lowery, Chair, Lumbee Tribe of NC, new members to the Commission, and guest.

The Executive Director read the Ethics Statement on Behalf of Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair. He 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 JUNE 01-02, 2023, MEETING MINUTES:** The minutes of the June 01-02, 2023, meeting was presented.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Tony Hayes made a motion to approve the minutes of June 01-02, 2023. Commissioner Larece Hunt seconded the motion. The Chair asked if there is any objection to the motion. None noted. Motion carried with no objection from the membership.

### **HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE LATE MR. ALTON BRUCE JONES, FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair, and Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director together presented a Resolution in honor of the former Executive Director, an outstanding American Indian Advocate, and leader for the NC Commission of Indian Affairs who passed away on August 13, 2023. Mr. Richardson read the Resolution in the memory, honor, and legacy of Mr. Alton Bruce Jones Jr. It was noted that the resolution will be posted in remembrance and honor of the late Mr. Alton Bruce Jones Jr. at the NC Commission of Indian Affairs Raleigh Office.

### **WELCOMING REMARKS**

Mr. John Lowery, Chair, Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, welcomed everyone to the James A. Thomas Hall. He gave a brief overview as follows:

- Mr. Lowery noted that a letter was mailed to the State Archives regarding the artifacts and remains the state has in its inventory regarding American Indians.
- Discussed the upcoming National Congress American Indian (NCAI) Conference, which will be held in New Orleans, November 12-19th. It was noted that the NCAI will vote on a Constitutional Amendments, which will have the effect of removing the state tribes from its membership.

Dr. Robin Cummings, Chancellor, University of North Carolina Pembroke, welcomed everyone to UNC-Pembroke campus. He noted that he is proud and honored to serve as Chancellor at the University of Pembroke. He presented a PowerPoint presentation which gave an overview as follows:

- Dr. Cummings acknowledged and remembered the legacy of the late Mr. Alton Bruce Jones and former Chairwoman Ruth Revels.
- Dr. Cummings thanked Chair Rev. Ricky Burnett, Mr. Greg Richardson, and Secretary Pamela Cashwell for their dedication, commitment, and leadership.



- Dr. Cummings noted that UNC-Pembroke is the third oldest public education in North Carolina. It was established on March 7, 1887, by American Indians for American Indians.
- Dr. Cummings emphasized key initiatives and programs at UNC-Pembroke.
- It was noted that UNC-Pembroke is an NC Promise School. Dr. Cummings explained the NC Promise Tuition Plan: “It is to offer reduced tuition rates to make obtaining a college degree more attainable.” For low-income students.
- He discussed the demographics of the student population; the details are listed in the PowerPoint presentation.
- Dr. Cummings highlighted key initiatives, programs, and services offered at UNC-Pembroke. The details are listed in the PowerPoint presentation.
- Dr. Cummings concluded his presentation by acknowledging that the late Mr. James A. Thomas donated a generous sum of money to UNC-Pembroke, for this facility. He noted that the building where the Commission meeting is held is named in honor of Mr. James A. Thomas. He indicated that it was a pleasure to host the meeting and thanked everyone for coming to UNC-Pembroke.

The UNC-Pembroke PowerPoint presentation is on file at the Commission.

Ms. Myia Reyes, Assistant Director, Curt & Catherine Locklear American Indian (AI) Heritage Center presented a PowerPoint presentation. The highlight of the presentation are as follows:

- Discussed the Vision and Mission statement of the American Indian (AI) Heritage Center.
- The American Indian Heritage Center was established in 2020. The funding for the program is through the US Department of Education. Details are listed in the PowerPoint presentation.
- Ms. Reyes emphasized key initiatives, programs, and services offered at the American Indian Heritage Center. It was noted that the American Indian Heritage Center promotes student success and American Indian Heritage and Culture.
- Ms. Reyes indicated that she is presenting on behalf of Dr. Ashley McMillian, Director of the American Indian Heritage Center. She noted that Dr. McMillian, Lumbee Tribe is also Liaison to the Chancellor.
- Dr. Cummings noted that all students in undergraduate program must take a course in American Indian History or American Indian Culture. The students can participate in the readings of the Land Proclamations as part of the program.

The American Indian Heritage Center PowerPoint presentation is on file at the Commission.

#### **SWEARING IN CEREMONY – NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS:**

Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director, welcomed and introduced the Honorable Gregory Cummings, Mayor, Town of Pembroke, who performed the Swearing in Ceremony.

The Honorable Gregory Cummings, Mayor of Town of Pembroke, gave brief remarks on the overview of services offered, providing key highlights of accomplishments of the Town of Pembroke. He highlighted the Town’s dedication to community well-being and to improving the quality of life in the town of Pembroke.

The new and returning members were invited to take their place at the front of the room by the Executive Director.

The Honorable Gregory Cummings, Mayor, Town of Pembroke presided over the swearing-in ceremony.



The following Commission members were sworn into office and the Oath of Office was presented by Mayor Cummings.

New Members:

- Greg Bryant, Metrolina Native American Association, Inc. (Replacing Rebecca LaClaire)

Returning Members:

- Dorothy Stewart Yates, Sappony Indian Tribe
- Shelia Kay (Epps) Wilson, Guilford Native American Association
- Larece Hunt, Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina
- William Anthony (Tony) Hayes, Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation
- Elton Ray Jacobs, Waccamaw Siouan Tribe

State Official:

- Gerald Goolsby, President Pro Tem, NC General Assembly Appointee

Absent Members:

- Carolyn West, Eastern Band of the Cherokee

Chair Rev. Ricky Burnett and Mr. Greg Richardson thanked the Honorable Gregory Cummings, Mayor, Town of Pembroke for presiding over the swearing-in ceremony.

Mr. Greg Richardson noted that Ms. Carolyn West was not in attendance during the swearing-in ceremony. Ms. West will need to take the Oath of Office later and prior to the next Commission meeting, if the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians re-appoint her.

Photo Session for New and Returning Members.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS – 2023-2024**

**NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Chair Rev. Ricky Burnett announced that there are two Commission officers' up for election and they are:

Vice Chair and Secretary/ Treasurer

**Nomination of the Vice Chair:** Chair Burnett opened the floor for nomination.

- Commissioner Shelia Wilson made a motion to nominate Ms. Dorothy Yates
- Commissioner Tony Hayes made a motion to nominate Mr. Craig McMillian

Chair Rev. Burnett asked if there were any other nominations for the office of Vice Chair. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to close the floor for nominations.

- Commissioner Gerald Goolsby made a motion to close nomination for Vice Chair. Commissioner Larece Hunt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Nomination and Election of Vice Chair**

- Dorothy Yates
- Craig McMillian

**Total:** 10-members voted for Dorothy Yates; 12-members voted for Craig McMillian.



Chair Rev. Burnett announced that Commissioner Craig McMillian had been elected as Vice Chair of the Commission.

**Nomination of Secretary/ Treasurer:** Chair Burnett opened the floor for the nomination for the office of Secretary/ Treasurer.

- Commissioner Craig McMillian made a motion to nominate Ms. Nadine Patrick

**Nomination of Secretary/ Treasurer**

- Ms. Nadine Patrick for Secretary/ Treasurer - Unanimous

Chair Burnett asked if there were any other nominations for the office of Secretary/Treasurer. Hearing no, the nominations process was closed, and the chair called for a motion to close the nominations.

- Commissioner Gerald Goolsby made a motion to close the nomination of Secretary/ Treasurer. Ms. Nadine Patrick was accepted by unanimous consent as Secretary/ Treasurer. Motion carried.

Chair Rev. Burnett announced that Commissioner Nadine Patrick has been elected by unanimous consent/ acclamation as Secretary/Treasurer.

## **GUEST PRESENTATION**

### **Lumbee River**

**Reclamation of the Aboriginal Name of the River:** Ms. Wendy Moore, Lumbee Tribal Council Member and Chairperson of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of the Lumbee Tribe. Council woman Moore was presenting on behalf of Dr. Lawrence T. Locklear. Ms. Moore provided a brief overview of renaming efforts for the Lumbee River, the reasons etc. A handout of the presentation was provided.

It was noted that the Lumbee Tribe shall lobby for state legislation to change the legal name of the river from Lumber River to Lumbee River. Ms. Moore requested members to petition the state legislature on behalf of the Lumbee Tribe to help reclaim the Lumbee River's ancestral name.

The handout titled, "Remarks to the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs regarding the Renaming the Lumbee River, by Dr. Lawrence T. Locklear" is on file at the Commission.

## **COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION:**

- It was noted that this item was addressed at a previous meeting and is being brought before the full Commission for action for a resolution.
- **MOTION:** Commissioner Craig McMillian made a motion for the commission to prepare a resolution in support of the renaming of the Lumber River. Commissioner Larece Hunt seconded the motion. The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion. None noted. Motion carried with no objection.
- Mr. Greg Richardson requested Ms. Moore and Commissioner Craig McMillian to provide the language for the Resolution following the commission meeting.

**Retire the Red Raiders Coalition "Offensive Native American Mascots"** – This item was not presented due to presenters' conflict in schedule.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Executive Director's Report:**



Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs, presented his quarterly report. The Executive Director Report was distributed in the Board packet, prior to the commission meeting. Highlights of his report are as follows:

- National Conference of American Indians (NCAI) – The NCAI is considering a Constitutional Amendment to remove the state tribes from its membership. He encouraged all state-recognized tribes and others to attend the NCAI convention and the Regional Caucus meetings during the convention.
- American Indian (AI) Arts and Craft Act - Action vote to remove the state tribes from AI Arts and Crafts.
- **Action Item:** Mr. Richardson read draft Resolution # 923. The title for the draft Resolution is “In Support of State Recognized Tribes and Membership in the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI).” The handout was distributed.
- Chair Rev. Burnett discussed the details of the cost to attend the NCAI conference, November 12- November 17, 2023, in New Orleans. Details regarding the registration and link will be sent out to Commission members, tribes, and organizations.
- Mr. Greg Richardson noted that there is a membership fee in addition to the conference registration fee.

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

#### **COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION**

- Commission members agreed with Mr. Richardson that our commission members and tribes should attend the NCAI conference in unity and in numbers, to fight proposed constitutional amendments. Commission members also suggested supporting the small tribes financially to attend the NCAI conference. It was suggested that the commission should utilize part of the funding received from the Indian Culture Center property sale to support tribes that do not have funding resources, to attend the NCAI Convention.
- Commission members noted due to time constraints, it was suggested that the Commission must approve the draft Resolution #923.
- **MOTION:** Commissioner Craig McMillian made a motion to approve the draft Resolution # 923, in Support of State Recognized Tribes and Membership in the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)” with the corrections. Commissioner McMillian also noted that a unified presence of tribes across the state to attend NCAI conference needs to be added as part of the motion. Commissioner Alfred Richardson seconded the motion. The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion. None noted. Motion carried with no objection.

#### **Executive Director’s Report (Continued)**

The following was discussed:

**NC Indian Cultural Center Funds:** Mr. Greg Richardson presented and discussed a proposed breakdown of the amount \$24,000 listed in the Executive Director’s report. Commission members noted the amount be split in half. It was suggested \$12,000 be reserved for Commission’s strategic planning, and \$12,000 be reserved for Commission members and tribes to attend the NCAI Conference.

- **MOTION:** Commissioner Craig McMillian made a motion to approve the proposed allocation of funding as follows: Amount \$12,000 for Commission’s Strategic Planning; and \$12,000 be allocated for seven tribes or Commission members to attend the NCAI Conference.



Commissioner Gerald Goolsby seconded the motion. The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion. None noted. Motion carried with no objection.

#### **COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:**

- Discussion ensued regarding the breakdown of expenditure.
- Questions were asked as to what the priorities were for the three items Mr. Greg Richardson mentioned (Strategic Planning and Training; Youth Initiative; and Tribal Leaders Forum).
- Questions were asked about the \$12,000 set aside for Commission members to attend the NCAI Conference. Whether to help with the registration process, or the money to help offset the cost for the representative to attend the NCAI Conference.
- Suggestions were made to pay the registration fee (amount approximately \$900) for the seven tribes. It was noted that this will offer some support to the tribes.
- Other members noted that some of the tribes are sending representatives to the NCAI Conference, suggesting that the funds can be utilized and extended to send additional people to the conference.
- Chair Rev. Burnett noted that the motion is to spend \$12,000 among the Commission members to attend the NCAI Conference, New Orleans. He noted that the motion has been seconded.
- Commission members asked for clarification on the amount.

#### **Additional Clarification and Discussion:**

- Mr. Greg Richardson asked to establish a set amount and to determine the number of people to send to the convention. Greg Richardson requested to repeat the motion for clarity.
- Mr. Craig McMillian repeated the motion as follows: Utilize \$12,000 for Commission members to attend the NCAI conference. The other \$12,000 to be distributed is among the three recommendations Mr. Greg Richardson stated with priority for Commission strategic planning.
- Chair Rev. Burnett asked if everyone was clear on the motion and if there were any objections to the motion. One Commission member opposed the motion, stating that the \$12,000 set aside for Commission operations was not enough.
- Chair Rev. Burnett requested members to say “Aye” if they are in favor of approving the action item presented by Mr. Greg Richardson regarding the split funding of \$24,000. With the Aye’s being a majority, with no correction or objections from the membership. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

#### **LUNCH BREAK**

Chair Rev. Burnett announced lunch break at 12:47 pm. He requested Commission member Gerald Goolsby to bless the food.

After the lunch break the meeting reconvened at 1:08 pm.

#### **WORK SESSION FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS**

**By-Laws:** Ms. Candace Lowry, Deputy Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs, presented this item.

- Ms. Lowry discussed edits of the By-Laws during the June 1-2, 2023, work session.
- It was noted that the last by-laws were ratified on December 1, 2006.
- Breakout Sessions: Members were led into groups consisting of six members in each group to discuss the edits in the by-laws. She stated that the edits on the by-laws of the June meeting are highlighted in bold.





- A handout of the NC General Statute was distributed.
- It was noted that the edits from the work session need to be returned to Ms. Candace Lowry. If members need more time, they can email the edits to Mr. Greg Richardson and Ms. Candace Lowry.
- It was noted that the new draft with the edits from the September meeting will be distributed at the December 2023 meeting.

The handout of the By-Laws is on file and is an official part of the minutes.

**Strategic Plan:** Ms. Candace Lowry presented the draft 3-Year Strategic Plan – 2023. It was noted that the edits listed were from the June 2023 work session. Ms. Lowry indicated that the Mission and Vision were voted on at the June 2023 meeting. Ms. Candace presented the draft strategic plan and highlighted key information.

The handout of the draft 3-Year Strategic Plan – 2023, and the Committee Assignments/ Consolidation are on file and is an official part of the minutes.

#### **DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS**

- It was suggested that the location of meetings needs to be more inclusive to all members, and state officials, not just Indian communities. Other members suggested the meetings should also list different regions.
- Discussion ensued on Professional Development – Goal “To institute a comprehensive professional development program for Commission members, ....” Suggestions were to change Commission members to tribal members.
- It was noted that the Campbell University program was for tribal members and approved by tribes.
- Leadership Training and Certification: To include tribal members. It now reads as “Provide opportunities for Commission members and tribal members....”
- Ms. Lowry listed the edit as follows: Insert tribal members, tribal leaders, and urban organizations.
- It was noted that members need to be more engaged in the Committees they have listed.
- Discussed the Strategic Goal listed in the draft Strategic Plan.
- Discussed American Indian Legislative Day listed in the draft Strategic Plan. Discussion ensued.
- Changes recommended for tab “Responsible Committees” it needs to indicate All Committees,
- It was suggested that Legislative Day should not be a one-day event. It should be one of the initiatives under a broader goal.
- Discussed the NCCIA Committee Assignments/ Consolidation (separate handout was distributed).
- Mr. Greg Richardson noted that the Designees for each Department can list their names in the committee assignments that are of interest and work associated with each of their department.
- Mr. Richardson noted a minor correction to delete Chair Ricky Burnett on the Committee Assignments/ Consolidation. It was stated that the Legislative Chair needs to be listed as Tony Hayes.
- The change will be reflected in the new draft and will be distributed at the December 2023 meeting.



- Ms. Lowry requested members to submit the edits to her via email. The changes to the draft Strategic Plan will be brought back to the next Commission meeting in December 2023.

### **INFORMATION ITEM**

**New Tobacco Program Overview and Survey:** Ms. Laury Chavis presented a brief overview of the Tobacco Survey Program. A handout was distributed. The following was discussed:

- The program is operating on a grant with an annual budget of \$175,670.00 from June 2023-May 2024. It was noted that the program will operate until May 2025.
- The Tobacco Program works in close collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Tobacco Prevention Branch, the Wake Forest School of Medicine (WFSM), and the Southeastern American Indian Cancer Health Equity Partnership (SAICEP) to ensure the tobacco survey is administered.
- The purpose of the program is to gather information on commercial tobacco use from adult American Indians in North Carolina.
- Discussed the survey distributed for commercial tobacco usage. After completion of the survey, it was noted that participants will receive a \$25 gift card in the mail.
- Ms. Candace Lowry noted that since the implementation of this program, DHHS has increased the gift card amount from \$2000 to \$5000. The program will investigate sending surveys to the youth population next.
- Discussed statistics. It was noted that the information gathered through surveys will be made available to the tribal and state leaders.
- Ms. Chavis indicated that Tobacco Survey Specialist part-time positions are available. She is recruiting staff from various American Indian communities in North Carolina.

The handout of the Tobacco Survey Program is on file and is an official part of the minutes.

The following item is not listed on the agenda:

Chair Rev. Burnett announced that Commissioner Alfred Richardson would like to make a brief comment to the Commission.

Commissioner Alfred Richardson thanked the Commission for their condolence messages, flowers, and support, due to the recent loss of his mother. He thanked Mr. Greg Richardson and the members for attending the funeral.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION ITEM ONLY**

**American Indian Culture and Religion Committee:** Commissioner Danny Bell, Chair, presented this item. A handout of the meeting minutes from August 18, 2023, was provided in the Board packet.

Commissioner Bell presented the following action items:

- A recommendation was made to include in the Legislative Committee agenda funding for an American Indian Museum or Culture Center in Raleigh.
- **MOTION:** Chair Rev. Burnett asked if there were any questions. None noted. Chair Rev. Burnett noted that coming from the Committee required no second. Motion carried with no objection from the membership.
- A recommendation was made to submit to the full Commission Board, support and understanding, but also to give the Cumberland County representatives on the Commission an opportunity to support the agenda items regarding the Les Maxwell School Cumberland County



and to press forward through the appropriate legislative channels. Commissioner Bell read the excerpt from the Cultural Committee meeting minutes dated August 18, 2023, handout.

- **MOTION:** Chair Rev. Burnett asked if there were any questions. None noted. Chair Rev. Burnett noted that coming from the Committee required no second. Motion carried with no objection from the membership.

The handout of the Culture Committee Meeting dated August 18, 2023, is on file and is an official part of the minutes.

**American Indian Housing & Adhoc Land Trust:** Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs, Chair, noted that the Committee is requesting all the tribes to draft a letter to their congresspeople to reauthorize the appropriation of the Native American Housing and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA).

**MOTION:** Commissioner Tony Hayes made a motion to approve the recommendation regarding the letter to the congressional representative urging them to reauthorize the NAHASDA legislation. Commissioner Isabell Freeman Elliott seconded the motion. The Chair Rev. Burnett asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion. None noted. Motion carried.

#### **American Indian Health Committee (Victim Services)**

##### **Indian Health Board Update, UNC-Chapel Hill – Dr. Ronnie Bell, UNC Chapel Hill:**

- Dr. Bell provided a brief update on the Indian Health Board. He presented a PowerPoint presentation.
- He noted that the Indian Health Board, focus is to provide quality lifestyles within the American Indian Families through research, education, and advocacy.
- Partnered with Alzheimer’s centers at Wake Forest and UNC. The Committee developed a document regarding memory loss and Alzheimer’s disease in Native people. Dr. Bell noted that the handout was distributed in the Native Indian community.
- Developed a thirty-minute document “Still Here.”
- Developed health guides focused on American Indian men and another health guide focused on American Indian women.
- Dr. Bell referenced a weblink to view a few short videos. The weblink is [NCAIHB.org](http://NCAIHB.org)
- It was noted that all the education developed materials are on the website. He referenced the [NC Medical Journal.com](http://NC Medical Journal.com).
- Dr. Bell noted that he is willing to serve as an adhoc member of the American Indian Health Committee. He will provide information on the Indian Health Board, different health issues, and expertise to the Committee.

**American Indian Education Committee:** Commissioner Dorothy Yates, Chair, noted that there are no action items to report. She shared information on the American Indian (AI) Scholarship Fund. A handout of the NC American Indian Fund Scholarship, 2023 Report was distributed.

Mr. Greg Richardson encouraged members to advocate for the American Indian (AI) License Plate. He noted that part of the fee goes towards the scholarships for Indian students. Details are listed in the handout provided. He noted that the AI License Plate can be obtained license when the driver’s license is renewed. He expressed that American Indian will be indicated on the driver’s license only if the driver requests such when a new license is issued or when a license is renewed.



**American Indian Child Welfare Subcommittee:** Commissioner Dorothy Yates, Chair, noted that Madison Thorton, Intern, Program Director. Indian Child Welfare Gathering tentative date is April 25, 2024, it was indicated that monthly webinars/ Lunch and Learn tentatively will start in October 2023. Next Committee meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2023.

**Economic Development & Employment Committee:** Commissioner Craig McMillian, Chair, presented the following:

- Distributed an agriculture card with the QR code on it which can be used to complete a survey for American Indian farmers, designed to collect information on American Indian farmers and provide funding opportunities for them.
- Action Item #1: The Commission will create a letter stating the importance of the reauthorization of the WIOA program to Washington DC, Virginia Fox.
- **MOTION:** Chair Rev. Burnett asked if there were any questions. None noted. Chair Rev. Burnett noted that coming from the Committee required no second. Motion approved.

**Environmental Justice:** No Report

**Agriculture:** No Report

**State and Federal Recognition:** Commissioner Larece Hunt, Chair presented the report as follows:

- The Committee is continuing its work on active state recognition petitions. The current petitioning groups is the “The Roanoke-Hatteras Indians of Dare County, NC.” This petition is currently incomplete, and the commission is providing the group with technical assistance.
- Mr. Elk Richardson, State Recognition Program Director noted that the Committee is continuing its work with regards to reviewing the recognition rules, to determine if there are areas that need refining. The regulations set the standards for groups petitioning for tribal recognition to become State Recognized Tribes. The rules, guidance documents and forms are on the commission’s website.
- The Committee will discuss The Roanoke Hatteras petition, and the gynecology findings,
- The Committee is continuing its work in reviewing the Catawba Indian Nation of South Carolina – Office of Tribal Government, and the New River Catawba submitted a notice of intent.
- Legislative request for the past petitioning group, researching tribal recognition files, regarding historic tribal recognition cases managed at the Commission.

Update on Recognition Work Session: None noted.

**Legislative Committee:** Commissioner Tony Hayes, Chair, presented an update on the legislative agenda. The following was discussed:

- Indian Education position. Department of Public Instruction, Director position.
- It was noted that seven items were submitted on the Legislative agenda. None were accepted. Commissioner Hayes stated that the Committee needs to produce a good strategy moving forward.
- Commissioner Hayes recommended three action items as follows:
- **MOTION #1:** The Commission of Indian Affairs to draft a letter to the Cherokee on the foul treatment of state-recognized tribes.



- **MOTION #2:** To that, all state-recognized tribes send representatives to NCAI convention November 12-17, in New Orleans to vote against the constitutional amendments.
- Chair Rev. Burnett asked if there were any questions. None noted. Chair Rev. Burnett noted that coming from the Committee required no second. Motion approved.
- **MOTION #3:** The Commission needs to create a subcommittee outside of state government with fees to assist with the creating of a Political Action Committee
- Chair Rev. Burnett asked if there were any questions. Mr. Greg Richardson indicated that setting up a political action committee would create problems. He expressed that he highly recommends this recommendation to be moved to United Tribes. Since the Commission already has an entity "United Tribes." He suggested to members that they need to meet with United Tribes and discuss the proposed recommendation. He noted that he serves on the Board of United Tribes and will be happy to assist in getting this matter on the United Tribes agenda. Commissioner Craig McMillian stated that the Commission needs to consider this suggestion from Mr. Greg Richardson. Discussion ensued. Chair Tony Hayes noted that he will follow up with Mr. Richardson and Chair Burnett.

**FLOWER FUND REPORT:** Ms. Nadine Patrick, Secretary/ Treasurer, NC Commission of Indian Affairs, presented the following:

- Opening Balance: \$403.20
- Expenditures: \$89.93
- Balance Fund: \$313.27

Commissioner Patrick informed members of their annual dues at the rate of \$24 per person toward the flower fund


**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Tribal Announcements from Commission Members: Commission members announced their upcoming events. Chair Rev. Burnette announced that members should have received two T-Shirts each. Chair Rev. Burnett thanked the presenters and everyone for attending the commission meeting. Chair Rev. Burnette thanked Mr. Greg Richardson and his staff for their outstanding job organizing the meeting event.

**ADJOURNMENTS:**

With there being no further items to discuss, Chair Rev. Burnett announced the meeting to be adjourned. Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sheila Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair Rev. Burnett requested Commissioner Larece Hunt to recite a short prayer and lead the Commission meeting to dismissal. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2023. Location to be announced.

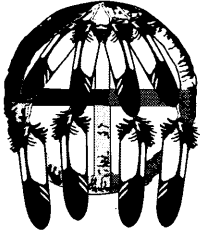
 12-1-23  
 Nadine F. Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer  
 NC Commission of Indian Affairs  
 (Sign & Date)

 12-1-2023  
 Daphne Pinto, Recording Secretary  
 (Sign & Date)



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

Nadine F. Patrick 12-1-23  
Nadine F. Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer  
NC Commission of Indian Affairs  
(Sign & Date)



# N.C. COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

ANNUAL MEETING

**James A. Thomas Hall A&B**

**University of North Carolina Pembroke**

1 University Road

Pembroke, NC 28372

**September 15, 2023**

**10:00 am to 3:30 pm**

**(Draft Agenda)**

<b>Opening Session</b>	<b>10:00 am – 10:15 am</b>
Welcome, Call to Order & Adopt Agenda	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Invocation	Vernanda (Vee) Oxendine, Commission Member
Pledge of Allegiance	Larece Hunt, Commission Member
Roll Call	Daphne Pinto, Administrative Assistant
Reading of Ethics Statement	Greg Richardson, Executive Director
Approval of June 1 and June 2, 2023, Meeting Minutes and Work Session	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Honor and Recognition of the late Mr. Alton Bruce Jones Former Executive Director	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>	<b>10:15 am – 11:00 am</b>
<p><b>Mr. John Lowery, Chairman</b> Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina</p> <p><b>Dr. Robin Cummings, Chancellor</b> University of North Carolina Pembroke</p> <p><b>Myia Reyes, Assistant Director</b> Curt &amp; Catherine Locklear American Indian Heritage Center</p>	
<b>Swearing-in Ceremonies</b>	<b>11:00 am - 11:15 am</b>
<p>Welcome and Introduction of the Presiding Officer Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman</p> <p>The Honorable Gregory Cummings, Mayor Town of Pembroke</p> <p>Welcome and Introduction New and Returning Commission Members of the Commission</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">Greg Richardson, Executive Director</p>	
<p><b>New Members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Greg Bryant</b>, Representing the Metrolina Native American Association, Inc. (Replacing Rebecca LaClaire)</li> </ul> <p><b>Returning members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dorothy Stewart Yates</b>, Representing the Sappony Indian Tribe</li> <li>• <b>Carolyn West</b>, Eastern Band of the Cherokee</li> <li>• <b>Shelia Kay (Epps) Wilson</b>, Representing the Guilford Native American Association</li> <li>• <b>Larece Hunt</b>, Representing the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina</li> <li>• <b>William Anthony (Tony) Hayes</b>, Representing the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation</li> <li>• <b>Elton Ray Jacobs</b>, Representing the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe</li> </ul> <p><b>Returning State Official:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gerald Goolsby</b>, Representing the President Pro Tem NC General Assembly Appointee</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Election of Officers</b></p>	<p><b>11:15 am - 11:30 am</b></p>
<p><b>Nomination for 2023-2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vice-Chair</li> <li>• Secretary/Treasurer</li> </ul>	<p>Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman</p>
<p><b>Guest Presentations</b></p>	<p><b>11:30 – 12:00 am</b></p>
<p>Lumbee River Reclamation of the Aboriginal Name of the River</p> <p>Retire the Red Raiders Coalition “Offensive Native American Mascots”</p>	<p>Wendy Moore, Council Member Chairperson, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina</p> <p>Becky Gaither Gaston County Schools Parent and Community Member AVP, Bank of America Cowichan/Salish clan</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Richard Boyce Former Mayor of Belmont, NC Parents of South Point Graduates Retired Presbyterian Minister and Seminary Dean/Professor</p>



Executive Director's Report Staff Quarterly Program Reports (Included in meeting packet)	Gregory Richardson, Executive Director
<b>Lunch Break)</b>	<b>12:00 pm – 12:30 pm</b>
Work Session Follow-up Actions	12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
By-Laws <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of all sections edited and discussed during the June 1<sup>st</sup> -2<sup>nd</sup> Commission meeting and work session.</li> <li>• Discussion of edits.</li> </ul> Approval and Adoption of the revised By-Laws. (Handout 1)	Candace Lowry, Deputy Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs
Committee Restructure – <b><u>This has already been voted on and approved.</u></b> (Handout 2)	
Discuss and approve the NCCIA 3-year Strategic Plan from June 1 to June 2, 2023, Commission meeting and work session. (Handout 3)	
New Tobacco Program Overview and Survey (Handout)	Laury Chavis, Director, Tobacco Survey Program
<b>Committee Reports and Action Items Only</b>	<b>2:00 pm – 3:00 pm</b>
American Indian Culture and Religion Committee	Danny Bell, Chair
American Indian Housing Adhoc Land Trust	Elton Ray Jacobs, Chair
American Indian Health Committee (Victim Services) Indian Health Board Update, UNC-Chapel Hill - Dr. Ronnie Bell, UNC Chapel Hill	Chair Appointment Pending
American Indian Education Committee American Indian Child Welfare Subcommittee	Dorothy Yates, Chair
Economic Development & Employment Committee Environmental Justice Agriculture	Craig McMillian, Chair
State and Federal Recognition Update on Recognition Work Session	Larece Hunt, Chair
Legislative Committee Update on Legislative Items 2022-2023 Working on Legislative Agenda 2023-2024	Tony Hayes, Chair Wes M. Kyatt, Legislative Liaison, NC Department of Administration
<b>Other Items</b>	
Flower Fund Report	Nadine Patrick, Secretary/ Treasurer, NC Commission of Indian Affairs
Items from Commission Members and Announcements	Ricky Burnett, Chairman
<b>Adjournments</b>	<b>3:30 pm</b>

**Upcoming Commission Meetings:**

- December 1, 2023 – Campbell University
- March 6, 2024-Meeting being planned in conjunction with the 2024 NC Indian Unity Conference - March 06-09, 2024, Hilton University City, Charlotte, NC
- June 2, 2023, Location TBA

**Upcoming events:**

- **National Congress of American Indians Convention, 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, November 12 – November 17th**
- **28<sup>th</sup> NC Indian Heritage Month Celebration, NC Museum of History** Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.  
Scheduled as a live – in-person event.
- 2024 NC Indian Unity Conference - March 06-09, Hilton University City, Charlotte, NC  
**<https://united-tribes.org/>**

**New Commission Website:**

Commission members are encouraged to review our new website at:

<https://ncadmin.nc.gov/boards-commissions/commission-indian-affairs>