



**NORTH CAROLINA
COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES
Virtual Meeting - Via TEAMS**

September 3, 2021

Public Access Location

116 West Jones Street

Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699

WELCOME: Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am with a quorum being present. He acknowledged and welcomed guest, the Commission Members, Tribal Leaders, Chiefs, State Officials, and staff.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: The agenda was presented, with no objections by the membership.

INVOCATION: Rev. Chief Michael Jacobs, Commission Member, Waccamaw-Siouan Tribe, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Furnie Lambert led the membership and guests in the presentation of the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Chairman noted that the business at hand will be conducted in the following manner. As Commission members names are called, during roll call, each member will state their name and affirmation. In addition, he indicated that members need to state if they “approve” the meeting agenda and March 11th minutes, as part of the roll call.

Coharie	Isabell Freeman-Elliott	Absent
Coharie	Lenora Locklear	Present-Approve
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Helen Cook	Present-Approve
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Gladys Hunt	Absent
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Joshua Welch	Present-Approve
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Carolyn West	Absent
Guilford Native American Association	Shelia Epps Wilson	Present-Approved
Guilford Native American Association	DeVane Burnette, Sr.	Present-Approved
Haliwa Saponi	Jeffrey Anstead	Absent
Haliwa Saponi	Charles P. Richardson	Present-Approved
Lumbee	Larece Hunt	Present-Approved
Lumbee	Ricky Burnett	Present-Approved
Lumbee	Furnie Lambert	Present-Approved
Meherrin	Constance Mitchell	Present-Approved
Metrolina Native American Association	Walter D. Baucom	Present-Approved



Metrolina Native American Association
Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation

Rebecca LaClaire
Tony Hayes

Present-Approved
Present-Approved

ROLL CALL *(Continued)*

Sappony
Triangle Native American Society
Waccamaw Siouan
Waccamaw Siouan

Dorothy Yates
Danny Bell
Elton R. Jacobs
Chief Michael Jacobs

Present-Approved
Present-Approved
Present-Approved
Present-Approved

STATE OFFICIALS

President Pro Tem Appointee	Daniel Locklear	Absent
Speaker of the House Appointee	Wanda Burns-Ramsey	Present-Approved
Department of Administration (DOA), Pamela Brewington Cashwell, Secretary		
Designee: David Elliott, Deputy Secretary		Present-Approved
Department of Commerce/ ESC, Machel Sanders, Secretary		
Designee: Betty Marrow Taylor, Chief of Staff		Present-Approved
Department of Environment Quality (DEQ), John Nicholson, Deputy Secretary		
Designee: Renee Kramer		Present-Approved
Representative: Sheila Holman, NCDEQ		
Department of Health & Human Services, Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary		
Designee: Melanie Bush, Chief Administrative		Present-Approved
Department of Labor, Josh Dobson, Commissioner		
Designee: Julie Ryan, Director of Govt. Affairs		Present-Approved
Department of Cultural Resources, Advisor, John Mintz - Non-Voting Member		Present

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

NCNAYO	Kaloni Walton - Non-Voting Member	Absent
NCNAYO	Dylan Hammonds (Co-Chair) - Non-Voting Member	Absent
NC NACOHE	Joshua L Richardson - Non-Voting Member	Present

STAFF PRESENT

Gregory Richardson, Executive Director
Daphne Pinto, Administrative Secretary
Kimberly Hammonds, Program Director, Economic Development Program & Supporting Undergraduate Native Students Program
Steven (Steve) Maynor, Program Director, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program
Candace Lowry, Program Director, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Program

OTHER STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT

Honorable Matthew Scott, District Attorney, Robeson County District Attorney's office for Judicial District 20, Robeson County, North Carolina
Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice

OTHERS PRESENT: List is on file with the Commission.



ETHICS STATEMENT: The Executive Director read the Ethics Statement on Behalf of the Chairman Burnett. He urged Commission Members to declare any conflicts of interest, or the appearances of conflicts of interest, that may exist in relation to any business matters before the Commission, as mandated by the State Ethics Act. None were noted.

APPROVAL OF June 4, 2021, MEETING MINUTES: The minutes of the June 4, 2021, meeting were presented. The minutes were accepted by consent, with minor change to the wording “T-Shirt”, changed to “Polo Shirts”. With no objections from members, the minutes were accepted by unanimous consent.

Welcoming Remarks:

NC Department of Administration, Pamela Cashwell, Secretary, NC Department of Administration

Secretary Cashwell was introduced by Chairman Burnett. Secretary Cashwell indicated that she is proud that the Commission has completed 50-years of service to the State of North Carolina. She thanked Honorable Matthew Scott, District Attorney, Robeson County, and the meeting presenters for being on the agenda. She also thanked all new and returning members of the Commission for their service and commitment to the work of the Commission. The Secretary discussed how COVID-19 has complicated the work of the commission and DOA. She urged everyone to get vaccinated and encourage others to do the same.

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY – NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS:

The Honorable Matthew Scott, District Attorney, Robeson County District Attorney’s Office for Judicial District 20, Robeson County, North Carolina presided over the swearing-in ceremony.

The following Commission members were sworn into office under the “Oath of Honor” promising to serve the people of North Carolina:

New Members:

- Joshua Welch, Eastern Band of Cherokee Tribe (Replacing Sam Lambert)
- Shelia Kay (Epps) Wilson, Guilford Native American Association (Replacing Jennifer Revels Baxter)

Returning Members:

- Ricky Burnett, Representing the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina
- Lenora Locklear, Representing the Coharie Tribe of North Carolina
- Charles Richardson, Representing the Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe

Urban Indian Organizations Representatives:

- Shelia Kay (Epps) Wilson, Representing the Guilford Native American Association, Inc. (Replacing Jennifer Revels Baxter)
- Helen Cook, Representing the Cumberland County Association for Indian People, Inc
- Danny Bell, Representing the Triangle Native American Society, Inc.
- Walter David Baucom, Representing the Metrolina Native American Association, Inc.

Legislative Member:



- Daniel Locklear, Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina -Was not present (His term ended June 30, 2021, Mr. Gerald Goolsby will replace Mr. Locklear and represent the President Pro Tem Pro of the NC General Assembly) He will be sworn in following his appointment to the Commission.

Chairman Ricky Burnett and Mr. Greg Richardson thanked District Attorney Matthew Scott for presiding over the swearing-in ceremony.

Chairman Burnett noted that Mr. Charles Richardson was not in attendance during the swearing-in ceremony.

Mr. Greg Richardson informed that Gerald Goolsby (replacing Daniel Locklear), is present but he is not cleared by State Ethics office.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – 2021-2022

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Chairman Ricky Burnett announced that there are two Commission office up for election during the Annual Meeting of the Commission and they are:

- Vice Chair
- Secretary/Treasurer

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

- Commissioner Danny Bell nominated Mrs. Dorothy Yates.
- Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs nominate Mr. Larece Hunt.

Chairman Burnette Call for a consensus to close nomination for Vice Chair of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs. With no objections noted, nominations ended by consensus.

Chairman Burnette called for a roll call vote on the Vice Chair seat. The Roll call vote was taken by Daphne Pinto, Administrative Secretary and tallied by staff.

Vote-Roll Call:

Lenora Locklear – Yes, Larece Hunt
Helen Cook – Yes, Larece Hunt
Joshua Welch – Abstained
Sheila Epps Wilson – Yes, Dorothy Yates
DeVane Burnett, Sr. – Yes, Larece Hunt
Larece Hunt – Yes, Larece Hunt
Furnie Lambert – Yes, Larece Hunt
Ricky Burnett – Yes, Larece Hunt
Constant Mitchell – Yes, Dorothy Yates
Rebecca LaClaire – Yes, Dorothy Yates
Walter D. Baucom – Yes, Dorothy Yates
Tony Hayes – Yes, Dorothy Yates
Dorothy Yates – Yes, Dorothy Yates
Danny Bell – Yes, Dorothy Yates
Elton R Jacobs – Yes, Larece Hunt
Michael Jacobs – Yes, Larece Hunt
Gerald Goolsby – Did not respond



Wanda Burns-Ramsey – Yes, Dorothy Yates

State Officials:

Pamela Caswell – Yes, Dorothy Yates

Betty Marrow-Taylor – Yes, Dorothy Yates

John Nicholson – Did not respond

Melanie Bush – Did not respond

Julie Ryan - Yes, Dorothy Yates

Total Votes: 10-members voted “Yes” for Dorothy Yates. 8-members voted “Yes” for Larece Hunt.

Chairman Rev. Burnett announced that Commissioner Dorothy Yates is elected as Vice Chair

Nomination of Secretary/Treasurer: Chairman Burnett called for nomination for Secretary / Treasurer:

- Commissioner Larece Hunt nominated Lenora Locklear for Secretary/Treasurer
- Commissioner Dorothy Yates nominated Wanda Burns-Ramsey for Secretary/Treasurer

Chairman Burnette call for a consensus to close nomination for Secretary / Treasurer of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs. With no objections noted, nominations ended by consensus.

The Roll call vote was taken by Daphne Pinto, Administrative Secretary and tallied by staff.

Vote-Roll Call:

Lenora Locklear – Yes, Lenora Locklear
Helen Cook – Yes, Lenora Locklear
Joshua Welch – Abstained
Sheila Epps Wilson – Yes, Wanda Burns-Ramsey
DeVane Burnett, Sr. – Yes, Lenora Locklear
Larece Hunt – Yes, Lenora Locklear
Furnie Lambert – Yes, Wanda Burns-Ramsey
Ricky Burnett – Yes, Lenora Locklear
Constant Mitchell – Yes, Lenora Locklear
Rebecca LaClaire – Yes, Wanda Burns-Ramsey
Walter D. Baucom – Yes, Wanda Burns-Ramsey
Tony Hayes – Yes, Wanda Burns-Ramsey
Dorothy Yates – Yes, Wanda Burns-Ramsey
Danny Bell – No response
Elton R Jacobs – Yes, Lenora Locklear
Michael Jacobs – Yes, Lenora Locklear
Gerald Goolsby – Did not respond
Wanda Burns-Ramsey – Yes, Wanda Burns Ramsey

State Officials:

Pamela Caswell – Yes, Wanda Bruns-Ramsey



Betty Marrow-Taylor – Yes, Wanda Bruns-Ramsey
John Nicholson – Did not respond
Melanie Bush – Did not respond
Julie Ryan - Yes, Wanda Burns-Ramsey

Total Votes: 10-members voted “Yes” for Wanda Burns-Ramsey. 8-members voted “Yes” for Lenora Locklear.

Chairman Rev. Burnett announced that Commissioner Wanda Burns-Ramsey is elected as Secretary/Treasurer.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS:

Covid-19 Pandemic Update/ Impact on American Indian Communities: Tracy Zimmerman, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Communications and Dr. Charlene Wong, Chief Health Policy for COVID-19, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)
Dr. Charlene Wong, Chief Health Policy for COVID-19, NCDHHS presented the NCDHHS Healthier Together, COVID-19 Impact on American Indian Communities.

The following was discussed:

- COVID-19 Trends – People who are Vaccinated Vs Unvaccinated
- COVID-19 Trends – Cases per 100,000 by Race
- North Carolina Statewide Summary – American Indian or Alaskan Native Individuals in NC
- COVID-19 Trends – Counts within American Indian or Alaskan Native Individuals in NC
- Number of Cases Reported in American Indian or Alaskan Native has been low compared to other races
- Incident Rate by Race – Is currently highest
- American Indian or Alaskan Native Counts are highest in Flu Region
- American Indian or Alaskan Native Vaccination Rates
- Majority of Cases among American Indian or Alaskan Native have occurred among unvaccinated cases
- COVID-19 Vaccines – Do I need an additional Dose or a Booster? Pfizer or Moderna only
3rd dose available for people who are immunocompromised
Booster doses are for people who are fully vaccinated, only for Pfizer or Moderna
- Vaccine Equity – Closer Look at Healthier Together; \$500,000 awarded in grants to support 27-community based organizations.
- Healthier Together – Work in Robeson County; Communications Work in Robeson County “This SHOT is your Shield”; brief information is on the PowerPoint slide.
- Vaccine Equity – Closer look at Community Health Workers
- Monoclonal Antibodies – People who test positive should ask the doctor about Monoclonal Antibody treatment. Good treatment available, it is not a substitute for the COVID vaccine. Brief detail is listed on the PowerPoint presentation.

Comments from Commission:

- Commission member Gerald Goolsby asked clarification on additional dose. Dr. Wong responded that they are waiting for CDC guidance on what is best to protect people from COVID-19.



Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director of NC Commission of Indian Affairs requested Dr. Wong to provide the Commission with a copy of her PowerPoint presentation. He expressed that he would distribute the presentation to the Commission members,

The PowerPoint Presentation was distributed to members and staff after the meeting. The handout “NC COVID-19, Impact on American Indian Communities-2021” is attached and is an official part of the minutes. (**Attachment A**)

Canoe Discoveries and Updates: Mr. John Mintz, State Archaeologist, Office of State Archaeology, NC Department of Cultural Resources (NCDRC) discussed the following:

- Log Boat/ Dugout Canoe Initiative i.e.: inventory on recovery, preserve and exhibit artifacts of American Indian (AI) log boats in North Carolina.
- NCDRC is working with Waccamaw Siouan and Coharie tribes, to identify, record and relocate the very large Canoe, that dates back decades.
- NCDRC physically identify the findings, measure, and take soil samples around it and move it away from the danger zone. Brief methods were discussed on safe keeping of the canoe. The Department of Cultural Resources is working with the tribes to build a very large tank to transport the canoe to the Office of State Archaeology, Under Water Archaeology branch to begin its conservation. Project date late Sept-Oct. 2021.
- Coharie canoe, was recovered 3-years ago. Plans to transport this canoe to the Office of State Archaeology, Under Water Archaeology branch to begin its conservation. It will be transported back to the Coharie people in Clinton, NC for exhibit.
- It was indicated that a list of canoes in NC, along with size, 3-D models of canoes, its location, will be published early next year 2022.
- The reason for this is the AI log boat or dugout canoes are a threatened resource, due to the size, location and being in the populated waters. Mr. Mintz expressed they often disappear. The state moves the canoes to deeper waters. Global positioning points are maintained of the exact location. He noted that it is kept there until the conservationist move the canoe to another location.
- In conclusion, Mr. Mintz expressed that this demonstrates to all North Carolinas and people across the United States, that American Indians were first on the land in North Carolina and are still on the land.

Comments from Commission:

- Mr. Greg Richardson thanked Mr. Mintz for his presentation and commitment to work with the Commission. He also thanked him for preserving the history of American Indians in the state of North Carolina.
- Mr. Richardson asked if the term “dugout boats and log boats” are the correct reference terms. Mr. Mintz confirmed that they are both the same.
- Mr. Mintz expressed that once the canoes are removed from the water, they are conserved by the Under Water Archaeology branch and returned to the originator/ tribe for exhibit, yet the canoe is protected at the same time.



Response - American Indian (AI) Heritage Commission – Legislation by:

Mr. D. Reid Wilson, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. He provided a brief description of his department on interpreting and preserving history. He stated that his department brings diversified stories, diversified cultures, and history to life.

Secretary Reid expressed that he would attend the 2021 AI Heritage Celebration in November. Encouraged all to be vaccinated to beat the pandemic. He emphasized building stronger ties with communities across the state of North Carolina. He noted that it was important for his department to recognize AI history and AI culture.

Tracey Burns, Deputy Secretary, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. She presented a PowerPoint presentation on AI Program and Services.

Discussed the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NC DNCR):

- NC State Parks manages a preserves 250,000 acres of land across the state and welcomed 19.8 million visitors in 2020.
 - Our Museums for Art, Science and History serve more than 2 million visitors per year and provide educated resources and programs to school age children across the state.
 - Our seven state history museums interpret more than 14,000 years of history and preserve a collection of more than 350,000 objects.
 - The African American Heritage Commission was recognized as a division of DNCR in 2017. Their mission is to protect, promote NC African American history, art, and culture, for all people.
 - The NC Zoo is the world’s largest natural habitat zoo and supports animal conservation in NC and around the world.
 - The NC Arts Council provides the statewide vision to develop the arts in all 100 counties. Distributes resources that support art initiatives in economic development, downtown revitalization, education, and health care.
 - The NC Symphony is the country’s first state supported symphony orchestra.
 - The NC Land and Water Fund helps protect water quality and over 500,000 acres of land. Celebrating 25th anniversary in 2021.
 - The State Archives contains over 100M historic documents.
 - The State Library of NC provides access to information resources
- Each of our 27 state historic sites tells an important story from North Carolina’s past and together they tell the story of North Carolina’s diverse people and places from early Native American settlements to the Old North State’s role in World War II.

Discussed Goal – Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion: It was noted that the NCDNCR is committed to providing a climate and culture that fosters, promotes, and encourages social interactions that support, appreciate, and celebrate our differences. By supporting diversity and inclusion, the department strives to enhance cross-culture understanding.

Discussed “How we tell the American Indian Story in North Carolina”: Historic Sites; Restoration; Preservation; Community Engagement; Education; Events; Content and Publications (Historical Publications); Land Management (Land Acknowledgements); Commemorations (America’s 250th)

Discussed the following: Cherokee Specialist at Fort Dobbs; Historic Halifax, Honoring a Sacred Haliwa Spring; Fort Fisher; Lake Waccamaw; Town Creek Indian Mound; American Indian Heritage Celebration (Nov 20-21, 2021); Highway Historical Marker Program; Historical Publications; and Land acknowledgement.



In conclusion, Ms. Burns informed the membership that funding is available in the budget for the American Indian Heritage Commission, if it passes, NCDNCR is ready to help the American Indian Tribes of NC.

No handout was provided.

Comments from Commission:

- Due to the timeline, Mr. Greg Richardson informed members to submit their questions to Ms. Burns in the chat.
- American 250th Anniversary Overview: LeRea Umfleet, NC Project Administrator, presented a brief overview. The following was discussed:
- America 250 NC event was discussed and explained.
- Statewide Activities – Online Resources, Educational Outreach, Events, Trails and Waysides
- Goals: Map of NC Tribal and Urban Communities was presented to the Commission.
- Connect with North Carolinians via education activities (robust, comprehensive, and inclusive statewide programs) through on-line tools and outreach.
- Ms. Umfleet noted that she will reach out to tribal communities to gather information regarding culture and history for 2026 and the 250th anniversary. She urged input.
- Halifax State NC 250 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the American Revolution with wide ranging activities across a multi-year span in 2024.
- How best to commemorate revolutionary war in its legacy?
- In closing Ms. Umfleet requested the Commission to provide information of the men on both sides of the conflict. She noted that the decision to fight was not an easy one to make.
- Her contact information was provided. Ms. Sarah Koonts, State Archivist email sarah.koonts@ncdcr.gov; LeRae Umfleet, America 250 NC Project Administrator email lerae.umfleet@ncdcr.gov
- Website: <https://www.ncdcr.gov/america-250-nc/>
- National America 250 website: <https://america250.org/>

The handout “DNCR 250” (**Attachment B**) and “NCDNCR Summary with themes graphics” (**Attachment C**) are attached and is an official part of the minutes.

Comments from Commission:

- Mr. Greg Richardson thanked all the above presenters for bring the Commission up to date on the 250th anniversary.
- Ms. Koonts noted that she and Ms. LeRae is very eager to partner, urged everyone to look at the handout, which include major themes that they will be focusing on during the commemoration. The themes will resonate with all on the historic preservation, culture, arts, and outdoor landscapes.
- Mr. Richardson noted that the Indian Heritage Month Celebration was a source for all citizens to connect with and to educate themselves about the culture and history of American Indians.

Executive Director’s Report – Information Item

Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs, presented his written report and gave highlights from that report as follows:



- State budget is still under review by the NC General Assembly, and we do not know when a budget will be approved. The Commission's budget remains the same as last year or until a new budget is approved.
- Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program received additional Funding this quarter.
- Amazon Cooperation Donation were made available to tribes and organizations this quarter. The precise details are in the written report.
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program received VOCA grant funding through the Governor's Crime Commission, amount \$286,385.
- Discussed Workforce Innovations Opportunities Act Program, program funding remains the same.

Due to time limit, Mr. Richardson noted that the Executive Director's report along with Program Managers reports are included in the meeting packet review later he urged members to take information from the reports and share that information with tribal leaders and community members.

The Executive Director Report is attached to the minutes of the meeting and is an official part of the minutes. (**Attachment D**)

Legislative Snapshot – Katie Hall, Legislative Liaison, NC Department of Administration gave a brief update:

- Deputy Director Position, funded at \$87,000; House has approved for \$55,000. It was noted that additional dollars are needed to make up the difference in funding to cover fringe benefits for this position.
- State Recognition – Need \$125,000 from the Governor budget. This will allow the commission to hire a program coordinator and para legal employee. The senate funded Zero, the house funded \$100,000.
- \$10M in non-recurring funding to help with AI communities that were impacted by COVID-19. This is not in controversy and is included in both the House and Senate budgets.
- Cultural Resources Budget - \$250,000 is in play for American Indian Cultural Commission to be created under the NC Department of Culture Resources. This funding is in the House version but not in the Senate.

Comments from Commission:

- Commission members asked clarifying questions regarding the American Indian Cultural Commission that is included in legislation and led to a lively discussion. This item was included in the Commission's legislative budget!
- Ms. Hall also indicate that the initial Covid funding budget was \$18M, but House and Senate reduced it to \$10M. Legislative Committee Chair can advocate and request that the full amount be reinstated or \$18M.
- Commission member asked if the initial budget of \$18M was in the Governor's proposal, how was it reduced to \$10M. Also, concern was raised about equitable distribution of the funding and is the House and Senate using tribal membership rolls instead of an equitable distribution. Commission member requested further information and how to get back to the original amount of funding. Ms. Hall indicated that the Commission membership should contact the House and Senate Chairs.



- Commission member noted that other tribes' who have smaller population will not get very much funding if the funding is distributed by tribal roll and that it looks like one tribe will get two-thirds of the funding!
- Mr. Greg Richardson noted the funding is coming from the US Treasury Department (ARSA funding). However, that funding becomes state funding once it is received by the state and the General Assembly must approve how the funding will be distributed. The exact amount of funding to be distributed is uncertain as of this date. He asked members to advocate with their legislators and noted that Senate Bill number is SB105 is the bill to discuss with legislators.
- Secretary Caswell noted that the proposal that was discussed back in May or June with the tribal leadership and that the Governor's proposal was submitted to the General Assembly as promised or \$18M in funding! This was the same budget proposal that was submitted as part of the Governor's budget. However, she noted that major budget decisions are made behind closed doors at the General Assembly. Regarding the \$10 M, she expressed that some unplanned things show up in the budget and no one has any idea where they came from or how the budget got changed. She noted that this is an item for Commission member to get involved and advocate with local legislatures, tell them your concerns etc.
- Ms. Hall talked about Senate Bill 105, Special Provisions, from the House and the Senate, as well as the Committee report from the House and the Senate. She read an excerpt from SB 105 as follows: **\$10M in non-recurring funds shall be allocated to tribes identified in GS 71A based on the numbers of members enrolled, as of July 1, 2021. However, no funding is designated for Urban Indian organizations based on Senate Bill 105.**
- Commission members asked question about a House Bill, which allocates \$250,000 for Cultural Resources and questioned whether the funding is for one year or two years. Ms. Hall responded it is for two years and is for the **American Indian Cultural Commission at Cultural Resources. That Commission will consist of a twelve-member Commission. This is stated in Section 14.9 of the House version (page 371), and it will be housed at the NC Dept. of Cultural Resources.**
- Commissioner member asked if this creates another Commission of Indian Affairs? Ms. Hall read an excerpt as follows: **The focus would be to create public awareness of the Annual American Indian (AI) Heritage Month Celebration, also to advise the Secretary on the oversight and management of state managed American Indian historic sites. Also on American Indian cultural events, to encourage American Indian cultural tourism throughout the state and advise on any other matters.**
- Commission member noted that there is already another Commission for African Americans like the one being created for American Indians within the Department of Cultural Resources. Ms. Hall added that this new American Indian Commission will not be duplicating the Commission of Indian Affairs, that Commission or group of members currently sit on right now. Ms. Hall agreed and confirmed yes.
- Commission members noted that they understand that they must contact their legislators in their districts but expressed that the Commission of Indian Affairs already has a Legislative Committee. Question was raised and can be referred to this Committee, issue a letter of recommendation for action and include all members of the tribes and organization sitting on the Commission.
- Commission members from Urban Organization also echoed the same sentiment as to urban organizations. They indicated that there is a need to be included as they serve many people from different tribes and organizations. They need the resources to provide service.



- Commission members requested that Ms. Hall develop talking points, so they can go out and advocate with their legislators, with an effective unified message.
- Mr. Greg Richardson requested Ms. Hall to assist. Ms. Hall agreed.
- Secretary Caswell noted that she and her staff will be happy to assist but need to have the consensus of the Commission decision.
- Ms. Hall advised that the consensus needs to be as follows: (1) Amount: \$10M Vs \$ \$18M; (2) Distribution formula of what was originally proposed.
- Mr. Greg Richardson and Chairman Burnett informed that the Commission and agreed that the total \$18M in funding be restored in the legislation. They also indicated that the Commission have already reached a consensus on that matter during previous meetings.
- Secretary Caswell urged the Commission to support the Governor's budget, it would be easy to move forward. Chairman Burnett and Mr. Richardson agreed.
- Commission member asked clarifying question on funding for Culture Resources Commission and asked if would it hinder funding for this Commission? Ms. Hall explained that the funding will be separate and independent from each other. The new funding will be for an American Indian Cultural Resources Commission at Cultural Resources.
- Secretary Caswell noted that the Governor's proposal is for \$18M. Every tribe gets \$1M. Followed by a prorated distribution after that. Urban organization would receive \$250,000. Additional amount to Commission of Indian Affairs \$73,578 for the position that would monitor the impact of COVID pandemic.
- Chairman Burnett asked if he had a consensus. Hearing no objection this process stood and it was agreed that the Commission and its membership would support the Governor's budget.

Open discussion - No handout was provided.

2021 Indian Heritage Month Plans November 20th – Update

Ms. Alyson Vulvey, Community Festivals Coordinator, NC Museum of History provided a brief overview.

- **The Department of NC Museum of History has been partnering with the Commission of Indian Affairs, Indian Tribes, and organization to sponsor the Indian Heritage Month Celebration for the past 26-years.**
- The Indian Affairs Advisory Board and Dept. of NC Museum of History meet regularly to discuss the 2021 Indian Heritage Month Celebrations. At the next meeting on September 16, 2021, a final decision will be made if the event will be in-person or virtual. Event date is Saturday, November 20, 2021.
- Education day is Friday, November 19, 2021, this event will be held virtual. They reached students in all 100 counties. This event is open to the public on-line.
- Ms. Vulvey indicated that she will add the museum website into the Microsoft Teams chat box.
- In conclusion, she noted that the museum will notify on the website if the 2021 Indian Heritage Month Celebration will be held virtual or in-person.

Commission's 50th Anniversary Discussion and Options: Chairman Burnett informed the Commission that due to the pandemic, that in-person meetings are on hold. Therefore, he will meet with the Executive Director and start making plans for the Commission's 50th Anniversary. He indicated that an idea is being discussed about holding this event in conjunction with the 2022 NC Indian Unity Conference in March.



Discussion of New Committee Structure:

Chairman Burnett introduced Wanda Burns Ramsey, Chair of the Goals Committee to review the new committee structure.

- Chairwoman Burns-Ramsey indicated that the Goals, Committee Operating Guidelines and Structure was approved on March 11, 2021, during the Commission meeting. The information was distributed in the Board packets for that meeting.
- Vice-Chairwoman Yates was asked by Wanda, to present the 10-Committee Structure, listed on page 2 of the handout.
- It was noted that Commission members are to select the Committee(s) they wish to join, and that Chairman Ricky Burnett would appoint members to the committees and designate a Chair of each Committee. Every Committee should have Adhoc Committee members.
- A lengthy debate and discussion ensued. Commission members asked clarifying questions about the Committee Structure and indicated that together with the sub-committees, the new structure added up to a total of 17-Committee/Subcommittees. Other Commission members expressed concerns of having to attend many Committees. Chair Burns-Ramsey explained that this is not the intent of the Goals Committee. The intent was to reduce the number of Committees, and to organize the Committees based on their purpose. The subcommittees are committees within the Standing Committees. Not separate committees. Joining a committee is voluntary. Commission members should decide which committee(s) to join. The Chairman of the Commission will make final committee appointments. Members should join a maximum of 4-Committees. It was indicated that each Committee should include adhoc members.
- Commissioner Furnie Lambert made a motion to table this recommendation until the next meeting so that the Commission members can review the Goals and Committee Operating Guidelines and Structure. Commissioner Charles Richardson seconded. Motion carried.
- Commissioner Yates stated that she was against the motion, noting that it was approved in March 2021. Commissioner Yates expressed that Commission members were asked to advise Chairman Burnett as to which committees they wished to serve on. Then he would select the Chair of the Committees. She also expressed that the Chair of the Committees will need to work with the committee members to establish goals that will be possible for the Committees to accomplish within 18 to 24 months. This is necessary to effectively accomplish the work of the Commission.
- Commissioner Yates also indicated that getting quorums for these Committee meetings are a challenge. That commission members are missing multiple committee meeting and she noted that there is no set number for each Committee.
- Chairwoman Wanda Burns-Ramsey informed the Commission that the Commission has already voted on the structure in March 2021 and the intent of the Goals Committee was to make the structure more effective.
- Commissioner Ray Jacobs agrees to table and delay the recommendation for the Committee Structure. He noted that the intent was not clear in March.
- Commissioner Charles Richardson indicated that he preferred to review the objectives of the Goals Committee and noted that many years ago, discussions were held to reduce the Committees. He added that a lot of subcommittees have been added and most of the Committees already have Adhoc members.
- Chairwoman Wanda Burns Ramsey noted that the Goals Committee was in place and charged to review the work of the Commission and to make the Commission more effective.



- Commissioner Yates informed the Commission that these Committees come from the statues and from the goals set for the Commission. She stated that the Commission asked to keep the committees separate and have them as subcommittees. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Subcommittee was added as per the request of the Commission. She indicated that the Committee Structure was approved at the former Commission meeting.
- Commissioner Larece Hunt agrees to table the Committee Structure and let everyone review by the next Commission meeting.
- Chairman Burnett asked if he had a consensus to table this recommendation until the next Commission meeting. That matter was achieved by a roll call of the membership. Chairman Burnett ask the Executive Director to facilitate the roll call.

Vote-Roll Call:

Lenora Locklear – agree to table
Helen Cook – agree to table
Joshua Welch – agree to table
Sheila Epps Wilson – disagree
DeVane Burnett, Sr. – agree to table
Charles Richardson - agree to table
Larece Hunt – agree to table
Furnie Lambert – agree to table
Ricky Burnett – agree to table
Constant Mitchell – disagree
Rebecca LaClaire – agree to table
Walter D. Baucom – disagree
Tony Hayes – disagree
Dorothy Yates – disagree
Danny Bell – disagree
Elton R Jacobs – agree to table
Michael Jacobs – agree to table
Gerald Goolsby – Did not respond
Wanda Burns-Ramsey – disagree

State Officials:

Pamela Caswell –
Betty Marrow-Taylor –
John Nicholson – Abstain
Melanie Bush –
Julie Ryan - agree to table

Total: 12-members voted “Yes/agree” to table. 7-members voted “No/Disagree” to table.

Chairwoman Burns-Ramsey requested additional volunteers to serve on the Goals Committee. It was noted that the Goals Committee voted on training the Chair of each of the Committee. Chairman Burnett confirmed yes and recommended that she proceed with the training Committee Chairs but added that such training must include all Commission members.



The handout “Goals and Committee Operating Guidelines and Structure” is attached and is an official part of the meeting minutes (**Attachment E**)

Committee Reports: (Continuation)

- Adhoc Indian Health – None
- Adhoc Land Trust – None
- Culture Resources – None
- Employment & Training – None
- Environmental Justice – None
- Indian Child Welfare – None (Information in the Executive Director Report).
- Indian Education – None
- Indian Housing – None (Action Item on the Administrative Plan is in the Board packet)
- Legislative – None
- Recognition – None (Information listed in the Recognition Program Report)
- Veterans – 2022 Veterans Awards – Nomination due December 1st

The handout Action Item for the Indian Housing Committee on the Administrative Plan is attached and is an official part of the meeting minutes. (**Attachment F**).

Mr. Greg Richardson informed the Commission that the action item will be placed on the Consent Agenda for action at the end of the meeting. He requested a consensus, Chairman Burnett hearing no objection, agreed to place the item on the consent agenda.

FLOWER FUND REPORT: Ms. Wanda Burns-Ramsey, Secretary/ Treasurer, presented the following: Flower Fund: Balance is \$ 235.39.

NC Commission of Indian Affairs Polo Shirts: Ms. Kimberly Hammonds informed that the orders for the Polo Shirts will be taken at the next in-person meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tribal Announcements from Commission Members: Commission members announced their upcoming events.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Agenda
- Meeting Minutes, June 4, 2021
- Executive Director’s Report
- Section 8 Housing Committee Action Item on Administrative Plan
- State Recognition Report

Vote-Roll Call:

Members	Yes	No	Remarks
Isabell Freeman-Elliott			Absent



Lenora Locklear	Yes		Approved
Helen Cook	Yes		Approved
Gladys Hunt			Absent
Joshua Rory Welch			
Carolyn West			Absent
Shelia Epps Wilson	Yes		Approved
DeVane Burnett, Sr.	Yes		Approved
Jeffrey Anstead			
Charles Richardson	Yes		Approved
Larece Hunt	Yes		Approved
Furnie Lambert	Yes		Approved
Ricky Burnett	Yes		Approved
Constant Mitchell	Yes		Approved
Rebecca LaClaire	Yes		Approved
Walter D. Baucom			
Tony Hayes			
Dorothy Yates	Yes		Approved
Danny Bell	Yes		Approved
Elton R Jacobs	Yes		Approved
Michael Jacobs			
Gerald Goolsby			No response
Wanda Burns-Ramsey	Yes		Approved
State Officials	Yes	No	Remarks
Pamela Caswell	Yes		Approved
Betty Marrow-Taylor			No Response
John Nicholson			No Response
Melanie Bush			No Response
Julie Ryan			No Response

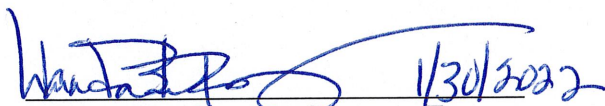


Total: 15-Commission members voted “Yes”. 1-State Officials voted “Yes”. Mr. Greg Richardson noted that a quorum was still in effect; therefore, the action items discussed during the meeting approved. Commissioner Charles Richardson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wanda Burns-Ramsey. Motion carried.

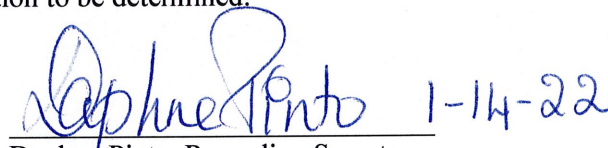
FUTURE MEETING DATES & EVENTS: The meeting dates were listed on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further items to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting, was made by Commissioner Larece Hunt. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Charles Richardson. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the meeting location to be determined.

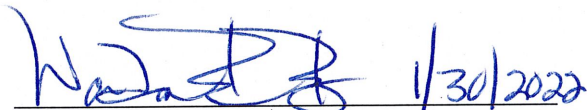
 1/30/2022

Wanda Burns-Ramsey, Secretary-Treasurer
NC Commission of Indian Affairs
(Sign & Date)

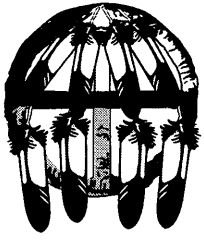
 1-14-22

Daphne Pinto, Recording Secretary
(Sign & Date)

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs on December 3, 2021.

 1/30/2022

Wanda Burns-Ramsey, Secretary-Treasurer
NC Commission of Indian Affairs
(Sign & Date)



N.C. COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Via Microsoft Teams

September 3, 2021

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

(Draft)

Opening Session	10:00 am – 10:15 am
Welcome, Call to Order & Adopt Agenda	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Invocation	Chief Michael Jacobs, Commission Member
Pledge of Allegiance	Furnie Lambert, Commission Member
Roll Call	Daphne Pinto, Administrative Assistant
Reading of Ethics Statement	Greg Richardson, Executive Director
Approval of June 4, 2021, Meeting Minutes	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Welcoming Remarks	Pamela Brewington Cashwell, Secretary NC Department of Administration
Swearing-in Ceremonies	10:15 am - 10:30 am
Introduction of New and Returning Commission Members of the Commission	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Tribal Representatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lenora Locklear, Coharie Tribe of North Carolina</i> • <i>Joshua “Rory” Welch, Eastern Band of the Cherokee (Replacing Sam Lambert)</i> • <i>Charles P Richardson, Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe</i> • <i>Ricky Burnett, Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina</i> Urban Indian Association Representatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Shelia Kay (Epps) Wilson, Guilford Native American Association (Replacing Jennifer Revels Baxter)</i> • <i>Helen Cook, Cumberland County Association for Indian People</i> • <i>Walter David Baucom, Metrolina Native American Association, Inc.</i> • <i>Danny Bell, Triangle Native American Society, Inc.</i> Legislative Member: President Pro Tem of General Assembly Appointee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Daniel Locklear – Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina</i> 	The Honorable Matthew Scott, District Attorney, Robeson County District Attorney’s Office, Judicial District 20, Robeson County, North Carolina Presiding
Election of Officers	10:30 am - 10:45 am
Nomination and Election of 2021-2022 Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Vice-Chair</i> • <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i> 	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Guest Presentations	10:45 – 11:30am

COVID-19 Pandemic Update / Impact on American Indian Communities	Dr. Charlene Wong, Assistant Secretary for Children and Families “Key Leader in Pandemic Response and Operational Equity” NC Department of Health and Human Services
Natural and Cultural Resources Updates	John J. Mintz, State Archaeologist Office of State Archaeology NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources – Status of Canoe Discoveries D. Reid Wilson, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Tracey Burns, Deputy Secretary, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
American 250th Anniversary Overview	LeRae Umfleet, Statewide Coordinator
Executive Director’s Report Quarterly Program Reports (copies in meeting packet) Legislative Snapshot 2020 Indian Heritage Month Plans November 20 th -Update	Greg Richardson, Executive Director Katie Hall, Legislative Liaison, NC Department of Administration Alyson Vuley, Community Festivals Coordinator, NC Museum of History (Replaced Emily Grant)
Commission’s 50th Anniversary Discussion and Options	Chairman Burnett
Discussion of New Committee Structure	11:30 am – 12:30 pm
Discussion of Committee Appointments	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Committee Reports - Action items Only - PLEASE	
Adhoc Goals Committee	Wanda Burns-Ramsey, Chair
Adhoc Indian Health	Charles Richardson, Chair
Adhoc Land Trust	Furnie Lambert, Chair
Culture Resources	Danny Bell, Chair

Employment & Training	WD Baucom, Chair
Environmental Justice	Jeffrey Anstead, Chair
Indian Child Welfare	Carolyn West, Chair
Indian Education	Dorothy Yates, Chair
Indian Housing	Elton Ray Jacobs, Chair
Legislative	Tony Hayes, Chair
Recognition	Larece Hunt, Chair
Veterans 2022 Veteran Awards - Nominations Due December 1st	Sam Lambert, Chair
Other Items	12:30 pm – 12:45 pm
Flower Fund Report	Wanda Burns-Ramsey, Treasurer, NC Commission of Indian Affairs
NC Commission of Indian Affairs T-Shirts	Kimberly Hammonds, Commission Staff
Announcements	12:50 pm
Items from Commission Members	Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Adjournment	1:00 pm
<p>Upcoming Commission Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -December 3 – In person, Raleigh -March 10, 2022 (Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2022 NC Indian Unity Conference-March 11-12, 2022, Hilton North Raleigh) -June 3, 2022, LTBA <p>Upcoming events:</p> <p>Indian Child Welfare Gathering, Lunch and Learns, will be held virtually October 7, 14, 21 and 28th. The Gathering details will be forthcoming or contact Cheyenne Daniel at: Cheyenne.daniel@doa.nc.gov.</p> <p>National Congress of American Indians, 78th Annual Convention October 11-14, 2021 – This event will be held virtually. See the following website for registration details: https://www.ncai.org/events/2021/10/11/78th-AnnualConvention</p> <p>Indian Heritage Month Celebration – The 26th Annual American Indian Celebration will take place at the NC Museum of History, Saturday, November 20th, 2021. The event is currently scheduled to be a live – in person event. See the following website for details: https://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/aihc</p>	

Commission Website:

Commission members are encouraged to review our website below and provide feedback on its content.

<https://ncadmin.nc.gov/about-doa/divisions/commission-of-indian-affairs>