

NC Commission of Indian Affairs
Quarterly Commission Meeting
Hosted by the Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe
Chief W. R. Richardson, Tribal Government Complex
39021 NC Hwy 561
Hollister, NC 27844

December 5, 2014

Chairwoman Ruth Revels presided over the December 5th meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. with a quorum being present.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Brett Locklear gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Furnie Lambert led the membership and guests in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

President Pro Tem Appointee	Daniel Locklear	Present
Speaker of the House Appointee	Wanda Burns-Ramsey	Present
Coharie	Isabell Freeman Elliott	Present
Coharie	Charlene Jacobs	Absent
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Roy Maynor	Absent
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Gladys Hunt	Absent
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Sam Lambert	Absent
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Marvel Welch	Present
Guilford Native American Association	Ruth Revels	Present
Guilford Native American Association	G. DeVane Burnette, Sr.	Present
Haliwa-Saponi	Jeffrey Anstead	Present
Haliwa-Saponi	Charles Richardson	Present
Lumbee	Larece Hunt	Absent
Lumbee	Daniel Jones	Present
Lumbee	Furnie Lambert	Present
Meherrin	Constance Mitchell	Present
Metrolina Native American Association	Walter D Baucom	Present
Metrolina Native American Association	Jessie Jacobs	Present
Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation	Sharn Jeffries	Absent
Sappony	Dorothy Crowe	Present
Triangle Native American Society	Brett Locklear	Present
Waccamaw Siouan	Elton R Jacobs	Present
Waccamaw Siouan	Shirley Freeman	Present

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

NCNAYO	Allison Graham, Co-Chair	Absent
NCNAYO	Josh Oxendine, Co-Chair	Absent
NCNACHOE	Toni Henderson	Absent

STATE OFFICIALS

Department of Administration, Bill Daughtridge, Jr., Secretary	Present
Designee: Bill Bryan	Present
Employment Security Commission, Sharon Decker, Secretary	
Designee: Dale Folwell	Absent
Department of Health & Human Services, Dr. Aldona Wos, Secretary	
Designee: Sherry Bradsher	Present
Department of Labor, Cherie Berry, Commissioner	
Designee: Tina Morris-Anderson	Absent
Department of Environment & Natural Resources, John Skvarla, Secretary	
Designee: Brad Ives	Absent
Department of Cultural Resources, Susan Kluttz, Secretary	
Designee: Steve Claggett	Absent

STAFF

Greg Richardson, Executive Director
 Sue Faircloth, Case Manager, Workforce Investment Act Program
 Kimberly Hammonds, Program Director, Economic Development
 Stephen Maynor, Community Development
 David Grigsby, Program Director, Section 8 Program
 Elk Richardson, Program Director, Workforce Investment Act Program
 Mickey Locklear, Program Director, Educational Talent Search Program
 Consuela Richardson, Counselor, Educational Talent Search Program

OTHER STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT

Jarrold Lowery, Community Liaison, Governor’s Office

OTHERS PRESENT: List on file with the commission

MOTION TO ADOPT THE MEETING AGENDA

A motion to adopt the agenda as presented was made by Commissioner Furnie Lambert and seconded by Commissioner Jeff Anstead. Motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

Chairman Revels welcomed Commissioner Constance Mitchell: Meherrin Tribe

ETHICS STATEMENT

Greg Richardson, Executive Director read the Ethics Statement, on behalf of Chairwoman Revels.

MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 5TH MEETING

Chairperson Ruth Revels asked the Commission to consider the minutes of the September 5th meeting as presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Shirley Freeman. The motion was second by Commissioner DeVane Burnette.

Commissioner Brett Locklear proposed the following correction: Page 10 – Committee Appointments – Mr. Locklear requested that the following statement be added at the end of paragraph, regarding appointments... “That he had previously requested, that the Chairperson appoint him to the Education Committee on several occasions”. The Chairperson acknowledged his request and proceeded with the business at hand. All other requests for committee appointments or changes were made without any discussion. Correction accepted and motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Special Remarks – Haliwa Saponi Tribal Government

Chief Ogletree Richardson recognized Vice Chief Jeff Anstead, Reverend Michael Richardson (Tribal Council Chair), Haliwa Saponi tribal administration staff, tribal school staff, school board members, and tribal members in attendance. She welcomed the commission to the Haliwa community. Chief Richardson noted that the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe was recognized on April 15, 1965 by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and that this year the tribe’s powwow would be the 50-year anniversary and a celebration of this historic event. The Haliwa-Saponi 50th Anniversary Powwow will be held April 19-21, 2015, and all are invited to attend this celebration.

Commissioner Jeff Anstead welcomed the commission to the Haliwa Saponi Tribal community.

Tribal Administrator Archie Lynch welcomed the commission to the tribe’s administrative facilities. He noted some activities to be held during the 50th anniversary powwow, which includes a 5k Run; an exhibit on the “History of the Tribe” funded by the NC Humanities Council, an honor ceremony for Senior Citizens’, a special memorial for Haliwa-Saponi tribal members who have passed on in the past 50 years of tribal history. A list of the Haliwa Saponi program and activities was distributed.

Mr. Lynch commented that the Housing Program is the largest program of the tribe. Home ownership has been transferred to 13 tribal members. The Tribe also owns 30 apartments at Tomahawk Meadows and 320 acres of land in Halifax and Warren County. Over the past 10 years more than 20 families per year have been helped through at least one of the housing programs.

Mr. Lynch reported on the Turtle Island Project. Studies have been completed for this project but the tribe feels it is not a feasible project at this time, but it is hoped that this project will come to fruition in the future.

Ms. Michelle Varian reported on the Haliwa Saponi Tribal School. She noted there are 190 students currently enrolled with 75% being American Indian. The school is working with a company called “Imagine That” to create a 3-5 year strategic plan.

Earl Evans reported on an economic development workshop to be held April 15, 2015 in the Haliwa Saponi community. He noted that municipal governments need to work closer with Indian tribes and the urban area organizations, and requested that state government representatives on the commission assist in sharing this need with their agencies.

Presentation

Greg Richardson presented the Haliwa Saponi Tribe with a framed copy of the 2014 Indian Heritage Month Poster and thanked the tribe for hosting the December 5th Commission meeting.

Comments

Secretary Daughtridg noted that he presented the Governor with a Crystal Eagle presented by the Meherrin Tribe on behalf of the eight tribes of North Carolina during the Indian Heritage Month Celebration, in Raleigh in November.

Executive Director’s Report (copy on file in the commission office)

The certified budget was received this quarter; therefore, funding is available to meet the immediate needs of the commission at this time. Because of the expenditures required to work on the Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina petition, funding for the remainder of the fiscal year will be extremely tight and that some commission activities may have to be curtailed, especially during the last quarter of the SFY. A budget narrative has been completed for the 2015 legislative session and submitted to the Secretary’s Office.

Three legislative items will be monitored during the 2015 session of the NC General Assembly:

- Enhance State Recognition Process
- State Advisory Council on Indian Education
- Tribal ID Cards

71st National Congress of American Indian Convention: Mr. Richardson attended the conference, several state recognized tribes were in attendance and included Eastern Band of Cherokee, Coharie, Haliwa Saponi, Lumbee and Waccamaw Siouan.

Earl Evans attended the sixth annual White House Tribal Nations Consultation Conference in Washington D.C. on December 3, which had been set up for federally recognized tribes.

A Public Records Request was received requesting information on the recognition petition of the Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina. Staff is working with the Public Information Office to comply with this request.

Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP): Completed an update of the plan this quarter. The plan establishes procedures for continuity of operations for the Commission of Indian Affairs and describes essential functions that would need to be maintained during a natural disaster. The plan included a listing of all commission staff, their work stations, a listing of all programs, where the programs are housed or administered, contact information for staff, etc.

The 2014 Indian Heritage Month activities were very successful this year. A list of presentations and events held or attended are on file at the commission and in the Executive Director's report an on file at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh.

Staff Updates: Two vacant positions still exist at this time; the Administrative Secretary and a Clerical support staff position in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Quarterly Reports: Were included in the Meeting Packet and Commission members were encouraged to review these reports and to let staff know if they have any questions or concerns.

Upcoming Meeting: March 19, 2015 in conjunction with the NC Indian Unity Conference – Raleigh NC; June 5, 2015 – proposed locations include UNC Chapel and UNC Pembroke.

FBI Citizens Academy: Greg noted he had been accepted into this program and he is very excited about this opportunity. The Academy is for business, civic, and religious leaders, who can be a voice for the FBI in the community. Candidates selected for the Academy must be at least 18 years old (with no prior felony convictions) and must live and work in the area covered by the field office sponsoring the academy. Classes generally meet 10 times (eight on weeknights and one on Saturday) for three hours each session. Training includes practical problems involving evidence collection and preservation. The curriculum includes: FBI jurisdiction and congressional oversight; structure and operation of FBI field offices and resident agencies; fingerprint, forensic, technology, training, and other services; communications, civil rights, and criminal trends and firearms training.

There was discussion on changing the format of the agenda for commission meetings. A Strategic Planning session is needed and staff will work with the chair to plan for such a session.

Public School Text Books Discussion: It was noted that the textbooks are not acceptable as they relate to American Indian history, is not accurate etc. It was recommended that a speaker from the Textbook Commission should be invited to an upcoming meeting of the commission to discuss this issue.

Commissioner Dorothy Crowe commented that local schools cannot afford new textbooks and are relying heavily on internet sources. These sources are not readily available to a lot of the American Indian students and we need to let our legislators know about this matters. She also

noted that SACIE has a site listed under DPI, which includes updated resources. Also, Learn NC is updating their website to include updated information on American Indians. SACIE is requesting two workshops at the upcoming Unity Conference; one to present the Annual Report and the other to give workshop participants information regarding these updated resources.

It was noted that there is a growing concern regarding deaths among tribal youth due to auto accidents in the state's American Indian communities. This is something the commission needs to investigate in the future.

Chairperson Revels asked commission members to submit other issues that need to be taken up during upcoming commission meetings.

RTI International is interested in working with the tribes. They are one of the world's leading research institutes, dedicated to improving the human condition by turning knowledge into practice. Commissioner Brett Locklear recommended that the commission contact Dr. Terri Lomax, who is the Executive Vice President of Discovery-Science-Technology.

There was discussion on whether the urban Indian center organizations are involved with the National Congress of American Indians. Greg Richardson noted that North Carolina's urban Indian organizations did not participate in this year's NCAI convention, but we need to encourage them to get involved.

There was discussion on the lack of media coverage during the annual American Indian Heritage Month Celebration that is held annually at the N.C. Museum of History. Commissioner Crowe noted that during American Indian Heritage Month the morning announcement at her school includes facts on American Indians.

Program Reports:

David Grigsby - Duke Energy's Helping Home Fund will provide income-qualified customers with energy efficiency upgrades at no cost to the customer. Funds for the program will come from Duke Energy shareholders, and not through customer rates. Information regarding this will be forwarded to the Commission members.

The program will be available to customers who meet U.S. Department of Energy criteria as being income-qualified, with household income at 200 percent of federal poverty levels. Duke Energy has contracted with the N.C. Community Action Association to serve as the administrator of the program. The association will work with agencies and non-profits across the state to distribute funds for energy-efficiency work beginning as early as January 2015. Program information will be available for customers through local participating agencies in January. Measures may include weatherization upgrades, heating and cooling system replacements, appliance replacements, and health and safety upgrades to customers' homes. An energy assessment of the home will help to determine which measures are most appropriate.

David Grigsby – The Commission will be completing an application for a Governors Crime Commission grant on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. This is a two year project. It is proposed that each tribe will have someone trained to be advocates in domestic violence and sexual assault who after the two year can make an application for reimbursement through the Crime Commission. Grant application is due January 21, 2015.

There was a question regarding the dates for the American Indian Energy Conference. Steve Maynor reported that we are in the planning stages for the conference scheduled for the spring 2015. More information will be forwarded to the tribes and organizations.

Kim Hammonds – CSBG monies received that funds the SUNS Program are going to be ending. Health and Human Services/Office of Economic Opportunity is proposing to eliminate limited purpose agencies, which is how they view the commission. The proposed rule would expand eligibility to organizations that address causes and effects of poverty, which does not exclude limited purpose agencies from applying through a request for proposal process. They are proposing to fund current programs from July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016. If the changes to the administrative code are approved by February, 2015 we can potentially lose our funds as early as June. This year we are serving 60 students enrolled in either a 2 or 4 year school or university. All funds are used for direct services. She requested that the commission provide input into these proposed changes to possibly deter the elimination our program.

Elk Richardson: The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (“WIOA”) is the new law replacing the Workforce Investment Act (known as “WIA”), effective July 1, 2015. Under WIOA the nationally-administered Indian and Native American programs are intact, however, there are some changes –such as new performance measures and changing requirements for state and local collaboration of workforce programs. Tribes should get involved with their local workforce development boards, and be more interactive with their local councils of governments in the selections of members to workforce development boards and services planning.

Elk Richardson has been appointed to the NCWorks Commission as the designee for the Secretary of the Department of Administration.

Greg Richardson reported on a new initiative he just learned about regarding the Electrical Lineman Program being offered at Nash Community College. This program is designed to train persons that wish to become entry-level electrical line workers for private and public utility companies and related employers. Students will learn academic and field skills necessary for entry-level workers. Safety is stressed in every aspect of the job. Students will also have the opportunity to earn a Career Readiness Certificate. He encouraged the members to get this information out to their communities.

Mickey Locklear: Sixty five Talent Search students have graduated high school - 58 graduates enrolled in post-secondary education. Thirty four students went to community college, 17 to state college and 6 to private college.

There was much discussion regarding coordinating meetings where the local tribes and organizations can get information on the colleges and universities for their students. It was noted that many of the colleges/universities have workshops, etc. for students to come and get information. Mickey Locklear noted that her staff would also be willing to come to the communities with this information.

Committee Reports

Ad hoc Land Trust & Veterans – Commissioner Furnie Lambert

Commissioner Lambert reported those veterans receiving benefits will receive \$1.7 cost of living increase. He noted nothing to report on the Land Trust at this time.

Indian Child Welfare – Commissioner Marvel Welch

Commissioner Welch reported on the Gathering being held in the Waccamaw Siouan Community on February 5, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m. at New Hope Baptist Church. The purpose of the Gathering is to build preservation of the future of Indian communities as it relates to Indian Child Welfare. This is being held in coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services. Discussion will include foster parenting, Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) Program, Child Protective Services, adoption programs, etc. The target audience for this Gathering will be tribal leaders, community members interested in becoming foster parents, etc. Others being invited include child welfare staff, trainers, Administrative Office of the Courts - GAL program, county leaders, and natural community leaders.

There was discussion on the processes of fostering and adoption. It was noted that the process is cumbersome, difficult and expensive. These are concerns of Indian people regarding getting involved. The cultural portion also needs to be incorporated. This should be addressed during the Gathering.

Indian Education – Commissioner Dorothy Crowe

Mrs. Crowe reported that SACIE held a working session on November 13-14, Asheville NC for planning purposes. Notes from that meeting are attached to the report and on file with the commission.

Items discussed during this session included:

- Proposed legislative changes to SACIE
- SACIE Officers
- SACIE application for membership
- SACIE proposed by-law changes
- SACIE session for the Unity Conference
- American Indian Education Summit

Legislative Committee – Commissioner Roy Maynor by Greg Richardson

No action required.

Recognition Committee –Commissioner Larece Hunt (Chairman)

Elk Richardson (Staff to the Recognition Committee) reported that the committee met on October 23 and November 17. Draft copies of those meeting minutes were submitted to the committee. Next meeting will be scheduled for later this month or in January.

Elk Richardson reported that draft minutes from the Recognition Committee meetings dated October 23, 2014 and November 18, 2014 have been provided to the Department of Administration’s Public Information Office in response to a Request for Information. These are also being provided to commission members for their information and perusal.

Elk noted that during the October 23 meeting the committee discussed the draft report of the genealogical review prepared by Cherokee Genealogy Services. At the November 18 committee meeting, Dr. Larry Tise from ECU provided the committee an overview of Tuscarora history in North Carolina. The committee is considering hearing from additional experts as well, prior to producing its preliminary findings. The committee also reviewed the Genealogical Review – Final Report and Final Report Appendix. The committee is close to rendering preliminary findings on the petition submitted by the petitioning group “Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina.” According to the administrative rules governing the state’s tribal recognition process, the petitioner will then have 180 days to respond to the preliminary findings. They can request additional six months to respond. It will be possibly one year before action will come before the commission for response.

Any requests for public information received by commission members should be forwarded to the commission for review and completion by the Department’s PIO.

New Business

Ruth Revels asked that the following families and any other family who have suffered losses or illnesses this year be remembered by the commission:

Mr. Lee Epps with Metrolina Native American Association passed away in November.

Mr. Milton Hunt, Maynor of Pembroke, has been in Intensive Care since September 9.

Archie Lynch’s mother, Ms. Ruth Lynch, passed away this year.

Brett Locklear and his wife have been out of work due to illnesses

Mr. Buddy Bell former employee of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs in Nursing Home.

40th NC Indian Unity Conference Update: The conference will be held March 19-21, 2015 – N Raleigh Hilton. Greg Richardson- Is coordinating the workshops; Jessie Jacobs – Is coordinating the Web Page and the Ms. Indian North Carolina Pageant; Archie Lynch is coordinating the – Vendors and the Conference Registration.

Commissioner Brett Locklear noted that TSA pre-check is now accepting Tribal Cards as a form of identification.

Commissioner Resignation: Brett Locklear submitted his letter of resignation. He announced that Triangle Native American Society will be selecting someone to complete his term of office and will submit that information to the commission. Chairperson Revels thanked Commissioner Locklear for his service to the Commission.

Commissioner Charles R. Richardson commented on a concern he had with an October 30, 2014 news article in the Indian Country magazine regarding a political matter and statement involving the tribes and organizations in North Carolina. Specifically, as statement published in Indian Country today, by Mr. Paul Brooks Chairman of the Lumbee Indian Tribes, in which he announced that all of the tribes supported Senator Kay Hagan for Congress! There was much discussion about how the commission should address this issue. Different commission members commented on whether their individual tribes had responded to the article and denounced that they had taken such a position of endorsement. It was determined that it would be more appropriate for each tribe to respond directly to Indian Country Today. It was also noted that the tribes need to understand the potential long-term political impact of this article. The Commission can only respond after being requested by the tribes and will do so if requested, therefore, no formal action was taken on the part of the N C Commission of Indian Affairs.

Commissioner Burns-Ramsey reported that the N.C. Indian Economic Development Initiative will be receiving a grant from Z. Smith Reynolds.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully,


Wanda Burns-Ramsey, Secretary-Treasurer