

Commission of Indian Affairs
 Quarterly Commission Meeting
 NC Association of Educations Inc
 700 South Salisbury Street
 Raleigh, North Carolina
 June 4, 2010

Adopted 9-10-10

Chairman Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. with a quorum present. Commissioner Furnie Lambert led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Don Carter offered the opening prayer.

MEMBERS

Coharie	Isabell Freeman Elliott, Present
Coharie	Don Carter, Present
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Roy Maynor, Absent
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Barbara Melvin, Present
Eastern Band of Cherokee	Patrick Lambert, Absent
Guilford Native American Association	Ruth Revels, Absent
Guilford Native American Association	Julia Phipps, Absent
Haliwa Saponi	Ruth Ealing, Absent
Haliwa Saponi	Barry Richardson, Absent
Lumbee	Larece Hunt, Present
Lumbee	Furnie Lambert, Present
Lumbee	Donald Jones, Present
Metrolina Native American Association	Earlene Stacks, Present
Metrolina Native American Association	Barbara Locklear, Present
Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation	Sharn Jeffries, Present
Sappony	Shelia Wilson, Absent
Triangle Native American Society	Brett Locklear, Present
Waccamaw Siouan	Lila Spaulding, Present
Waccamaw Siouan	Elton Jacobs, Present
President Pro Tem Appointee	Paul Brooks, Present
Speaker of the House Appointee	Ray Littleturtle, Absent

STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT

Department of Health and Human Services, Lanier Cansler, Secretary
 Designee: Maria Spaulding
 Department of Labor, Cherie Berry, Commissioner
 Designee: Tiffany Lathan
 Employment Security Commission Lynn R. Holmes, Chairman
 Designee: Patrice Fields

STATE OFFICIALS ABSENT

Department of Administration, Moses Carey, Jr., Secretary

Designee: June Michaux

Department of Environment & Natural Resources, Dee Freeman, Secretary

Designee: David Knight

AD HOC HEALTH COMMITTEE CHAIR

Robin Cummings

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

LeAnn Martin, Assistant Attorney General

STAFF PRESENT

Greg Richardson, Executive Director

Sue Brewington, Workforce Development Coordinator

Kimberly Hammonds, Director, Economic Development

Missy Brayboy, Director, Health Initiative

Elk Richardson, Director, Workforce Investment Act Program

Sadie Barbour, Director, Community Services Program

Mickey Locklear, Director, Educational Talent Search

OTHERS PRESENT - A list of others present is on file at the Commission office.

ETHICS STATEMENT

Greg Richardson read the Ethics Statement on behalf of Chairman Brooks. No conflicts of interests were reported.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Brooks asked for corrections to the March meeting minutes. Commissioner Larece Hunt commented that in the March minutes, Commissioner Sharn Jeffries read the motion "to accept the recommended decision of the administrative law judge except where such decision is inconsistent with NC Law. In those instances it is the decision that the Commission will abide by the NC Law." Commissioner Earlene Stacks made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Larece Hunt, that the minutes be approved with noted corrections. Motion passed.

WORK SESSION I – MR. HENRY LANCASTER, LOBBYIST, NC INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE – EFFECIVE STRATEGIES – NC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Tony Hayes, CEO for the Initiative introduced Mr. Lancaster who explained the makeup of the General Assembly and the need to have someone who can lobby for your benefit. He noted that as a result of lobbying efforts, the Initiative had been included in the Governor's budget for the

upcoming year. It was recommended that the Commission get more visible in the General Assembly in order to get the Indian voice heard and bills passed.

WORK SESSION II – NC INDIAN CHILD WELFARE, INDIAN TRIBES AND OUR INDIAN CHILDREN – DR. CLARA SUE KIDWELL, DIRECTOR, NC AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL

Representatives of the North Carolina Indian Child Welfare Task Force made a presentation to the Commission about the work that it had done and its request for support from tribal councils and the appointment of tribal representatives from tribes that currently do not have representation on the Task Force.

Clara Sue Kidwell introduced the Task Force members present and gave a brief background on the Commission's formation of a working group after the passage of state legislation in 2001. That legislation mandated that American Indian children from state recognized tribes in North Carolina should have "similar consideration" to that afforded children of federally recognized tribes by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act. The American Indian Center at UNC—Chapel Hill became involved with the project when Commission staff members left and were not replaced. The Center has provided logistical support to convene meetings of the current Task Force. Tonia Jacobs gave a brief overview of what the current Task Force has accomplished since it began meeting on a regular basis in December of 2009. Mellicent Blythe provided statistics on the number of American Indian children who are currently served through the state Child Welfare program. Kara Jones gave a brief introduction to efforts in Robeson County to address issues of Indian child placements in appropriate homes.

Dr. Kidwell then called the attention of the Commissioners to the draft resolution that would provide active Commission support for the work of the Task Force, including Commission members' making presentations to their own Tribal Council to solicit letters of support and appointment of representatives to the Task Force by tribes that did not currently have a representative. She asked that Tribal Councils take action by July 1. She asked if there were questions. Several members of the Commission spoke in favor of the proposed resolution. Commissioner Brett Locklear asked for clarification of the role of the American Indian Center in the Task Force and the terminology "ad hoc" Task Force in the wording of the Resolution. After some discussion, the Commission moved that the Task Force should be acknowledged as a standing committee with a chairperson who was a member of the Commission and was appointed by the Chairman of the Commission. Dr. Kidwell said that the American Indian Center could continue to provide logistical support for meetings of the group. Lana Dial has arranged free meeting space at the North Carolina Judicial Center for Task Force meetings. The Resolution as amended was passed by the Commission by a unanimous vote. (Attachment 1) Chairman Paul Brooks and Greg Richardson will communicate with the tribes as a follow-up.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – GREGORY RICHARDSON

Mr. Richardson highlighted the major items in his Director's Report.

Mr. Richardson introduced Mr. Al Richardson, Tribal Administrator for the Haliwa Saponi Tribe. He also recognized Rose Marie Lowery, Tribal Administrator for the Lumbee Tribe.

Action Items regarding Commission appointments were as follows:

NC Indian Housing Authority: Dr. Joseph O. Richardson, Haliwa Saponi Tribe. Commissioner Earlene Stacks made a motion seconded by Commissioner Larece Hunt, to approve this appointment. Motion carried with one abstention from Commissioner Barbara Melvin.

State Advisory Council on Indian Education: Velina Hammonds Ebert had been recommended, but a conflict had arisen and a new name would be forthcoming. Commissioner Ray Jacobs motioned, seconded by Commissioner Larece Hunt, to forward the new nomination when received. Motion carried.

United Tribes: Greg Richardson – Commissioner Earlene Stacks moved, seconded by Commissioner Furnie Lambert to approve the appointment. Motion carried.

Lumbee River Legal Services: Commissioner Furnie Lambert nominated Daniel Jones to replace Commissioner Ray Littleturtle. Commissioner Larece seconded the nomination. Vote taken and nomination approved.

Commission Members: The list of expiring terms for Commission members was included in the executive director report. Members will be sworn in at the September annual meeting.

Mr. Richardson acknowledged Commissioners Ray Jacobs and Barry Richardson, who will not be returning for another term, for their service to the Commission.

Mr. Richardson introduced summer Interns: Angela Ramer will be working on the Indian Health Report and Kristen Richardson will be working with the Indian Child Welfare Report.

It was noted that the Commission will be celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2011. It was recommended that a celebration be held during the September annual meeting. Chairman Brooks appointed Commissioner Earlene Stacks to head up a committee to plan for the celebration.

Meherrin Court Case

Lee Ann Martin reported that the judge in this case has affirmed the Administrative Law Judge's ruling. The written order has not been signed or filed. She has been instructed to appeal that decision.

NC Indian Cultural Center

Barry Nakel will be filing suit in Wake County Superior Court challenging the Commission's decision regarding the constitutionality of the legislation regarding the commission naming the board of directors of the NC Indian Cultural Center.

Statement of Economic Interests

Commission members who have not filed their Statement of Economic Interests will be fined. You should contact State Ethics Office to resolve this issue.

State Budget

The budget continues to be tight and will continue to be in 2011. This in part because stimulus monies will not be available.

Tribal Leaders Meeting

A meeting of the Chief's and Chairperson's of each state recognized tribe was held on April 24th. The meeting was held at the General Assembly to gather information regarding issues facing tribes and organizations. Seven tribes and all urban centers were represented. Chairman Brooks plans to continue this dialogue as part of the strategic plan of the Commission.

Personnel - The Commission has four staff members out of work with critical health issues. This has placed tremendous stress on the remaining staff.

National Congress of American Indians - The 2013 NCAI Conference will be held in North Carolina. The Commission will be working with the NCAI regarding plans for the conference. All tribes and organizations are encouraged to participate.

Staff Reports - Included in the Commission packets forwarded prior to the meeting.

Indian Heritage Month - Scheduled for November 20, 2010 at the Museum of History. Plans are underway for this celebration. It is hoped that the Governor will participate and read the Proclamation that day.

Newsletter - The Summer edition of the Commission newsletter is in process and will be available on the website soon.

Video Conference - Scheduled for June 8 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Sponsored by Minority Health, the conference will focus on – "What Will Health Care Mean for Minority Health and Disparities".

Occaneechi Powwow - The 26th Annual Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation powwow is scheduled June 11-12, 2010. For more information go to www.occaneechi-saponi.org.

Ad Hoc Land Trust – Commissioner Furnie Lambert, Chair

Committee did not meet this quarter and no action required at this time.

Veterans Committee – Commissioner Furnie Lambert, Chair

The Community Based Outpatient Clinic broke ground on Tuesday, June 1. An agreement with the Veteran's Administration in Fayetteville and Washington states the clinic must be open by November, 2010.

The Annual Veterans Ball will be held June 26. The guest speaker will be Major General Tony Taugba, US Army.

Elk Richardson reported that the Commission participated in the Indian Native American Program's Priority of Services for Veterans and Eligible Spouses posted project. He noted that photos had been submitted and that his photo had been included on the poster which was

distributed to the Indian and Native American, Workforce Investment Act program staff nationwide.

Elk Richardson reported that the Fleet Rediness Center East is seeking individuals who have documented disabilities that make them eligible for the Schedule "A" government hiring authority. Applicants must send their resumes for review to the following website from June 1-3, 2010: www.naair.navy.mil/jobs. There will be a Meet & Greet at Cherry Point, NC on August 26, 2010.

Elk Richardson - WIA Grantees should continue to operate under current Comprehensive Programs Plan. If this changes he will forward the information to the grantees.

Ad Hoc Legislative Committee – Commissioner Roy Maynor, Chair - No Report

Health Committee – Dr. Robin Cummings – Chair

Dr. Cummings spoke to the Commission regarding the newly-formed American Indian Health Board. The purpose of this board is to be a voice of American Indian Health and provide vision for the health of the American Indian population in North Carolina. An MOU has been signed with the Maya Angelou group at Wake Forest University. Strategic sessions are planned for the fall of 2010 and assistance of all the tribes and organizations is solicited.

There was discussion on Indian Health Report. It is in electronic form but not ready for the public. August is the deadline for publication and authorization has been received to move forward with the publication of the report.

Economic Development Committee – Commissioner Ruth Revels, Chair - No Report

Cultural/Religion Committee – Commissioner Ray Littleturtle, Chair - No Report

Recognition Committee – Commissioner Larece Hunt, Chair

The next group up for review is the Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina, Inc. There is a potential problem in that the Tuscarora Nation of New York has contended that no Tuscarora reside in North Carolina. A formal opinion from the Attorney Generals' office has been requested regarding the legal demands of the federally recognized Tuscarora Nation of New York upon the Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina, Inc.'s petition for state recognition. There was a motion from the committee that this recommendation be approved. Motion carried.

Letters will be sent the other groups petitioning for recognition setting forth the procedures for review of petitions. It was felt that due to limited resources the process should remain the same and only one petition be reviewed at a time.

Human Resources Committee – Commissioner Ruth Ealing, Chair – No Report

Education Committee- Commissioner Earlene Stacks, Chair

The Educational Talent Search program will be submitting its application for refunding. October 12 – deadline for application submissions.

Six North Carolina students received the GATES scholarship this year. Two of these were Talent Search participants – Gabriel Evans and Faith Hedgepeth.

The North Carolina Native American Youth Organization's 31st annual conference will be held June 14-17 at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Commissioner Brett Locklear reported that North Carolina State University will be sending a Letter of Intent to the Golden Leaf Foundation for a possible grant of \$200,000. These funds will be used in a new program called "Inspire". Plans include collaboration with tribes and organizations to identify students to participate in the 2-year program.

Items from Commission Members

Commissioner Ray Jacobs, who has been on the Commission for 19 years, thanked the Commission for its support during his tenure. He noted that he plans to stay involved.

Commissioner Lila Spaulding – Flower Fund Report – There is a balance of \$354 in the account. Dues are \$6/quarter.

American Indian Nations will be meeting at the Cherokee Harrah's Casino, September 16-17, 2010. They will be meeting in Raleigh in 2011... sponsored by American Indian Center.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Lila Spaulding, Secretary/Treasurer