

NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS QUARTERLY
COMMISSION MEETING
WAKE COUNTY COMMONS
RALEIGH, NC
June 5, 2009

Chairman Paul Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Commissioner Furnie Lambert to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL – Sue Brewington, on behalf of the Commission

MEMBERS PRESENT

President Pro Tem Appointee	Paul Brooks
Coharie Tribe	Isabell Freeman-Elliott
Guilford Native American Association	Julia Phipps
Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina	J. Garth Locklear
Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina	Furnie Lambert
Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina	Larece Hunt
Metrolina Native American Association	Barbara Locklear
Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation	Sharn Jeffries
Triangle Native American Society	Brett Locklear
Sappony Tribe	Shelia Wilson
Guilford Native American Association	Ruth Revels
Metrolina Native American Association	Earlene Stacks

MEMBERS ABSENT

Cherokee Tribe	Patrick Lambert
Coharie Tribe	Gene Faircloth
Haliwa Saponi	Barry Richardson
Speaker of the House Appointee	Ray Littleturtle
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Roy Maynor
Waccamaw Siouan	Lila Spaulding
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Barbara Melvin
Haliwa Saponi	Ruth Ealing
Waccamaw Siouan	Elton Jacobs
North Carolina Native American Student Organization	Olivia Richardson

STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT

Employment Security Commission Moses Carey, Jr., Chairman
Designee: Patrice Fields

Department of Health and Human Services, Lanier Cansler, Secretary
Designee: Lester Brown

Department of Administration, Christy Agner, Legislative Liason

Department of Labor, Cherie Berry, Commissioner
Designee: Tina Morris-Anderson

STATE OFFICIALS ABSENT

Department of Administration, Britt Cobb, Secretary
Designee: June Michaux

Department of Environment & Natural Resources, Dee Freeman, Secretary
Designee: David Knight

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

Dr. Robin Cummings, Chair, Health Committee

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 Program
Missy Brayboy, Director, Health Initiative
Elk Richardson, Director, Workforce Investment Act Program
Sadie Barbour, Director, Community Services Program
Consuela Richardson, Counselor, Educational Talent Search
W.C. Groves, Director, Section 8 Housing Program
Latesha Middleton, Assistant, Educational Talent Search Program
Kerry Bird, Program Director, NOT on Tobacco Program

READING OF THE STANDARDS ETHICS STATEMENT – Greg Richardson, on behalf of
Chairman Brooks

Executive Director Report – Gregory A. Richardson

Mr. Richardson shared that Commissioner Earlene Stacks mailed a card to the Commission membership and staff expressing thanks for all the prayers during her illness. Mr. Richardson also noted that Chairman Brooks' family was in everyone's thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Richardson shared that the current budget cuts submitted by the Commission has to reflect 15%, 20%, and 25% cuts tot the overall budget. Mr. Richardson stated that no determination had been made as to which percentage would be used however a 25% budget cut would have a major impact on the programs and staff. A copy of the Executive Director's Report was distributed to Commission members.

Other matters covered in the Executive Director's Report

State Budget Update – Chief Fiscal Officer, Dewey Stephens

Dewey Stephens gave an update on the current budget crisis facing state government and the Department of Administration as it relates to the NC Commission of Indian Affairs.

Mr. Stephens spoke about appropriations of funds, restrictions, and how that relates to the Commission.

Mr. Stephens spoke about the termination of the lease space once used by the Commission and how moving the Commission's office downtown allotted for \$90,000 of the budget. This allotment will hopefully prevent people from losing their jobs.

Commissioner Ruth Revels raised concerns about travel for other native organizations.

Chairman Paul Brooks asked if the American Indian Workforce Development Program received any stimulus money.

Status Report on the Meherrin Court Case – LeAnn Martin

Ms. Martin shared that both Ed Brooks and Barry Nakell, attorneys for the separate fractions of the Meherrin Tribe had filed petitions with the court. Ms. Martin instructed the Commission to file papers regarding the Nakell petition effective June 6, 2009.

Ms. Martin shared that on July 1, 2009 the Commission will have authority to designate interim representatives to the Commission for tribes.

Status Report on the Riverside Golf Course – LeAnn Martin

Ms. Martin reported that all subleases will be terminated and the Cultural Center is being investigated.

Legislative Agenda items discussed

Mr. Richardson announced the individual names that had been submitted for appointment in relation to the Indian Housing Authority, NC Indian Cultural Center, State Advisory on Indian Education, and the United Tribes Board. (See attachment)

Commissioner Garth Locklear made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Furnie Lambert, to approve the appointments presented to the Commission in relation to the NC Indian Housing Authority, NC Indian Cultural Center, State Advisory on Indian Education, and the United Tribes Board. Motion carried.

Mr. Richardson recognized the Summer Interns who will be working at the Commission. Cynthia Donnell-Greenlee, a Duke Graduate Student, would be working with the Educational

Talent Search Program focusing on the historical perspectives of Indian Education in North Carolina.

Mallory Richardson, a NC State University Graduate Student, will be focusing her internship on Indian Child Welfare and the North Carolina Indian Child Welfare Task Force.

Sherry Britt a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis is a volunteer intern and will be working with Kerry Bird and Missy Brayboy with the Indian Health Initiative.

Mr. Richardson recognized our new employee Kerry Bird who is the Coordinator of the Tobacco Use Prevention Program at the Commission.

STAFF REPORTS ARE ON FILE WITH THE COMMISSION AND WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THE MEMBERSHIP PRIOR TO THE MEETING

Community Services Program Quarterly Report
Economic Development Program Quarterly Report
Educational Talent Search Program Quarterly Report
Section 8 Housing Program Quarterly Report
Workforce Investment Act Program Quarterly Report

Mr. Richardson shared that the upcoming newsletter is dedicated to Indian Education and will highlight and will recognize Ms. Agnes Chavis for her contributions in Indian Education.

Mr. Richardson shared that a national movement was going on centered around Senate Bill 1200 in the US Congress (Nation Indian Holiday). He stated that the Bill was being supported by the National Congress of American Indian and his recommendation was to support the Bill because it called for national support for American Indians and has been sanctioned by national entities.

Commissioner Brett Locklear made a motion seconded by Commissioner Furnie Lambert, to develop a letter in support of Senate Bill 1200. Motion carried.

Mr. Richardson discussed the historical significance of the recognition of Chief Roscoe Jacobs by the General Assembly on May 5, 2009. He shared that an official copy of the resolution presented at the General Assembly would be available in the very near future.

Danny Bell, with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill presented information on the 15th Annual Summer Public Health Research Institute on Videoconference on Minority Health. The videoconference will focus on “Breaking the Cycle: Investigating the Intersection of Educational Inequities and Health Disparities.” The videoconference will be held at the UNC School of Social Work Tate-Turner Kuralt Building Auditorium.

Mr. Richardson gave special recognition to Commissioner Ruth Revels for her birthday.

Mr. Richardson gave a brief update on Dr. Helen Shierbeck who has been hospitalized and is in good spirits making a recovery at this time.

Mr. Richardson spoke of the new brochure and how it was a great marketing tool to be used all over the state of North Carolina.

Mr. Richardson shared news pertaining to the Commission relocation from Anderson Drive to the Department of Administration building.

Chairman Brooks asked about the status of the American Indian Mother's Bill H-945.

Mr. Richardson shared that the American Indian Mother's had submitted a Bill that would give them the authority to address Indian Child Welfare issues for all Indian children in North Carolina. In addition they are requesting \$400,000 to fund the Bill but the Lumbee Tribe has taken action against the Bill because they felt the Bill would somehow dilute tribal sovereignty.

Christy Agner, DOA's legislative liaison, gave more in depth information pertaining to the American Indian Mother's Bill how it relates to the Commission of Indian Affairs and the state recognized tribes. Ms. Agner explained that Bill H-945 was not on the Commission's legislative agenda and they ensured that committee members understood this fact.

Commissioner Brett Locklear made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Garth Locklear to not endorse the Indian Child Welfare Bill H 945 introduced by Representative Ronnie Sutton but endorse and support the current Bill by researching funding opportunities to be presented for next year's legislative agenda. Motion carried.

Chairman Brooks discussed the need for money to support the current Indian Child Welfare Bill that was created by the Commission of Indian Affairs.

Mr. Richardson requested that legislative items be presented to the Commission for review and submission in a timely manner.

Commissioner Larece Hunt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Garth Locklear that the minutes be approved with the noted changes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AdHoc Land Trust – no action

Commissioner Furnie Lambert shared that the Lumbee Tribe is working on placing a parcel of land into trust.

Veterans Committee – no action

Commissioner Furnie Lambert announced that a Community Based Outreach Center for the Homeless Veterans is coming to Robeson County.

Commissioner Furnie Lambert announced that the Annual Veterans' Military Ball will take place June 27, 2009.

Cultural and Religion Committee – Mr. Richardson presented an update on the Cultural and Religion Committee and the planning stages of the 2009 Indian Heritage Month Celebration and Kick-off. The celebration will take place November 20-21 at the North Carolina Museum of History. Mr. Richardson stated that the 2009 Indian Heritage Month poster was in development.

Commissioner Brett Locklear made a recommendation that the Indian Heritage Month proclamation be completed earlier than last year for earlier distribution.

Lunch Break

Mr. Lester Brown representing Secretary Cansler with the Department of Health and Human Services gave the invocation.

Economic Development Committee – Commissioner Ruth Revels

Kimberly K. Hammonds, Economic Development Program Director, gave a brief report on the S.U.N.S. program clarifying the name change from SONS, “Supporting Our Native Students”, to “Supporting Undergraduate Native Students”. The name change offers clarification to who is actually being served by the program. Mrs. Hammonds also reported on the new logo that had been developed for the program. Mrs. Hammonds continued her presentation by describing the procedure of awarding her participants throughout the year to foster their educational experience.

Elk Richardson, Director of the American Indian Workforce Initiative Program, presented service awards from NINAET to the following individuals: Sue Brewington, Pam DeRensis, Earlene Stacks, WC Groves, Elk Richardson, Greg Richardson, Lila Spaulding, and Roy Maynor.

Elk Richardson discussed the importance of having a representative from the Commission on the national Workforce Development Board. He shared that there are seven Workforce Development Programs in North Carolina and federal regulations require states that have workforce programs to have a seat on the board.

Commissioner Brett Locklear made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Larece Hunt to endorse the Commission of Indian Affairs exploring the possibility of having a seat on the Workforce Development Board. He suggested that the Commission send a letter to all appointing authorities in reference to a seat on the Workforce Development Board. Motion carried.

Report on Economic Stimulus Funding

Commissioner Earlene Stacks made a motion, seconded by Commission Barbara Locklear to write a letter to the President and ask for Workforce Investment Act stimulus funding for state recognized tribes. Motion carried.

Education Committee – Commissioner Earlene Stacks

Commissioner Brett Locklear reported that a quorum was not met and no action was taken. Commissioner Brett Locklear also reported on the Native American Incentive grant for graduate education and the need for funding to be utilized and be included in the 2010 legislative agenda.

Commissioner Brett Locklear discussed the need for the State Advisory Council of Indian Education to include a representation for college level issues. Commissioner Earlene Stacks indicated that the council only represented students in grade kindergarten through 12th grade. She also recommended Commissioner Brett Locklear attend a future advisory council meeting to express this concerns.

Health Committee – Dr. Robin Cummings

Dr. Robin Cummings presented information regarding the development of the NC Indian Health Board (NCIHB) and discussed the need for additional work regarding Indian Health, the need for the NCIHB to become partners with several outside organizations to help facilitate the development of NCIHB. Dr. Cummings also reported that the NCIHB would eventually become a 501c(3).

Missy Brayboy, Program Director for the Tobacco and Health Initiative gave a presentation regarding the Health and Wellness Trust Fund at the Burnt Swamp Association.

Dean Simpson, with the NC Division of Social Services and Sadie Barbour, Program Director for the Community Services Program presented information about the Low Income Energy Assistance and Weatherization program (LIEAP). Through the LIEAP program over 250,000 homes are served and 2% of the funds are designed for American Indian organizations that serve 4 counties.

Recognition Committee – No Action

Commissioner Garth Locklear spoke about Henry Berry Lowery and his accomplishments and urged the Commissioners to write their tribal history.

Commissioner Garth Locklear gave the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Lila Spaulding, Secretary/Treasurer