



*“Celebrating over 40 years of Advocacy”*



# NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

**June 5, 2015**

North Carolina Association of Educators Building  
700 South Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

**I. WELCOME:** Ruth Revels, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m. with a quorum being present. She acknowledged and welcomed all Commission members, Tribal leaders, Chiefs, State Officials, and guests present.

**II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:** Commissioner Charles Richardson made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Furnie Lambert. Motion carried.

**III. INVOCATION:** Commissioner Shirley Freeman, Vice Chairwoman recited the invocation prayer.

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Sam Lambert led the membership and guests in the pledge of allegiance.

**V. ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS**

President Pro Tem Appointee	Daniel Locklear	Present
Speaker of the House Appointee	Wanda Burns-Ramsey	Present
Coharie	Isabell Freeman-Elliott	Absent
Coharie	Charlene Jacobs	Present
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Roy Maynor	Present
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Gladys Hunt	Present
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Sam Lambert	Present
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Marvel Welch	Present
Guilford Native American Association	Ruth Revels	Present
Guilford Native American Association	G. DeVane Burnette, Sr.	Absent
Haliwa Saponi	Jeffrey Anstead	Absent
Haliwa Saponi	Charles (Pete) Richardson	Present
Lumbee	Larece Hunt	Absent
Lumbee	Daniel Jones	Absent
Lumbee	Furnie Lambert	Present
Meherrin	Constance Mitchell	Present



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**ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS (Continued)**

Metrolina Native American Association	Walter D. Baucom	Present
Metrolina Native American Association	Jessie Jacobs	Present
Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation	Sharn Jeffries	Present
Sappony	Dorothy Crowe	Present
Triangle Native American Society	Lana Dial	Present
Waccamaw Siouan	Elton R. Jacobs	Absent
Waccamaw Siouan	Shirley Freeman	Present

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE**

NCNAYO	Halona Benjamin	Absent
NCNACOHE	Toni Hendeson	Absent

**STATE OFFICIALS**

Department of Administration, Bill Daughtridge, Jr., Secretary	Absent
Designee: Bill Bryan, Deputy Secretary	Absent
Employment Security Commission, John E. Skvaria, III	
Designee: Dale Folwell	Absent
Department of Environment & Natural Resources, Donald R. van der Vaart	Absent
Department of Health & Human Services, Dr. Aldona Wos, Secretary	
Designee: Sherry Bradsher	Present
Department of Labor, Cherie Berry, Commissioner	
Designee: Tina Morris Anderson	Present

**STAFF PRESENT**

- Greg Richardson, Executive Director
- Kimberly Hammonds, Program Director, Economic Development
- Stephen Maynor, Community Development
- Elk Richardson, Program Director, Workforce Investment Act Program
- Celena McBryde, Program Assistant
- Nancy Richardson, Temporary Staff for Low Income Energy Assistance Program (L.I.E.P)
- Daphne Pinto, Administrative Secretary

**OTHER STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice

**OTHERS PRESENT:** List on file with the Commission

**VI. READING OF ETHICS STATEMENT:** Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director, N. C. Commission of Indian Affairs, read the Ethics Statement, on behalf of Chairwoman Revels. He charged the Commission Members to declare any conflict of interest, or appearance of conflict of interest that may exist for agenda items being considered by the Commission, as mandated by the State Ethics Act. None were noted.



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**VII. APPROVAL OF MARCH MEETING MINUTES:** The minutes from the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs meeting held on March 19, 2015, were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Charlene Jacobs and seconded by Commissioner Roy Maynor. Motion carried.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Chairwoman Revels requested everyone present to introduce themselves. Commission members and guest present introduced themselves to the attendees, followed by staff introduction. Chairwoman Revels requested Ms. Ogletree Richardson, Chief of Haliwa-Saponi Tribe to address the Commission. Chief Richardson informed the Commission that Haliwa-Saponi recently celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She gave a brief update on the upcoming activities. She noted that there were three vacant council seats available. The elections took place on Saturday, June 13, 2015.

### **VIII. GUEST SPEAKERS:**

**(a) Identification of perceived obstacles/barriers to employment/promotional opportunities for American Indians and solutions or recommendations (seeking information from Commission members):**

Ms. Brenda Dixon, HR Consultant, N.C. Office of State Human Resources, presented this item as follows:

- Demographic: The demographic composition of the workforce in particular the minority groups or people with color, such as American Indians, Asians, Pacific Americans, etc.
- Seeking Information: OSHR needs an in-put from the Commission as to what they perceived as the obstacles/barriers to employment or promotional opportunities that the American Indians in State Government are facing.
- Job Postings: It was noted that the job vacancy postings are based on Categories, Counties, and Agencies.
- EEO Plan: Ms. Dixon informed that every state agency does have an Equal Employment Opportunity plan (EEO plan). Due date to submit the plan is by March 1st of each year.
- Discussion: Commission members and audience present were asked to participate in the discussion and provide a feedback.

### **Questions and Comments from Commission Members:**

The following was noted:

- Previous data indicated that American Indians were on the lower end of the spectrum. The data also indicated that the hiring consideration was minimum.
- It was suggested that job vacancies should be disseminated in rural areas through Tribal offices.
- Based on the data provided, American Indians were considered for low income positions (State and University job positions).
- It was suggested that during the voting season, American Indians need to ask their prospective candidates the following question: “What is your commitment to appointing American Indians in higher positions/ State Official level, if they qualify for the position?”
- It was suggested that job vacancies posted on-line need to be user friendly.
- Higher job positions need to have the community support. American Indians need to promote other tribal members who qualify for the vacant positions (State Officials or Municipal).
- It was indicated that the Native Indians have a hard time finding suitable jobs.
- Commission members pointed out to the word “minority” it needs to be replaced with “American Indian”.
- It was noted that the rural areas have technology difficulties.
- It was discussed that low income jobs positions need to be promoted in rural areas through tribal offices. The job applications need to be “user friendly”. Most people in rural areas do not have access to the internet or social media.
- Barriers to employment/ promotional opportunities within the agencies were discussed.
- Ms. Dixon responded that promotional opportunities within OSHR are fair and equitably handled.



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- Ms. Dixon indicated that the OSHR job pool for consideration needs to go up. She suggested that more qualified applicants need to apply.
- Ms. Dixon clarified that the EEO plan has its standards in place. She expressed that the management were made aware of the EEO goals “to hire minorities in the workforce”. She pointed out that the administration needs to be committed.
- Ms. Dixon expressed that the justification memorandum were required by OSHR on the prospective candidate for hire “who is selected and why” and the justification on the reject applications “why the other candidates did not meet the requirements” were requested for record purposes. She added that this was part of the EEO plan.
- Ms. Dixon concluded that she would compile the responses and recommendations received during the presentation and will share her report with Mr. Greg Richardson at a later date.

Chairwoman Revels thanked Ms. Dixon for her presentation. She suggested that Mr. Elk Richardson, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program Manager, along with other Commission members need to follow-up with Ms. Dixon to explore the opportunity on “how to promote job openings in rural areas”.

Mr. Greg Richardson suggested that OSHR need to set up a booth during the Indian Unity Conference, or other conferences and Tribal meetings to get the word out. Ms. Dixon informed the Commission that this would be one of the recommendations she would take back to her department.

### **(b) Honored Guest Speaker, Dr. Robin Cummings, Chancellor Elect, UNC at Pembroke:**

Chairwoman Revels introduced Dr. Robin Cummings. She announced that Dr. Cummings was a former member of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs and Chairman of the Commission’s first Indian Health Initiative. She indicated that Dr. Cummings was recognized for his work and dedication, during his tenure on the Commission.

Dr. Cummings, is a member of the Lumbee Indian Tribe and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. He graduated from Duke University Medical College as a UNC Board of Governors Medical Scholar. Dr. Cummings is a board-certified general and cardiothoracic surgeon. He is a retired cardiologist and served most recently as Deputy Secretary of the NC Department of Health and Human Services, in Raleigh, prior to being selected as Chancellor elect of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. He will take office on July 16, 2015.

Dr. Robin Cummings, Chancellor Elect, UNC Pembroke, addressed the audience. He expressed that he was honored and happy to go back to UNC Pembroke. He was looking forward to working with the professors and students at the university. He noted that UNC Pembroke has great potential and a bright future.

Dr. Cummings presentation included a brief history on the university. UNC at Pembroke started 128 years ago; he informed that at the end of the civil war, seven American Indian men had the vision to start a school to teach American Indian students. They had an inspirational vision “Education is the key to success for American Indian students”. Dr. Cummings expressed that he would like to build upon the American Indian heritage. UNC at Pembroke is the only four year university that was started by and for American Indians. He highlighted the demographics of the school. He noted that the university has the lowest tuition. Pembroke University serves a thirteen county area.

Dr. Cummings expressed the future vision and goals for the university to someday have a free standing building separate from the present university. The new “South-East American Indian



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school” will specialize in the following: American Indian Governmental Policy, American Indian Culture, American Indian Health in the US, etc. He informed that President Ross introduced the idea to start this new school and that he was here to present this vision to the Commission of Indian Affairs. Dr. Cummings expressed that this future project will take time, effort and money to build the new school.

Commission members asked clarifying questions. Dr. Cummings was invited to be an honored guest speaker at the 2016 Indian Unity Conference in March of next year. He graciously accepted the invitation and requested a follow-up confirmation via email. Commission members expressed that they were very proud of Dr. Cummings accomplishments and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

Dr. Cummings concluded that he was here to advocate this new vision of the university that it needed the resources to fund the project. He expressed that he was honored to present the new vision of UNC at Pembroke to the Commission.

Chairwoman Revels on behalf of the Commission presented a gift to Dr. Cummings. It is the original copy of the 2008 Indian Heritage month poster. Mr. Greg Richardson explained the significance of the “Olde Indian Schools of North Carolina, 1880-2008” poster. He expressed that it had a lot of history captured in one poster. He identified each historic building with the year that it was built. He noted that UNC at Pembroke was featured in the center of the poster. Dr. Cummings thanked the Commission for the beautiful memorabilia and expressed that he would place the poster in his new office.

**(c) Special Presentation by Ms. Dorothy Crowe, Commission Member on Ms. Elena Jacobs Polanco, Jr. Ms. Guilford Native American Association:** Commissioner Crowe informed that the Education Committee met via teleconference and decided to do a spotlight on American Indian students who are doing well. She announced that Ms. Elena Jacobs Polanco was the spotlight student at the meeting. Commissioner Crowe gave a brief description on Ms. Polanco as follows:

- Elena Jacobs Polanco is a member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina. She graduated on May 29, 2015, from Triad Math and Science Academy in Greensboro, N.C., she ranked second in her class with a final GPA of 4.5. Elena has been a member of the National Honor Society. She is a Magna Cum Laude award recipient and has been accepted at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Elena was also named NC United Tribe’s Outstanding Student of the year for 2014-2015. She was recently awarded the Gates Millennium Scholarship, which covers her full tuition for all four years.
- In addition, Ms. Polanco is the current Jr. Miss Guilford Native American Association (2013-2015). She is also the current Guilford County representative for the North Carolina Native American Youth Organization and will attend the NCNAYO conference in June. She has participated and won awards in several writing contests.
- Other accomplishments, Ms. Polanco was also chosen to participate at the 2014 Native American AIDS Awareness Training Conference for high school students in Denver, Colorado. She is teaching the local Native Youth an AIDS Awareness class.
- Ms. Polanco is scheduled to attend the National UNITY Conference in Washington, D.C. She is slated to attend the White House Tribal Youth Gathering in July 2015.
- Commissioner Crowe concluded her presentation by expressing that Ms. Jacobs was the outstanding Native American Student.
- Ms. Jacobs thanked the Commission for her recognition. She presented a gift from her family to Dr. Cummings.



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- Chairwoman Revels noted that the Commission needs to start recognizing the young students for their academic achievements at the quarterly meetings.

**IX. Definition of Type I and Type II Transfer pertaining to the Commission:** Mr. Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice presented this item. The following was discussed:

- Potential transfer of the Commission of Indian Affairs (CIA) from the Department of Administration (DOA) to the Governor’s office. The proposal was included in the Governor’s budget that was submitted to the State Senate.
- It was noted that the House Budget has been introduced and it did not include the creation of the “Office of Community Services” within the Governor’s office, which indicated the transfer of the Commission of Indian Affairs along with the other advocacy agencies listed under DOA to the Governor’s office.
- Mr. Teague reiterated that the House budget does not include the creation of the Office of Community Services and the transfer of the Commission of Indian Affairs to the Governor’s office.
- He noted that the Senate’s version of the budget would be announced in a couple of weeks.
- Mr. Teague read the changes listed in the General Statutes 143B that pertains to the transfer of the Commission of Indian Affairs.
- He identified the two changes: (a) Transfer the Commission of Indian Affairs from Department of Administration to the Office of the Governor. (b) GS143B-410 NC State Commission of Indian Affairs-fiscal records.
- Section 20.1(b) line 12-14 – that stated “The NC Commission of Indian Affairs is here by transferred from the Department of Administration to the Office of Community Services. This transfer shall have all of the elements of a Type 1 transfer, as described in G.S. 143A-6”. He noted that the make-up of the Commission would not change. It makes no composition of the Commission members. He explained that the Commission members would be selected in the same way as it occurs now. The Governor would still appoint the Chair of the Commission.
- Mr. Teague read the definition of the “Types of Transfers” as indicated in G.S. 143A-6.
  - In Type I transfer, the first paragraph means move from one department to another. The second paragraph means the division is directly controlled by the Governor.
  - In Type II transfer, the third paragraph means the transferring intact of an existing agency, or part thereof, to a principal department established by this Chapter. The agency shall exercise all its prescribed statutory powers independently of the head of the principal department, except that under a Type II transfer the management functions of any transferred agency, or part thereof, shall be performed under the direction and supervision of the head of the principal department. The term “management functions” means planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordination, reporting and budgeting.
  - Mr. Teague indicated that the Commission of Indian Affairs is currently a Type II transfer. He confirmed that there would be no changes, which means CIA would still be operating under a Type II transfer in the new proposal.
  - Commission members requested a copy of the G.S. 143A-6.
  - Chairwoman Revels thanked Mr. Teague for explaining the general statute. She expressed that the transfer was more likely not going to take place due to the cost involved.

The presentation on the “Types of Transfer - G.S. 143A-6” is attached and is an official part of the minutes.



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**X. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:** Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs presented the division report. The following topics were discussed:

- **Budget Update:** Senate Bill 713, the Governor’s Budget was introduced in the NC General Assembly this quarter. It was indicated that the Senate Budget will be released mid June 2015.
- **Positions slated to be abolished/Justification to retain positions:** Any vacant positions that are vacant for 365 days are slated to be abolished under the current process. It was noted that the Commission of Indian Affairs has a number of positions that are considered as temporary positions due to the changes in grants. These temporary positions are working under the full time positions. Mr. Greg Richardson expressed his concerns to the Secretary’s office, he noted that there is an ongoing discussions on this topic. He explained that even though the positions would be abolished, the funding for the temporary employees would be transferred to a temporary position line item. He reiterated that CIA would not lose the funding but would lose the full time position. This would affect the position in the Talent Search Program and a position in the Section 8 Housing Program.
- **Governor’s Crime Commission for the Domestic Violence Grant:** Mr. Greg Richardson informed Commission members that the Division has received a confirmation letter from Governor Pat McCrory. He is scheduled to attend a meeting on June 24, 2015 to implement the grant. He indicated that it was a 21 month grant.  
Mr. Greg Richardson shared his concerns on the following: The program would have to create a new position for this new grant. The application process would take up to 30-90 days in the system. He noted that the division is reviewing the process and assured that the program will not be impacted.
- **Legislation Tracking:** Highlights of the legislation tracking activities regarding “American Indians” are listed on the handout. The details include the bill number, description and dates.
- **Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina – Petition for State Recognition:** The Recognition Committee has appointed a sub-committee to start preparing findings and recommendations.
- **Joint Legislative American Indian Affairs Caucus:** Representative Charles Graham hosted a meeting of the Joint Legislative American Indian Affairs Caucus on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. The Tribal leaders were invited to this meeting. Rep. Graham gave an overview of all the bills listed in the legislation tracking handout.
- **Office of Minority Health:** Mr. Greg Richardson met with the new Director, Mr. Cornell Wright to brief him on the work of the Commission. The focus of the meeting was to discuss Indian health issues. They discussed the data on health records that indicate an increase in patients listed under the American Indian race. They shared concerns and were looking forward to addressing this issue in the near future. Dr. Robin Cummings in his former role as Deputy Secretary for DHHS was also concerned about American Indians health issue. Mr. Greg Richardson indicated that he and Dr. Cummings addressed their concerns with Dr. Aldona Wos, Secretary for DHHS.
- **US Forest Service – Presidents National Pollinator Initiative:** The Commission of Indian Affairs is collaborating with the US Forest Services regarding this initiative. It was noted that the bee population was declining; therefore, efforts are underway to increase the bee population. The goal of the initiative is to promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators, by planting flower that attract bees in the community. The seeds will be distributed and planted throughout the Indian communities. The packets will also be distributed at the Indian Youth Conference next month.
- **Section 8 Program, Warren County Office Location Closed:** It was noted that the relocation of the office space will take place during the month of September.



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- **Federal Register/Vol.79, No. 103/ Proposed Rules (Billing Code 4160-01P):** Mr. Greg Richardson discussed the U.S. Department of the Interior’s proposed rules. The Commission and several North Carolina tribes submitted comments to the proposed rules. This proposed revision to the procedures is in compliance with the May 29, 2014 Federal Register notice (Federal Register/Vol.79, No.103/Proposed Rules). The Commission continues to monitor the revisions to the federal acknowledgement process, and encourages the continued sharing of information and updates between North Carolina petitioners, Commission staff, and others following the proposed rule changes for the federal acknowledgement procedure. Mr. Greg Richardson requested Commission members to forward copies of their comments or responses to Mr. Elk Richardson, Director, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program. Mr. Elk Richardson also assists the Commission’s Recognition Committee, to increase the effectiveness of the Commission’s collaboration in addressing the common concerns with the federal acknowledgement process.
- **Eagle Feathers:** Mr. Greg Richardson shared information about a Native American student that was denied the right to wear the eagle feather at his graduation ceremony. The eagle feather was awarded to the student from his tribal elders for his educational accomplishments. The Native American Rights Fund (NARF) defended the student and won the lawsuit, thus providing a victory for the Native American culture and religious freedoms. NARF has a long history of assisting students who are prohibited from wearing eagle feathers at graduation ceremonies due to narrow graduation dress codes. Mr. Greg Richardson wanted to shed some light on this story.
- **Guest Introduction:** Mr. Greg Richardson introduced the two guests present at the meeting. Mr. Maxwell William, doctoral student in Geography at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Ms. Fredena Revels, Health Policy Advisor, Office of the Speaker, North Carolina General Assembly.

The handout is attached and is an official part of the minutes.

### **Questions and Comments from Commission Members:**

The following was noted:

- Commission members asked clarifying question on why the full time position was kept vacant for a long period of time.
- Mr. Greg Richardson explained that the Talent Search Counselor servers two counties (Hoke and Columbus). It was the management decision to split the position into two to save on time and mileage in order to better serve the students. One position split into two positions. The system is recognizing that the full time position has two temporary employees. The program will not lose the funding but can continue with the temporary employees. Mr. Greg Richardson expressed that the division does not want the full time position abolished, just in case the temporary employees do not work out.
- Chairwoman Revels commented on the Native American student that was denied to wear the eagle feather for his graduation. She was pleased to note that he sought assistance from NARF. The eagle feather represents the pride of the tribe, people and the heritage.

Chairwoman Revels requested Commissioner Roy Maynor to bless the food for the Commission.

*Chairwoman Revels announced a short recess for lunch.*

*Lunch break, meeting reconvened at 1 p.m. (working lunch).*





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**XI. QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORTS:** The handouts of the quarterly reports from the Program Managers were included in the meeting packet. Commission members have reviewed these reports. No questions or concerns were noted.

The quarterly reports are attached and are an official part of the minutes.

## **XII. INDIAN CHILD WELFARE**

**Memorandum of Agreement** – Commissioner Marvel Welch and Ms. Sherry Bradsher, Co-Chairs, Indian Child Welfare Committee presented this item. The following was discussed:

- Adoption of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA): There were two types of drafts presented on the MOA for Indian Child Welfare. (a) The first MOA was for the collaboration and coordination of placement of American Indian Children between NC Department of Administration (NC DOA), NC DHHS and NC CIA. (b) The second MOA was between the State Recognized Indian Tribes, the NC Commission of Indian Affairs (NC CIA) and NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS).
- Both handouts were distributed to the Commission members.
- It was noted that with the support of this Commission a feedback was requested on the two MOA's. Ms. Bradsher indicated that before the next Commission meeting the plan was to adopt and sign the agreements.
- The Commission was informed that the next step was for the Communities and County Department of Social Services to come together and draft their own MOA (which would identify the specifics about how they want to communicate on an ongoing basis when a real life situation occurs).
- The Indian Child Welfare Committee noted that if they recommend this MOA as a statewide agreement, it would be beneficial for all the American Indian children across the state.
- Commissioner Marvel Welch pointed out that the first MOA (between the NC DOA, NC DHHS and NC CIA) needed to be in place. It was important to adopt and sign the first MOA in order to proceed with the second MOA (support between the recognized Indian tribes, NC CIA and NC DHHS).

### **Questions and Comments from Commission Members:**

The following was noted:

- Mr. Greg Richardson informed the Commission that Department of Commerce notified that it was best to have two separate agreements (one at the State level and the other at the local level).
- Ms. Bradsher indicated that the two separate agreements would give greater flexibility at the state and local level with regards to protocol.
- Commission member asked clarifying question if the Tribes were in agreement with the draft MOA.
- Commissioner Welch noted that the Indian Child Welfare Committee has received a response on the second MOA from all the Tribes except one or two. She indicated that the feedback was not listed on the draft.
- Commission members suggested guidelines needed to be in place by the Indian Child Welfare Committee to accompany the local draft template once ready for distribution.
- Chairwoman Revels needed clarification on “where would the Urban Organizations fit in order to access the support from the Indian Child Welfare?”



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- Commission Welch responded that it would be the responsibility of the enrollment office to communicate with the Department of Social Services to identify the child as an American Indian child.
- It was noted that the distribution of the local template along with the guidance will occur once the state level MOA is finalized. No further reviewing of the local template is needed by the Commission.
- Commissioner Lana Dial made a motion to approve the draft Memorandum of Agreement for the Collaboration and Coordination of Placement of American Indian Children as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel Locklear. Motion carried.
- It was noted that the MOA presented recognized that technical changes may occur as a result of the State contract and legal review processes.
- Ms. Bradsher indicated that the second MOA is at the local level and it will be distributed locally as a draft template to have the flexibility to change, based on the local needs.
- Mr. Greg Richardson requested Commissioner Welch and Ms. Bradsher to review the second MOA. He added that the new policy needs to be documented correctly for record purposes.
- Commissioner Welch notified that UNC at Pembroke is interested in hosting a gathering for Indian Child Welfare Issues. Details will be finalized in the near future.
- Chairwoman Revels thanked Commissioner Welch and Ms. Bradsher for their work in drafting the MOA.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Committee Reports were not presented due to lack of time. Mr. Greg Richardson made a recommendation to the Committee Chairs to address their action items that needed to be voted.

### **COMMITTEE WORK SESSION**

The By-Laws on the NC Commission of Indian Affairs – Article VIII – Standing Committees the Title and Purpose Statement of each Committee were discussed in reference with the Senate Bill. Handouts were provided for the work session. Mr. Greg Richardson pointed out to the new Committees that were not listed on the By-Laws. They are as follows: Environmental Justice Committee, Indian Land Trust Committee and the American Indian Veterans Committee.

It was noted that a consensus on the purpose statement would be for each of the Committees listed in the By-Laws and a separate consensus would be on the purpose statement for the new Committees listed above.

It was discussed that there were too many Committees and some of them do not meet. Due to these reason it was recommended that the Committees would be combined or kept as an Ad Hoc Committee.

It was noted that some of the Committees were tied to a specific grant. These were Housing Committee, Employment and Training Committee, Education Committee, Legislative Committee and Recognition Committee. These were all statutory Committees. Mr. Greg Richardson noted that the Commission members serve as advisory members on these Committees.

Mr. Greg Richardson expressed that during the work session, Commission members will discuss whether to consolidate the Committees or abolish them. He read each statement as indicated on the handout.



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The following was discussed:

- (a) **Economic Development and Employment Committee:** The changes are as follows:
- Title now reads as “American Indian Employment, Training and Economic Development Committee”.
  - Purpose statement now reads as “Composed of a minimum of five members whose responsibilities shall be to promote employment, training and the economic development of American Indian communities, to act as liaison for the workforce development programs serving the American Indian communities in North Carolina, and to promote employment and training opportunities for Indians in North Carolina.”
- (b) **Education Committee:** The changes are as follows:
- Title now reads as “American Indian Education Committee”.
  - Purpose statement should include the following bullets points (a) add State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE); (b) Coordination of the Annual Indian Youth Unity Conference; (c) Review and make the recommendations of the Indian education data (undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate); (d) Which may include Indian education programs such as the Title VII Indian education programs; (e) Dissemination of scholarships information.
  - Due to lack of time, it was suggested that staff would incorporate the above bullet points into the purpose statement.
- (c) **Executive Committee:** It was noted that the first paragraph stays the same as is (no change).
- **Audit and Budget Committee:** It was noted that the audits are conducted by the State Auditor’s Office.
  - Solicit letters of support from Tribes and Organization (on their stationery) to be placed into the grant package.
  - Commissioner Marvel Welch made a motion to delete the “Audit and Budget Committee” section. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gladys Hunt and it passed unanimously.
  - Chairwoman Revels requested a budget report at each quarterly Commission meeting.
- (d) **Housing Committee:** The changes are as follows:
- Title now reads as “American Indian Housing Committee”.
  - Purpose Statement: Remove both the commas in the purpose statement and to include Housing Committee to serve as Advisory Committee to Section 8 Housing Program.
  - Purpose statement should now read as “Composed of a minimum of five members whose responsibilities shall be to review the overall work of the Commission to promote the provision of adequate housing for Indians in North Carolina and to coordinate efforts of the Commission with the NC Indian Housing Authority. The Housing Committee shall serve as an Advisory Committee for the Commission’s Section 8 Housing Program and any other Housing Programs for American Indians.”
- (e) **Health and Human Services Committee:** The changes are as follows:
- Title now reads as “American Indian Health and Human Services Committee”.
  - Purpose statement should now read as “Composed of a minimum of five members whose responsibilities shall be to review the overall work of the Commission’s Indian health programs and services, and to promote and collaborate on the development and effective administration of needed health and human services for Indians in North Carolina, which includes: Mental Health Services, Indian Health Board, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services and Integrated Health Services.”



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- Commissioner Lana Dial expressed that she wanted to serve on this Committee.
- (f) **Veterans Affairs Committee:** The changes are as follows:
  - Title now reads as “American Indian Veterans Affairs Committee”.
  - Purpose Statement should include the word American in front of Indian Veterans to read as “American Indian Veterans”.
  - Purpose Statement now reads as “Composed of a minimum of five members whose responsibilities shall be to review the overall work of the Commission and to assure that American Indian Veterans receive the services to which they are entitled and to advocate on behalf of American Indian Veterans in all NC and Federal forums.”
  - Purpose statement should include the following bullets points (a) Select a tribal veterans coordinator from each tribe; (b) Select and recognize a veteran each year at the annual meeting; (c) Coordinate with the Department of Veterans Affairs and bring veterans services to the tribal communities; (d) Add “veterans” terminology to all Committees. It was noted that the all the Committees need to pay attention to veterans for employment training, housing, etc.
- (g) **State Recognition Committee:** The changes are as follows:
  - Purpose Statement: The first sentence should include “each State recognized tribe and urban Indian organization named in NC GS143B-406”.
  - Purpose Statement now reads as “ Consisting of one member from each state recognized tribe and urban Indian organization named in the NC GS 143B-406, and whose responsibilities shall be to review all petitions for recognition which are presented to the Commission to the end of reporting to the Commission on their adequacy and merit, to recommend appropriate and timely action on each such petition to the Commission, to formulate and recommend procedures for processing all such petitions, to police the enforcement of whatever recognition procedures that are adopted by the Commission, to monitor the federal recognition efforts of the state recognized tribes, and to provide appropriate assistance to the state recognized tribes in their federal recognition efforts.”
  - It was noted that this is a stand-alone Committee.
  - It was recommended that staff should consult with Mr. Mark Teague and make the necessary changes based on the work, petitions they have received and according to the legislation’s general statute.
- (h) **Culture and Religion Committee:** The changes are as follows:
  - Title now reads as “American Indian Culture and Religious Committee”.
  - Purpose Statement should include “events and memorials” in the second last statement.
  - Purpose Statement should now read as “Composed of a minimum of five members whose responsibilities shall be to promote recognition of and the right of Indians to pursue cultural religious traditions considered by them to be sacred and meaningful to Native Americans and to promote public understanding and appreciation of Indian history and culture. They shall also be responsible for monitoring and advocating for the respectful and appropriate use of Indian artifacts, events, and memorials held by NC museums, universities or other institutions and for the respectful and appropriate use of NC Indian artifacts wherever they are held. Finally, the Committee shall work to promote the celebration and of Indian Heritage month in communities in NC, and to promote effective media coverage of these events.
  - Mr. Greg Richardson requested Mr. Danny Bell to submit his comments to the Commission.



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- Historic sites and highway markers. (To coordinate with Cultural Resources regarding the highway markers. The historic sites that relate to American Indians such as Town Creek Indian Mound). Mr. Greg Richardson noted that the Town Creek Indian Mound maintenance and upkeep was neglected. Efforts need to be made to preserve the historic site.
  - Indian heritage educational activities at schools.
  - Mr. Greg Richardson expressed that he will include the additional comments requested into the purpose statement.
  - Mr. Teague suggested that the Commission needs to clarify its role regarding participating at the historic events.
  - It was noted that historic artifacts found in the State of NC were referred to Mr. Steve Claggett, Department of Cultural Resources.
- (i) **Legislative Committee:** The Changes are as follows:
- Title now reads as “American Indian Legislative Committee”.
  - Purpose Statement: Delete “on an annual basis”.
  - Purpose Statement should now read as “ Composed of not less than five members whose responsibility shall be to identify and report to the Commission any changes of the NC General Statutes that are required for the effective operations of the Commission or the fulfillment of its purposes.”
  - Study and review legislation originating from the state’s tribes, Indian organizations, or on behalf of, affecting, or to the benefit to the state’s Indian people.
  - Coordinate the Commission’s legislative agenda each year, with the agency’s legislative liaison.
- (j) **Other Standing and Special Committees** as may be established by the Commission from time-to-time. Proposed Committee to be added:
- **Environmental Justice Committee:** It was noted that the proposed Purpose Statement needed to be reviewed.
  - Mr. Greg Richardson requested Commissioner Daniel Locklear, Chair of the Environmental Justice Committee to submit the revised proposed statement to him.
  - Air quality, water quality, Brownfields sites, waste management/recycling.
- (k) **Indian Land Trust Committee:** No change in the proposed Purpose Statement.
- Title should read as “American Indian Land Trust Committee”.
  - The last sentence in the proposed purpose statement should read as “Shall function as an ad hoc basis only.”
  -
- (l) **Indian Child Welfare:** The changes are as follows:
- Title now reads as “American Indian Child Welfare Committee”
  - Proposed Purpose Statement should include “minimum of five members”.
  - Rest of Purpose Statement remains the same.

It was requested that the recommendation be brought back to the Commission in September for further discussion. Mr. Greg Richardson indicated that the changes could be made between now and September.

### **Other items not on the Agenda:**

**Research on Native American Plants:** Mr. William Maxwell, PhD Student in Geography, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was given an opportunity to speak to the Commission. He informed the



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Commission that he was conducting a research on Native American Plants at the North Carolina Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill. He indicated that the students were conducting a research to learn more about the plants in the garden and the traditional uses of plants used for healing. He expressed that he would like to speak with tribal leaders and community members about their tribes "historic uses of plants". How plants have been used by Native Americans specific to each tribe for the past centuries for herbal medicine, arts, crafts, food, and clothing? Mr. Maxwell concluded by requesting Commission members to contact him if they had any knowledge on the traditional uses of plants.

**Keepseagle Farm Settlement:** Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director, reported that Rep. Charles Graham has been nominated to serve at a Trustee for the American Indian Farm Settlement Fund. The initial claim of \$50,000 has been processed, however, there is \$380 Million remaining in the settlement for American Indian Farmers. It was noted that the Trustees and the Judge will determine how the remaining funds will be distributed. Additional information can be viewed at the following website: <http://www.indianfarmclass.com/>

### **Items/Announcements:**

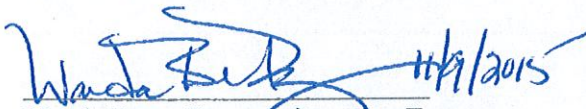
- Patrick Lambert is running for Chief, Cherokee, N.C. General Elections will be held in September.
- New Veterans Hospital will be built in the South.
- Lumbee Home Coming, June 27-July 4, 2015. It was noted that Ms. Indian N.C. will have a float.
- Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation Pow Wow, June 17, 2015.
- Indian Heritage Month poster has been submitted to the printers.

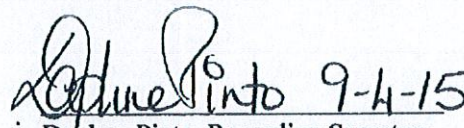
### **Future Meeting Dates:**

- September 4, 2015 (Location TBD)
- December 6, 2015 (Location TBD)
- Recognition Banquet (will be held at the December meeting or at the Indian Heritage Month).
- Chairwoman requested members to email her if they would like to serve on the Planning Committee for recognizing fellow members.
- Youth Unity Conference at the UNC at Pembroke, June 17-20, 2015. It was requested to sponsor a student to the conference.
- Annual Indian Unity Conference is slated for March 9-12, 2016, North Raleigh Hilton, Raleigh.

### **Adjournment:**

With there being no further items to discuss, a motion to officially adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Daniel Locklear. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Walter Baucom. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2015 (location to be determined).

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

  
Daphne Pinto, Recording Secretary  
(Sign & Date)



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*These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs on September 4, 2015.*

*Wanda Burns-Ramsey 11/3/2015*

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



**N.C. COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS**  
**QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING & Retreat**  
 North Carolina Association of Educators Building  
 700 South Salisbury Street  
 Raleigh, North Carolina 27601



*“Celebrating over 40 years of American Indian Advocacy”*

**AGENDA**  
 June 5, 2015

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
I	Welcome, Call to Order	Ruth Revels, Chair
II	Adoption of Agenda	Ruth Revels
III	Invocation	Shirley Freeman, Vice Chairwoman
IV	Pledge of Allegiance	Sam Lambert, Commission Member
V	Roll Call	Daphne Pinto, Secretary
VI	Reading of Ethics Statement	Greg Richardson, Executive Director
VII	Approval of March 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes	Ruth Revels, Chair
		<b>10:30</b>
VIII	Guest Speakers: (a) Identification of perceived obstacles/barriers to employment/promotional opportunities for American Indians and solutions or recommendations (seeking information from Commission members)  (b) Honored Guest Speaker  (c) Special Presentation	Brenda Dixon, HR Consultant, NC Office of State Human Resources  Dr. Robin Cummings, Chancellor Elect, UNC Pembroke  Dorothy Crowe, Commission Member Carmen-Elena Jacobs Polanco, Jr. Ms. Guilford Native American Association – Class of 2015 Gates Millennium Scholar
IX	Presentation – Definition of Type I and Type II Transfer pertaining to the Commission	Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice



X	Executive Director Report	Greg Richardson, Executive Director
XI	Quarterly Program Reports	Copies included in meeting packet
	<b>Special Presentations</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>
XII	Indian Child Welfare • Memorandum of Agreement-Adoption	Marvel Welch and Sherry Bradsher, Co-Chairs, Indian Child Welfare Committee
	<b>Committee Work Session</b>	<b>11:15 am</b>
XIII	American Indian Legislative Updates	Roy Maynor, Chair
XIV	Adhoc Indian Land Trust & American Indian Veterans	Furnie Lambert, Chair
XV	American Indian Education	Dorothy Crowe, Chair
XVI	American Indian Housing	Elton Ray Jacobs, Chair
XVII	Indian Child Welfare	Marvel Welch and Sherry Bradsher, Co-Chairs
XVIII	State Recognition	Larece Hunt/Shirley Freeman-Co-Chairs
XIX	American Indian Cultural Resources	Jeff Anstead, Chair
XX	American Indian Employment & Training	Ruth Revels, Chair
XXI	Environmental Justice	Daniel Locklear, Chair
	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12:00 Noon – 1:00pm</b>
XXII	Committee Work Session	Continued
	<b>2:30 pm</b>	<b>Wrap-up</b>
XXIII	Items/Announcements from proposed Commission Members – Recognition Banquet	Ruth Revels, Chair
XXIV	Future Meeting Dates:	
XXV	September 4, 2015	Location TBD
XXVI	December 6, 2015	Location TBD
XXVII	<b>Adjournment</b>	<b>3:00 pm</b>