



**NORTH CAROLINA  
COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
September 7, 2018**

Sampson County Exposition Center  
414 Warsaw Road  
Clinton, North Carolina, 28328

**WELCOME:** Furnie Lambert, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:06 am with the quorum being present. He acknowledged and welcomed all Commission Members, Tribal Leaders, Chiefs, State Officials, staff and guests.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Commissioner Marvel Welch made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tony Hayes. Motion carried.

**INVOCATION:** Commissioner Ricky Burnett recited the invocation prayer. Commission members and community members that were currently ill and deceased were remembered during the opening prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Walter Baucom led the members and guests in the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS**

Coharie	Isabell Freeman-Elliott	Present
Coharie	Lenora Locklear	Present
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Helen Cook	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	Jennifer Revels-Baxter	Present
Guilford Native American Association	DeVane Burnette, Sr.	Present
Haliwa Saponi	Jeffrey Anstead	Present
Haliwa Saponi	Charles (Pete) Richardson	Present
Lumbee	Larece Hunt	Absent
Lumbee	Ricky Burnett	Present
Lumbee	Furnie Lambert	Present
Meherrin	Constance Mitchell	Present
Metrolina Native American Association	Walter D. Baucom	Present
Metrolina Native American Association	Jessie Jacobs	Absent
Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation	Tony Hayes	Present



**ROLL CALL**

*MEMBERS (Continued)*

Sappony	Dorothy Yates	Present
Triangle Native American Society	Danny Bell	Present
Waccamaw Siouan	Elton R. Jacobs	Present
Waccamaw Siouan	Shirley Freeman	Present

**STATE OFFICIALS**

President Pro Tem Appointee	Daniel Locklear	Absent
Speaker of the House Appointee	Wanda Burns-Ramsey	Present
Department of Administration (DOA), Mabelle Sanders, Secretary		Present
Designee: Christy Agner, Deputy Secretary		Present
Department of Commerce/ ESC, Anthony Copeland, Secretary		
Designee: George Sherrill, Chief of Staff		Present
Department of Environment Quality (DEQ), Michael Regan, Secretary		
Designee: John Nicholson, Deputy Secretary		Absent
Representative: Sarah Rice, NCDEQ Compliance Officer & Title VI Coordinator		Present
Department of Health & Human Services, Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary		
Designee: David Locklear, Deputy Director, Division of Social Services, Economic and Family Services, NCDHHS		Absent
Department of Labor, Cherie Berry, Commissioner		
Designee: Jennifer Haigwood		Absent
Department of Cultural Resources, Advisor, John Mintz - <b>Non-Voting Member</b>		Present
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Keith A. Hardison, Director		Absent

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE**

NCNAYO      Zianne Mackenzie Richardson & Brayden N Locklear (Co-Chair)      Absent

**Non-Voting Members**

**STAFF PRESENT**

Greg Richardson, Executive Director  
David Grigsby, Program Director, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program  
Kimberly Hammonds, Program Director, Economic Development Program &  
    Supporting Undergraduate Native Students Program  
Peggy Ammons, Program Director, Community Development Program  
    & Low-Income Energy Assistance Program  
Annie Francis, Program Director, Indian Child Welfare Program  
Elizabeth Walker, Program Director, State Recognition Program  
Daphne Pinto, Administrative Secretary

**OTHER STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Rep. Charles Graham, District 47, NC General Assembly, Robeson County  
Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice

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

**ETHICS STATEMENT:** Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director read the Ethics Statement on behalf of Chairman Lambert. He charged Commission Members to declare any conflict of interest, or



appearance of conflict of interest that may exist in relation to any business before the Commission, as mandated by the State Ethics Act. No conflicts were noted.

**APPROVAL OF May 31-June 1, 2018, MEETING MINUTES:** The minutes were included in the meeting packet and submitted to the Commission members prior to the meeting, by email. The minutes of the Commission meeting held on May 31-June 1, 2018, were presented, with no corrections noted. Commissioner Tony Hayes made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gladys Hunt. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF July 11, 2018, TELECONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES:** The minutes were included in the meeting packet and was submitted to the Commission members prior to the meeting. The minutes of the Commission meeting held on July 11, 2018, were presented, with no corrections noted. Commissioner Gladys Hunt made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sam Lambert. Motion carried.

### **TRIBAL WELCOME**

#### **Greg Jacobs, Tribal Administrator, Coharie Indian Tribe:**

Mr. Greg Jacobs welcomed and acknowledged all Commission members, State Officials and guests to Coharie land. He gave a brief statement on the benefits and progress of the tribes over the years through segregation, integration, self-determination and finally to be self-sufficient. He indicated that the Commission of Indian Affairs played an important role, in the development of programs for the tribe. He stated that the decisions made here affect all the indigenous people of North Carolina and throughout the country.

### **WELCOME REMARKS**

#### **William “Bill” Starlings, President. Sampson Community College:**

Mr. William Starlings thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak and noted that it was wonderful for the Commission to have its meeting in Clinton, NC. On behalf of Mayor, Lou Starlings he extended a warm welcome from the city of Clinton, NC. He gave a brief update on the Sampson Community College. Currently, they have approximately 2000 students enrolled. He noted many accomplishments of the young graduates from Sampson Community College. Many of which were students supported through the NC Commission of Indian Affairs Workforce program.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:**

#### **Representative Charles Graham, District 47, NC General Assembly:**

- Rep. Charles Graham thanked the Commission for inviting him to the meeting and noted that it was nice to be back in Coharie land with the leaders of the community. He deferred the legislative update to another time. He gave a brief update on the economic information regarding the progress on the agricultural businesses the “Native American Agriculture Fund” (NAAF). He noted that he was appointed on that organizations Board of Trustees, and that it is a four-year term. There are fourteen trustees on the Committee. A handout was presented. The following was discussed:
- Funding: \$680M compensation fund because of discrimination with an additional \$80M in debt relief. A total of 3,680 farmers and ranchers were compensated because of this case. The Judge, who presided over this case ordered \$38M in “fast track funds” to a non-profit to support Native farmers and ranchers. Funds cannot go to an individual, it can go to organizations that are



supporting Indian farmers. He noted at this point they are having a strategic planning meeting and appointing staff. It was stated that the court approved the trust agreement, it is irrevocable and cannot be changed.

- Location: The home office will be in Fayetteville, Arkansas for the next three years.
- Fund Name: The court approved the establishment of a trust fund to distribute \$266 M funds to organizations that support Native farmers and ranchers. The charitable trust fund is called the “Native American Agriculture Fund” (NAAF).
- Fund Mission: The fund’s mission to American Indian farmers: (a) Business assistance; (b) Agricultural education; (c) Technical support; (d) Advocacy services. The mission is to support and promote their continued engagement in agriculture to Native American farmers and ranchers.
- Eligibility: Organizations eligible for funding include:
  - Tax exempt organizations described in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code
  - Educational organizations
  - Community Development Financial Institutions that are also 501(c) (3) organizations
  - Instrumentalities of federal or state recognized tribes that furnish assistance designed to further Native farming and ranching.
- Requirement: Grantees of NAAF will have reporting and recordkeeping requirements to meet. Restrictions on use of the fund include: (a) funds cannot be used for lobbying or political activity; (b) there can be no grants to individuals; (c) funds cannot be used to support litigation.
- Conclusion: Rep. Graham expressed that he wanted to support the Indian communities and organizations eligible for these funds. The webpage is in the process of being established and the information will be posted. The grant will be available after the January 1, 2019. He will be glad to assist each tribe who submits their application.

The presentation is attached and is an official part of the minutes. (**Attachment A**)

#### **SWEARING IN CEREMONY – NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS:**

Representative Charles Graham, District 47, Robeson County, NC, presided over the swearing-in ceremony.

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

#### **Tribal Representatives:**

- Lenora Locklear, Coharie Tribe
- Sam Lambert, Eastern Band of the Cherokee
- Charles Richardson, Haliwa-Saponi
- Ricky Burnett, Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

#### **Urban Indian Organizations Representatives:**

- Helen Cook, Cumberland County Association for Indian People
- Walter Baucomb, Metrolina Native American Association
- Danny Bell, Triangle Native American Association

#### **State Official – Appointed by General Assembly:**

- Wanda Burns-Ramsey, Speaker of House Appointee



**Photo session/ Recognition of new and returning members:** Commission members took group photos along with Representative Charles Graham, NC General Assembly.

Chairman Lambert and Mr. Greg Richardson thanked Representative Graham.

Mr. Greg Richardson acknowledged and welcomed Tribal Leaders, Chiefs, Chairs, Government/ State Officials, former Commission Members, Representatives from Commission of Indian Affairs from the state of Indiana, present at the meeting. Mr. Richardson informed everyone that he met those officials during past National Congress of American Indian conferences (NCAI).

**NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Chairman Lambert announced that there were two Commission officers position up for election during the Annual Meeting and they are:

Vice Chair

Secretary/Treasurer

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

Mrs. Shirley Freeman was nominated

A motion was made by Commissioner Charles Richardson and seconded by Commissioner Jennifer Revels-Baxter that Mrs. Shirley Freeman be named Vice Chair. Motion carried.

Ms. Shirley Freeman's nomination was accepted by acclamation with a motion from Commissioner Ricky Burnett and seconded by Commissioner Jennifer Revels-Baxter. Motion carried.

**Nomination of Secretary Treasurer:** Chairman opened the floor for the nomination for Secretary/Treasures.

Ms. Isabell Freeman-Elliott's nomination was accepted by acclamation with a motion from Commissioner Jeffrey Anstead and seconded by Commissioner Marvel Welch. Motion carried.

#### **PRESENTATION:**

**Order of Long Leaf Pine for Earlene Stacks, Former Commission Member:** Secretary Machel Sanders, NC Department of Administration presented the Long Leaf Pine Award to Mrs. Earlene Stacks. Secretary Sanders congratulated Mrs. Stacks for her dedicated years of service to the state of North Carolina.

The Long Leaf Pine is the highest award from the current Governor Roy Cooper to a citizen of North Carolina to recognize citizens for their contribution to the state.

A group photo was taken of Mrs. Stack in recognition of the presentation.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs, presented this item.



- Observed a moment of silence for Faith Hedgepeth and her family. She was an undergraduate student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was murdered on September 7, 2012, prior to that commission meeting.
- Announced funding opportunity from the Governors Crime Commission that the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault grant applications will be mailed to the tribes and organizations next week. Mr. Richardson informed everyone that there is a deadline for the application process.
- Announced that in 2018, 51 students were selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the NC American Indian Fund Scholarship for the 2018-2019 academic year. Mr. Richardson also informed everyone that in 2019, the same process will be followed, the application process begins January 1, 2019, and will be due May 1, 2019. Information about this scholarship is provided on the Triangle Community Foundation website.
- Introduced Mr. Maxton Richardson, Haliwa Saponi tribe, graduate from East Carolina University. Due to time constraints, he expressed that he would like to speak to members via phone or email regarding detailed information on the Campus Ministry as well as advocate the need for financial assistance to make this vision a possibility.
- Announced the 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Commissioner Sam Lambert and Helena Lambert.
- A budget updated is listed in the Executive Director's report.
- Accompanied, Deputy Secretary Christy Agner during a meeting with the Cherokee tribe this quarter which included the follows:
  - Met with Chief Richard Sneed, Chief Paxton Myer and Ms. Ashleigh Stephens, Public Relations Officer.
  - Visited with the Cherokee Central School Coach and the Cherokee Braves, football team and presented them with a framed copy of a Resolution adopted during the March Commission meeting.
  - Visited the Kituwah Academy School, met with Mrs. Highley Shuler, School Principal. Visited the Cherokee Central Medical Center and met with Mr. Casey Cooper, CEO of the Cherokee Hospital.
  - Visited the Swain/Qualla Safe Inc., to conduct a site visit and received an overview of the programs and services provided. It is a private non-profit agency which provides a variety of services to residents of Swain and the Qualla boundary. The program provides domestic violence, sexual assault and violence prevention program activities.
  - Visited the Cherokee Life-Recreation Services Center, met with Mrs. Cameo Lanning, Director and learned about the services provided for Cherokee citizens.
  - Details of the Cherokee Meetings are listed in the Executive Director's report.
- Introduced Mr. Quinn Godwin, Lumbee, who was recently employed in the Governor's Community Engagement Officer in Raleigh.
- Lumbee Homecoming Engagement Parade, July 2018. Governor Roy Cooper participated in the Lumbee Homecoming parade and the Commission had entry in the parade.
- American Indian of Proud Nations Conference held September 6-7, 2018, at the Sampson County Exposition Center in Clinton, NC in conjunction with the Commission meeting.
- 2020 US Census Tribal Liaison Nomination took place this quarter.
- Summer Interns, Mr. Nathaniel Jacobs, Coharie worked with the State Recognition Program and was responsible for records and coordination of program activities. Ms. Alexandra Bailey worked with the Section 8 Housing Program, she assisted with the development of the Family Self-Sufficiency materials, designed a proposed outreach strategy for the program.



- Announced the 2019 Summer Intern opportunities at the Department of Administration.
- Announced the appointment of Commissioner Jeff Anstead and Mr. Joseph Own on the Department of Quality (DEQ) Advisory Committee.
- Announced staff update (vacancy and new hire) as follows:
  - Workforce innovations Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program: Retirement of Elk Richardson, Director, WIOA Program effective September 1, 2018.
  - Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Program: Appointed Ms. Annie Francis, Director, ICW Program.
  - Domestic Violence and Awareness Prevention (DV & AP) Program: Ms. Tenley Nikki Locklear, Director, DV & AP Program.
- Staff Quarterly Reports: The reports are enclosed in the meeting packet.
- Other Announcements: Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program - There is a shortage of housing units in the American Indian Communities of Columbus, Halifax, Sampson and Warren Counties. If Commission members know of any vacant rental homes in the community, they were encouraged to let David Grigsby, Director of the Section 8 Housing Program know.

The Executive Director's Report is attached (**Attachment B**) and is an official part of the minutes.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:**

- Commission members requested guidelines on the Section 8 Choice Voucher Program.
- Mr. David Grigsby, Director, Section 8 Housing Program gave a brief overview. He explained the old units verses new units. Mr. Grigsby also noted the following: (1) Bad tenants, misuse of the facility; (2) Reference of previous landlords; (3) Owe landlord part of rent, voucher is withdrawn immediately. It was indicated that the tenant needs to pay past due rent to previous or current landlord to continue with the program. The program is working on establishing a policy. Mr. Grigsby requested members to share ideas that could help improve the current situation regarding the supply of additional units.

#### **PROGRAM UPDATES:**

Since it was the annual meeting, each program manager was requested to present a brief overview of their program to the Commission.

**Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program:** Mr. David Grigsby, Program Director presented this item. Topics discussed were as follows:

- In addition to the shortage of housing units discussed earlier, Mr. Grigsby contacted other Housing Association who expressed that they were experiencing the same overall shortage of housing units. He indicated that the economy is better, and people want to move out of their parent's houses. He noted the increase of demand for housing but no increase for supply of housing units.
- It was indicated that the programs that are in place to support Low Income Housing in North Carolina, they work well in Raleigh, Charlotte, Greensboro, Wilson and Rocky Mount. The program does not work in Warrenton, Princeville, Hollister, and other small towns. He noted that there is opportunity for potential contractors to build housing units in rural communities. It was expressed that this is a problem statewide, in particular to the east of I-95 up to the coast.

No handout was provided.



**Indian Child Welfare Program:** Ms. Annie Francis, Program Director presented this item. Topics discussed were as follows:

- Initiative has trained 19 Native families. Families range from single individual to up to four adults. Three families have received their license and have foster children in their homes.
- Expressed a need for Native foster homes
- Currently this quarter, two families are in the pipeline receiving training
- Scheduled a training to a group in Robeson County in January 2019. Met with the Sampson County Program Director and established a partnership and a protocol if a Native American child comes into the facility they will contact Ms. Francis at the Commission of Indian Affairs if she can provide a culturally congruent home for the foster care child. Ms. Francis indicated that she is tracking foster parents by the tribe. Example: If the foster child is a Lumbee, he/ she will be placed in a Lumbee home.
- Educating the state on what a congruent foster care facility looks like. In April 2018, met with Guardian Ad Litem, Social Service Supervisor and workers in Greensboro, to educate them how to serve the Native American children in North Carolina. Initiate best practices, continuing support services on counseling, coaching, and listening to families within the communities dealing with service abuse epidemic and children being removed from homes.
- In conclusion, she noted that she visits foster families to receive updates and help with advice and address their concerns. She requested members to support the Indian Child Welfare Program initiative.
- Mr. Greg Richardson thanked Representative Charles Graham for his initiative towards the funding of \$60,000.00 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to recruit American Indian Foster families state-wide.

No handout was provided.

**State Recognition Program:** Ms. Elizabeth Walker, Program Director presented this item. Topics discussed were as follows:

- This State Recognition Committee met this spring and approved the new technical assistance document requests. A SharePoint page was created to record responses of potential petitioning groups. Ms. Walker noted that this will be easy for the public to access the guidance on how to submit petition documents for state recognition.
- Listed on the webpage is an outline of a suggested concise written narrative and rules. Also, listed are sample letters and forms for documenting a petition. The goal is to have a uniform system for petitions.
- Notified all pending petition groups of the new procedures/guidance.
- Noted that the Cherokee of Red Banks have completed their genealogy and have uploaded it to the Roots Magic Program.
- Received inquiry from several other groups on guidance to submit a petition.
- Tuscarora Nation petition preliminary negative finding of significant deficiencies. They have indicated that they will be supplementing their petition documents that have not been received as of this date. Tuscarora Nation have requested an extension on time, ending January 2019. Ms. Walker indicated that the program expects to receive the Tuscarora documents shortly, prior to January 25<sup>th</sup> deadline.





- In conclusion, Ms. Walker noted that the program anticipates more inquiry and documentation. It was noted that when the documentation is completed in full, the Recognition Committee gets involved.

No handout was provided.

### **Economic Development Program & Supporting Undergraduate Native Students (SUNS)**

**Community Development:** Ms. Kimberly Hammonds, Program Director presented this item. A handout of the presentation was provided.

Topics discussed were as follows:

- Funding for the program will be continued for another year.
- Students that are part of the SUNS program will receive funding until June 30, 2019. The program serves 38 students; grant award for FY 18-19 is \$55,280. The funding provides direct services to the students.
- Ms. Hammonds stated that she is responsible for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). The program provides educational materials and community outreach/ presentations.

A handout of the presentation (**Attachment C**) was distributed and is an official part of the minutes.

**American Indian Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program:** Mr. Greg Richardson introduced Ms. Sue Faircloth as the interim Program Director. He informed that Ms. Sue will take care of the student application process. Mr. Richardson thanked Mr. William (Bill) Starlings, President, Sampson Community College for referring students to the WIOA program who graduated this past summer.

**Strategic plan – Working Group Update:** Chair Shirley Freeman, Adhoc Strategic Planning Working Group presented this item. A handout of the presentation prepared by Dr. David H. Kiel, Advisor to the Committee was provided. Topics discussed were as follows:

- Objectives on the Plan of Action: Reviewed and discussed the report submitted by Dr. Kiel, Facilitator at the Work Session dated May 31-June 1, 2018.
- Bridging the gap between the Communities, Tribes and Urban Indian Organizations.
- Chair Freeman requested for funding support from State Officials.
- The Adhoc Strategic Planning Work Group was appointed by Chairman Furnie Lambert.
- A determination of priority needs and directions on the strategic plan will be submitted at the December Commission meeting.
- A series of options and recommendations for specific strategies and actions to be reviewed and discussed at the March Commission meeting at the Indian Unity Conference.
- Final approval of the fully defined plan will be discussed at the June Commission meeting.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:**

- Commission members noted that the Commission will be visiting the tribal communities to hear and identify problems and share request from Representatives from the Tribal Communities and Commission Members. So, progress can be achieved on both sides.
- Chair Shirley Freeman Informed Chairman Lambert that Commissioner Wanda Burns-Ramsey wanted to join the Adhoc Strategic Planning Committee. Chairman Lambert announced that Commissioner Wanda Burns-Ramsey was appointed on the Committee.



A handout of the Adhoc Strategic Planning Committee presentation (**Attachment D**) was distributed and is an official part of the minutes.

*Chairman Lambert announced a short recess for lunch. Chairman Lambert noted that the luncheon will be in conjunction with the American Indian of Proud Nation's at the adjacent banquet hall.*

*Lunch break, meeting reconvened at 2:09 p.m. (Working lunch).*

Chairman Lambert congratulated Commission Marvel Welch, she received an award for "Distinguished Woman" at the American Indian of Proud Nation's luncheon.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**Museum Vision – University of North Carolina at Pembroke:** Ms. Nancy Field, Director, Lumbee, Museum University of North Carolina at Pembroke. She gave a brief overview of the museum as follows:

- Extended an invitation for collaboration, partnership, relationship with the Commission
  - Provided a brief bio of herself.
  - The museum is the American Indian Culture Center.
  - In spring, the museum will embark on tribal outreach. Ms. Fields will be meeting with all tribal leaders, listen to the stories, art, history and culture opportunities that they can do together.
  - Partnering with the Ford Fisher and the Cape Fear Museum and the new Civil Award Museum in Fayetteville.
  - It was noted that Chancellor Cummings at UNCP has a vision that there could be a new museum. This could be the only southeast Museum that will focus on all the tribes here in the southeast. She noted a long-term plan on the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Collection and NAGPRA Inventory.
  - A public program Lumbee Genealogy Symposium, October 4-5, 2018. Registration cost is \$25. Register at [uncp.edu/gap](http://uncp.edu/gap). In conclusion, she informed that the museum has launched a children's discovery center, this is for people to learn about the Native Indian people.

No handout was provided.

**Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) Southgate Pipeline:** Ms. Agnes Ramsey, Tribal Liaison/ Program Manager, NextEra Energy and Mr. Kyle Martin, Director Development, NextEra Energy presented this item on the mountain valley pipeline specifically on the MVP Southgate Project. A handout of the PowerPoint presentation was distributed.

The following was discussed:

- Project Overview – The proposed project comes down from Virginia into North Carolina. NextEra Energy is a partner. It is part of the team that is proposing to build the MVP Southgate project.
  - Mountain Valley Pipeline both mainline as well as the Southgate project are made up of partners of which NextEra Energy is one of them.
- The Southgate project is a lateral pipeline, connects the supply of natural gas from the hub (mainline) to the customer where it will be used. The project route is preliminary and subject to revision based on feedback with landowners (Virginia and South Carolina) and other stakeholders, constructability and other considerations.