



**NORTH CAROLINA
COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 2016**

*NC Association of Educators
700 South Salisbury Street
Raleigh NC 27601*

WELCOME: Furnie Lambert, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. with a quorum being present. He acknowledged and welcomed all Commission Members, Tribal Leaders, Chiefs, State Officials, staff and guest.

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

INVOCATION: Vice-Chairwoman, Shirley Freeman recited the invocation prayer. Commission members and community members that are currently ill and recently deceased were remembered during the opening prayer.

NATIONAL ANTHEM: Commissioner Sam Lambert led the membership and guests in the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS

President Pro Tem Appointee	Daniel Locklear	Absent
Speaker of the House Appointee	Wanda Burns-Ramsey	Present
Coharie	Isabell Freeman-Elliott	Present
Coharie	Lenora Locklear	Present
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Roy Maynor	Present
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Gladys Hunt	Absent
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	Absent
Guilford Native American Association	DeVane Burnett, Sr.	Present
Haliwa Saponi	Jeffrey Anstead	Present
Haliwa Saponi	Charles (Pete) Richardson	Present
Lumbee	Larece Hunt	Present
Lumbee	Daniel Jones	Absent
Lumbee	Furnie Lambert	Present



ROLL CALL

MEMBERS (Continued)

Meherrin	Constance Mitchell	Present
Metrolina Native American Association	Walter D. Baucom	Absent
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	Makayla Richardson	Absent
NCNAYO	Wayla Locklear	Absent
NCNACOHE	Toni Henderson	Absent

STATE OFFICIALS

Department of Administration, Kathryn Johnston, Secretary	Present
Designee: JudyKay Jefferson, Deputy Secretary	Absent
Employment Security Commission, John E. Skvaria, III	
Designee: John Lowery	Absent
Department of Cultural Resources, Advisor, Steven Claggett	Absent
Department of Environment & Natural Resources, Donald R. van der Vaart	
Designee: Jennifer Gregorin	Present
Department of Health & Human Services, Dr. Rick Brajer, Secretary	
Designee: Jack Rogers	Present
Department of Labor, Cherie Berry, Commissioner	
Designee: Jennifer Haigwood	Present

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
- Elk Richardson, Program Director, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Program
- Cindi Harris, Counselor, Educational Talent Search Program
- Nancy Richardson, Temporary Assistant, Low Income Energy Program
- Daphne Pinto, Administrative Secretary

OTHER STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT

- Bryan Brannon, Chief Financial Officer, NC Department of Administration
- Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice
- Michelle Lanier, Director African American Heritage, NC Department of Cultural Resources

OTHERS PRESENT: List on file with the Commission.



ETHICS STATEMENT: Mr. Greg Richardson 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.

Chairman Lambert asked Mr. Richardson to remind the Commission members that they are required to complete a Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) forms. Mr. Richardson informed everyone that the existing Commission Members will need to complete the short version of the SEI and that new members need to complete the long version. The forms are self-explanatory and are on the Ethics Office website. The due date to submit the SEI forms is April 15th and failure to comply could result in a \$250 fine.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 10th MEETING MINUTES: The minutes of the Commission meeting held on September 2, 2016 were presented. Commissioner Lana Dial noted a minor correction on the second bullet on page 17, to include “state”. The sentence now reads as: “The criteria for students to enroll for the scholarship fund, is that they must be from the state and federally recognized tribe”. The motion to approve the minutes with the above change was made by Commissioner Jeffrey Anstead and seconded by Commissioner Charles Richardson. Motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

FLOWER FUND REPORT: Commissioner Wanda Burns-Ramsey gave a brief update on the status of the flower fund as follows:

Previous balance: June 2016 - Total: \$ 169
 September 2016 - Total: \$266.86
Deposit: Final Total: \$ 435.86 (previous meeting)
Expenditures: \$165.50
Current balance: \$270.36

Commissioner Burns-Ramsey indicated that the contribution fee per member is \$6. She listed the members that have paid their dues for this year (as of June 3, 2016), as follows: Furnie Lambert, Shirley Freeman, Jessie Jacobs, Sam Lambert and Walter D. Baucom. She noted that the rest of the members need to pay their contribution for this year.

PRESENTATIONS:

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS: Mr. Jim Prosser, Assistant Secretary for Veterans Affairs, NC Military Veterans Affairs and Mr. J.D. Arch, representative of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians presented the item as follows:

- A brief description on the state benefits plan for Veterans was discussed. To ensure that all Veterans understand their benefits coverage and receive their benefits. It was expressed that rural area Veterans were a challenge to reach.
- To establish Veteran offices in each Tribal and Urban Communities. It was noted that Veterans’ administrations suggested that members from the community could be trained and go through the accreditation process and work in the newly established Veterans office for twenty hours per week and get paid. The tribal and urban offices could pay these potential officers \$1 and then the Veterans’ office could train and pay them accordingly. In order to be qualified, the candidates would need to pass a test after their training,



- The rules and regulations are as per the state of North Carolina. Web seminars are conducted for people who could not attend the course in person. After completing the training, their official title would be “Veteran Service Officer”. The officers can work with the following entities: American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, The Officers Guild, etc. The NC Veterans’ Administration modeled their accreditation process after the American Legion.
- Mr. Prosser discussed the state legislature funding authorization and matching dollar process. The state legislature authorizes an allocation to each tribe. Previously a \$2,000 fee in matching grant was provided. The matching grant was reduced to \$1,452. It was stated that as long as the tribes and urban communities have a program, funding is allocated based on the request received by December 31st. He expressed that the matching grant option was removed during the recession period. The first fifteen members that enroll for the program will receive a Lenovo tablet as an incentive.
- The County policy indicates, in order to receive a service one has to live or work in the county.
- Burial sites for Veterans were discussed
- Free scholarship funds were available for training a Veterans Service Officer. Applications for scholarships are accepted twice a year (January and June).
- Non-competitive service scholarship is for the family members of the deceased Veterans (who died on active duty or service connected disability or 100% disable).
- Competitive service scholarship, these are based on grades, essay, parents financial need, etc. A total of 100 scholarships are given each year.
- The deadline to submit the competitive scholarship forms is February 14, 2017. The non-competitive scholarship forms are due in December 1, 2016, and June 1, 2017, (twice a year). The June forms will be approved in July for the fall semester.
- A statute of Private First Class, Charles George, Cherokee Indian and Medal of Honor recipient was displayed for members to view. It was noted that two life size statutes are currently in display (one at the Charles George Veterans Administration Medical Center, Asheville, NC and the other at the Cherokee Veterans Memorial Park in Cherokee, NC).
- Copies of the resource guides were distributed.

Comments and suggestion from the Commission:

- Commissioner Marvel Welch thanked Mr. Prosser and Mr. Arch. She expressed that she has seen an improvement on the Veterans services available in the Eastern Band of Cherokee Nation tribal area.
- Commission members requested a handout of the presentation with the funding details and other opportunities.
- Commission members asked for eligibility details. Mr. Prosser indicated that tribes and the counties were eligible for the funding.
- Clarification on the NC state’s scholarship program was requested.
- Commission members asked if funding is provided to set up an office.
- Mr. Prosser noted that funding is not provided to set up an office, but if a tribe has a Tribal Veteran Officer, the Veterans’ Administration office will help with finding a way to setup an office space.
- Currently the scholarship funding is 75% due to budget restrictions. The scholarships are eligible for children of Veterans. He informed Commission members to advocate the scholarship funds.
- Mr. Richardson requested each Commission member to submit a name (council or staff member) within their tribe as a contact person for Veteran related issues. He suggested that the existing



Veterans Service Officers will need to work with the other tribes to get the Veterans Service offices started. He expressed that the Urban Indians need to be included.

- Commission members asked clarifying questions if the applicant needs to apply each year for their Scholarship. It was stated that the accepted applicants can utilize the scholarship for all the eight semesters.
- Commissioner members invited Mr. Prosser to present a work session during the 2017 Unity Conference.

Veterans Recognition – NC Indian Unity Conference: Vice-Chairwoman Shirley Freeman indicated that Ms. Karen Harris, indicated that there was not enough documentation on the American Indian Veterans and its history. The Committee has contacted other tribes and organizations and requested that they send a representative to be a part of this project. The group will select a Veteran from different communities, interview them, record the conversation and make a 36 X 40” quilt to represent what they narrated during the interview. Vice-Chairman Freeman indicated that this project needs total participation from all the tribes. She expressed that the group wants to recognize 16 Veterans from across the state so that the American Indian Veterans can finally get the recognition they deserve.

NC Department of Public Instruction – Every Student Succeeds Act Presentation: Mr. Lou Fabrizio, Director of Data Research & Federal Policy, & Donna Brown, Director of Federal Program Monitoring & Support presented a quick overview of this item as follows:

- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) – This ESSA law replaces the “No Child Left Behind” legislation.
- Handouts were distributed.
- A business card with the following web addresses were distributed:
 - Every Student Succeeds Act Website: www.ncpublicschools.org/succeeds
 - Every Student Succeeds Draft NC Plan:
www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/succeeds/draft-stte-plan.pdf
- Let’s Talk Website (Ask a questions or submit comments):
www.ncpublicschools.org/newsroom/lets-talk
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA):
 - Holds ALL students to high academic standards
 - Prepares ALL students for success in college and career
 - Provides more kids access to high-quality preschool
 - Promotes local innovation and invests in what works
 - Increases state flexibility with student testing while maintaining annual information for parents and students.
 - Continues to help students, and their schools, improve.
- Mr. Fabrizio noted that the questions or comments left on the “Let’s talk website” will be reviewed and responded through the system by him or Ms. Brown. He expressed this is one of the ways they will be collecting the data regarding the draft plan “Every Student Succeeds Act”.
- He discussed the PowerPoint presentation as follows:
 - ESSA Brief Highlights
 - Draft Stakeholder Groups
 - Fall Public Comment Sessions
 - ESSA Draft Timeline (revised Dec. 2016)
 - Initial Draft State Plan



- What the draft plan is and what the draft plan is not
- US Department of Education
- Highlights of released regulations
- Other odds and ends
- Further information and Contact information
- Mr. Fabrizio indicated that there were choices of two dates to submit the ESSA plan (March 2017 and September 2017). He noted that the State Board of Education has opted to seek the approval of the ESSA plan in September of 2017. He expressed that due to the uncertainty of the North Carolina gubernatorial elections it is postponed to September 2017, this will also allow enough time for the State Board to make the necessary changes.
- He stated that each of these State Plans will have to be approved by the US Department of Education.
- He also discussed the School Performance Grades (A through F grading system). He noted that these do not align with the new ESSA legislation. Mr. Fabrizio indicated that the State Board of Education is in contact with the General Assembly to find out how best they could resolve this situation. The stakeholder groups have indicated that they would prefer one system rather than the potential of having an A-F grade system which does not align with the ESSA act. He expressed that the other kind of designation that the State Board would generate does meet the requirements of ESSA. He concluded that this will require changes in State Statutes in order to provide one unified system.
- He noted that the presentation in March at the Unity Conference will give many people the opportunity to inform them of the suggested changes in the proposed draft of the ESSA plan.
- It was suggested that members should read the short version of the draft ESSA plan that was distributed or could go to the website and read the entire plan.
- The following highlights on released regulations were noted: (1) Delays identification of schools for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) to 2018-19 based on 2017-18 school year data. (2) Delays identification of schools for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) to 2019-20 based on 2017-18 & 2018-19 school years of data.

The PowerPoint presentation of “Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)” is attached and is an official part of the minutes.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

- Concerns regarding the funding were discussed.
- Does the ESSA plan apply to Charter Schools? Mr. Fabrizio confirmed “yes”.
- Discussed testing regulations, Mr. Fabrizio noted that the new law requires the same amount of testing compared to the old plan “No Child Left Behind”.
- Commission members asked several clarifying questions.
- Mr. Fabrizio noted the following:
 - Teacher Evaluations: The teacher evaluations are state level decision. He expressed that the US department of education will not look at what the state does.
 - Common Core: The new law specifically says any kind of state standards which are college and career ready are up to the state to develop and adopt. The federal government will not approve or look at them.



- Changes in Common Core were discussed. It was noted that some changes have been implemented in Mathematics (grades 3-8 math). English Language Arts are currently being assessed/ tested.
- It was suggested that Commission members should submit their comments on the ESSA plan, so that their concerns could be included in the changes.
- Mr. Fabrizio provided a brief bio of Mr. Mark Johnson, new State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- Mr. Fabrizio noted that due to the changes in the government he was uncertain that the proposed draft regulations would pass in a timely manner and that it would take time to finalize.
- Commission members asked question on Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for special education students. Mr. Fabrizio stated that a lot of students with disability do not have issues with their cognitive skills.
- Mr. Greg Richardson pointed to the page 2 of the PowerPoint presentation regarding the draft stakeholder group's information; he questioned why the Commission of Indian Affairs was not one of the stakeholders. He requested Commission members who are educators to raise their hands. He expressed that there is a lot of interest and experience among the Commission members. He thanked Mr. Lou Fabrizio and Ms. Donna Brown for their presentation and that the Commission is looking forward to their work session at the Unity Conference.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs, acknowledged Ms. Kathryn Johnston, Secretary, Department of Administration and Mr. Bryan Brannon, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Administration. He also acknowledged guests and members in the audience. He announced that Ms. Susan Silver, Instructional Review Coach, NC Department of Public Instruction, will be replacing Ms. Deborah Williams at DPI and will now be working with the SACIE.

The following topics were discussed:

- **Intern Attorney's:** It was noted that the Commission is in the process of getting an approval for the pro bono project with Duke University and University of Chapel Hill (UNC) regarding two attorneys to work with the Indian Child Welfare Committee and the Recognition Committee.
- **American Indian (AI) Scholarship Fund:** It was noted that the American Indian scholarship is funded through the American Indian license plate revenue, collected by the NC Department of Motor Vehicles. The scholarships are processed through the Triangle Community Foundation located in the Research Triangle. A handout was provided.
- **Budget Update:** The state appropriations for SFY 2016-2017 from the NC General Assembly remains the same \$306,317.
- **Biennium Budget for 2017-2019:** A 2% or \$6,444.00 reduction from our state appropriated budget was submitted, as required.
- **Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Grants through the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS):** Mr. Richardson gave a brief update on the grant. The contract was signed and the funds will be transferred to DOA this quarter. The additional \$60,000 in funding is from the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), for the purpose of assisting, recruiting and training of foster parents who are members of the state recognized Indian tribes.
- **Hurricane Matthew Recovery:** Mr. Richardson gave a brief update on the disaster and recovery process. He thanked Commissioner Jennifer Revels-Baxter for contacting Governor Pat McCrory



to help and assist the victims of Hurricane Matthew, in Robeson County. Mr. Richardson noted that Chairman Harvey Godwin has requested donations of coats for the victims. A detail on the recovery process is listed in the Executive Director's report.

- **Wild Fire in the Western North Carolina:** It was noted that the forest fires and smoke impacting the Eastern Band of Cherokee, communities. The National Forest Department sent out a bulletin addressing the needs regarding supplies, clothing, desk, chairs, vehicles, etc. Mr. Richardson stated that the information was sent out via email to Commission members, Secretary of the Department of Administration (DOA), and State Surplus.
- **Indigenous Peoples Day Proclamation (Second Monday in October):** It was noted that the process will have to start over following the Governor's election. Suggestion was made to hold this item until after the election.
- **Indian Heritage Month, November 19, 2016:** It was noted that the event was successful. Mr. Richardson expressed disappointment that there was limited coverage on the event in the media.

Mr. Greg Richardson indicated that his report is included in the meeting packet and urged members to read it in its entirety following the meeting.

The handout of the Executive Director's Report is attached and is an official part of the minutes.

INFORMATION ITEMS: PRESENTATIONS

Update on Pending Grant Applications: Ms. Carly Kennedy, Grant Writer, NC Department of Administration (NC DOA) presented this item. A handout was distributed. She discussed the pending grant applications as follows:

- **State and Tribal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Grant:** The grant was recently submitted and reviewed. The Commission's proposal was not awarded. However, the proposal received a good review, but the competition was great and only four grants were awarded.
- **Transitional Housing for Domestic Violence Victims in Sampson County:** The proposal will be submitted to the SECU Foundation (State Employee Credit Union). The application is scheduled to be submitted in December or early January. It was noted that the Commission will be partnering with the Coharie Tribe; UCare, Inc.; Sampson County Community College; and the City of Clinton.
- **Strengthening Core Victim Services for American Indians in Communities and Military Bases:** It was noted that this is a continuation of the current domestic violence/ sexual assault victims support project funded by the Governor's Crime Commission. The goal is to expand the grant to all the NC tribes and tribal organizations and address the needs that have been identified. The funding for this grant is through the Governor's Crime Commission, Crime Victims Services, Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant, and Underserved Victims. The deadline to submit this grant is January 31, 2017.
- **Circle of Promise: Mentoring our Native Youth:** It was stated that this project will provide a mentoring program to youth in Columbus, Halifax, Hoke, Sampson, and Warren Counties (communities that were a part of the Talent Search program). The grant may be submitted to the Governor's Crime Commission, Juvenile Justice Planning Committee: After-School Programs, Mentoring, and Vocational Programming. The project will provide mentoring activities for middle school and/ or high school students to



include tutoring, music, arts, sports, and/ or life skills. Parent work sessions and assisting students in completing their college applications are being considered. The details on the mentoring activities are not finalized. The funding will also assist students in pursuing postsecondary education and vocational skills development. The deadline to submit this grant is January 31, 2017. If the program cannot be fully developed in time to meet this deadline, other funding avenues will be pursued.

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

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

- Commission members suggested that Ms. Kennedy include the wording “parent support groups and elder education” along with the parent work sessions.
- Commission members asked clarification on the qualifications required for students to participate in the “Circle of Promise-Mentoring our Native Youth” program.
- Ms. Kennedy noted that the qualification required by the Governor’s Crime Commission is for students to be middle school through high school students, up to eighteen years old. Other qualifications will be researched by Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Greg Richardson. More details will be shared at a later date.
- Ms. Kennedy noted that the “Circle of Promise – Mentoring our Native Youth” program will start with the Talent Search program communities and will be expanded to other communities.
- Commission members requested for Ms. Carly Kennedy’s contact information.
- Mr. Greg Richardson on behalf of the Commission thanked Ms. Kennedy for her dedicated work in seeking new grant programs for the Commission of Indian Affairs. He also thanked Ms. Kathryn Johnston, Secretary, Department of Administration (DOA), for appointing Ms. Carly Kennedy as the Grant Writer for DOA.

Humanities Council: Ms. Banu Valladares, Grants, Partnerships & Collaborative Programs Curator & Administrator, presented this item as follows:

- Ms. Valladares informed that she writes grants and provides funding to the agencies and communities (that apply and have obtained approval for the grants).
- She indicated that she had previously worked with the North Carolina Arts Council.
- She noted the work of the Humanities Council is to foster conversation between people to better understand each other through culture, history and community. The Veterans program is an example of their outreach.
- It was noted that the Council is one of the fifty-six national councils across the nation. She reiterated that the Humanities Council write grants and distribute funding to organizations and non-profit organizations. She expressed that they also offer matching funds.
- She stated that the Humanities Council would like to meet with members of different tribes and get to know the different issues that affect the American Indian communities. To develop sustained public humanities conversation between people to bring a greater depth of understanding of their challenges and contribution. They would host a series of listening sessions with stakeholders to help identify the pressing issues in the American Indian community and then together, design a public humanities program to address those issues. The goal is to build a mutually-beneficial, long-term relationship with the American Indian community. They would also like to introduce them to different programs and funding that are available.
- Ms. Valladares concluded that the Humanities Council is interested to facilitate these projects.



Hurricane Matthew Recovery: Ms. Darlene Jacobs, Executive Director, Robeson County Church, & Community Center presented the following item:

- She discussed the demographics of Robeson County. She noted that it is the 3rd poorest county in the United States. It is the second most diverse county for its size across the nation. Given these demographics, Hurricane Matthew has caused widespread devastation. Loss of lives, businesses affected, and infrastructure ruined (buildings, roads and highways), people have lost their jobs, etc.
- She indicated that the percentages noted above are not accurate. The registration for disaster relief is 79,119 per state and issued \$80M to those who have applied. They are accepting 20 applications per day, 99% of inspections for the state have been completed.
- For Robeson County they are averaging about eleven applications per day, 17,510 applications issued for FEMA with over \$20,000 have been paid out.
- Ms. Jacobs indicated that she was unable to get the count on displaced families. She noted that the information has been broken down by towns by the city of Lumberton.
- 2,300 school children were absent from school. Data did not indicate the reason (sick, displaced from home, unable to commute, etc. It was noted that 1,827 students are still absent in the Robeson County School System. Majority of shelters were six not including churches. Initially there were 6,000 people. DHHS helped 17,000 people. They are also trying to place people in homes or rental units. City of Lumberton 2000 families, units and public housing that have been displaced. Five hotels are sheltering these displaced families (a total of 607 people).
- She indicated that the process is difficult for a lot of the organization involved in helping the flood victims. The local churches and the City of Lumberton have been very helpful.
- FEMA and Red Cross have also helped with Hurricane Matthew recovery process. Approximately 75,000 meals have been provided since the storm.
- FEMA has notified that January 9, 2017, is the last day that people will be able to get compensation to stay in the hotels. They are trying to get units in Lumberton. She expressed that there are lot of concerns from the community.
- She shared her concerns that people are being asked to leave the hotels. People do not want to go into shelters; they are living in the woods. Churches have taken in these families to help them in their time of need.
- It was noted that there will be one hundred and sixty-five mobile units placed in the five counties. Of these, forty units are in Robeson County. They are termed as disaster relief units.
- She listed some of the immediate needs such as: Transportation; Housing; Construction; Spiritual and Emotional Support. There are roads in Robeson County that cannot be travelled.
- The authorities are beginning to see cases of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
- The center has received clothing, shoes, baby products, cleaning supplies from various states.
- Ms. Jacobs noted that they are a staff of seven and have volunteers to help out. They have served over 3000 people. She indicated that their center was damaged due to the storm and flooding. Their walk in freezer was damaged. They are in the process of rebuilding and restoring the facility.
- Ms. Jacobs indicated that their center helps with rental. Last year their center provided a total of 27,000 meals.
- BB&T provided freezers to their facility. They have also received school kits and health kits from the United Methodist Conference.



- Ms. Jacobs concluded that the news channels (CNN and the Alaskan Discovery Channel) has been in contact with them.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Greg Richardson requested the Commission to accept the following amendment to the agenda:

- Mold Related Issues Quarterly Program: This item was not discussed, since Ms. Pierre Lauffer & Ms. Mina Shehee were not in attendance for their presentation.
- Special Presentation – UNC-Pembroke: A request was made to move this item forward.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

UNC-Pembroke: Dr. Robin Cummings, Chancellor presented the following:

- He introduced Ms. Julie Smith, Legislative Liaison, UNC-Pembroke. Ms. Smith graduated from University of Virginia Law School. A handout was distributed.
- He provided a brief history of UNC-Pembroke. He expressed that American Indian need to be proud of UNC-Pembroke because it is part of their heritage. The University started 129 years ago. It is the third oldest University in the State of North Carolina. It was established on March 7, 1887. The school was designed to teach American Indian students in the area. It has been through several name changes, such as: Cherokee Indian School; Pembroke State College/ University; and now it is the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.
- UNC-Pembroke, the legislators have historically named it as North Carolina American Indian University. There are 800 identified American Indian students on campus. A total of eleven tribes.
- UNC-Pembroke has a very strong American Indian culture and history associated with it. The following was discussed:
 - Project Access: This project exposes students to the college education. It is a \$2.4M a five-year contract grant with the Lumbee tribe. The program allows them to bring students on to the campus and promote the University. The goal is to promote higher education through project access.
 - Southeast American Indian Studies program (SAIS): He noted that this program was started by Dr. Carter. The goal of this program is to have a free standing school. Dr. Cummings expressed that Old Main building would someday be a museum to display American Indian Art. Due to lack of space to display the fine art, the museum in Washington would share their artifacts with the museum here at Pembroke.
 - American Indian Studies Program: Six faculty members teach American Indian studies to obtain an under graduate degree and master's degree at UNC-Pembroke. Their goal is to one day have a doctorate degree.
 - He expressed the vision and goal of UNC-Pembroke. He informed that in a few years the American Indian population would be proud of their accomplishments.
- Dr. Cummings welcomed the Commission to have their quarterly meetings at the Southeast American Indian School at UNC-Pembroke.
- He discussed various types of scholarship programs and stated that they are competitive. He expressed that if a student studies hard, they will stand a chance. They have got to make their grades.
- Dr. Cummings indicated that he is currently working on the scholarship program for students who attend NCSU for the two years they attend to get their engineering degree. He is working on the



scholarship program with the Veterinarian colleges to do the same. He is also working with Campbell University for the scholarship programs.

- Dr. Cummings concluded that their School of Business has received \$23M with the Connect NC Bond that was passed last year by the state of North Carolina. These funds will be spent to build a brand new School of Business building. He noted that the building costs \$36M due to the technology costs. The goal is to build a brand new state-of-the-art facility He informed that due to the overwhelming positive result on the bond, the state will give a billion dollars to various educational institutions across the state of North Carolina.
- He noted that UNC-Pembroke is accredited. Only 5% of the School of Businesses world-wide is accredited. UNC-Pembroke is one of them. He indicated that to reach this goal, certain mile stones need to be achieved. The school is growing every year. He informed that Robeson County will be turning out students with high achievements.
- NC Promise, impacts three schools (UNC-Pembroke, Western Carolina and Elizabeth City). These three schools mentioned above, the legislation has said “if you are a student of North Carolina and coming from one of the three schools identified, the state of North Carolina will buy down the tuition down to \$500 per semester”. Currently UNC-Pembroke tuition is \$1,750 per semester. With the buy down the student saves \$3,000 per year and get a quality education. In 2018 it will be \$1,800 per semester. Out of state students, the cost is \$2,500 per semester. He expressed that education is expensive.
- UNC-Pembroke gets about \$60M a year from tax payers in North Carolina to run the college. The funding is passed through by legislation. The dollar amount can fluctuate up or down.
- He concluded that NC Promise is a good deal. Currently they have 6,400 students enrolled at UNC-Pembroke. In the next 3-5 years NC Promise will bring the enrollment up to 8,500-9,000 range.
- Department of Transportation is working on Prospect Road that goes in front of the college. By mid 2018 Prospect Road will look completely different with side walks on either side with lighting and median in the middle. Dr. Cummings noted that they have received \$3M dollars for this project.
- Dr. Cummings expressed that the vision of the seven men who started the UNC Pembroke 129 years ago. He noted that it has impacted not just American Indians but people of all races and even people in 22 different countries. He asked the Commission to be a part of the vision and look in to the future to take care of the next seven generations to come.
- UNC-Pembroke is also offering on-line courses.
- He remembered Chairwoman Ruth Revels and Mr. Gervais Oxedine. He expressed his appreciation and stated that they cared about their community.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

- A suggestion was made to include the \$500 received by the seven gentlemen one hundred and twenty-nine years ago to start a school, with the vision for the next seven generations as a marketing campaign.
- Is there a plan B just in case the legislation does not approve to attend the universities with the reduced rate? Dr. Cummings indicated that it is law that the legislation passed. Students get a quality education for \$3000 discount. He stated that other schools such as Fayetteville University, Winston-Salem University, and Appalachian University around the state would love to have this opportunity to receive the NC Promise funding.



- Questions were asked if the school expands in the future will it be able to accommodate the growing number of students.
- Dr. Cummings indicated that they are studying the data and making plans for the future. He pointed out that the classroom size ratio is currently fifteen students to one teacher. If the enrollment goes up over 8000 students he will put in a request for more buildings. He indicated that this plan is in progress because they have to apply 2-3 years in advance for the funding.
- Commission members thanked Dr. Cummings for his leadership, dedicated work and passion in seeking the funding to improve UNC-Pembroke.
- Question was asked about Charter Schools and its involvement. Dr. Cummings indicated that there was a piece of legislation that went through last year called the lab schools. It was noted that UNC Pembroke will not be participating in this program due to prior commitments.

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

Chairman Lambert announced a short recess for lunch. Chairman Lambert requested Commissioner Roy Maynor to bless the food for the Commission.

Lunch break, meeting reconvened at 2:25 p.m. (working lunch).

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Chairman Lambert announced that only the action items be reported.

Adhoc Indian Health Committee: No report was noted.

Adhoc Land Trust Committee: No report was noted.

Culture Resources Committee: Commissioner Jeff Anstead presented the highlights of the teleconference meeting dated September 30, 2016. The handout of the Cultural Resource Committee meeting minutes dated September 30, 2016 was included in the board packet.

The following was discussed:

(a) Adhoc Members Consideration & Review

(b) Tribal Consultations

(c) Roadside and Trash Pickup

(d) Pollution in Indian Communities

(e) Focus of the Committee: re Executive Order, Roadside and Trash Pickup and Well Water Testing Project

(f) Other Concerns: re Hwy 74 being named the "Andrew Jackson Hwy." It was noted that the Eastern Band of Cherokee has proposed the name "Trail of Tears" while requesting letters of support from the other surrounding tribes. Commissioner Anstead expressed concerns that a part of Hwy. 74 has already been named the "American Indian Hwy." in Robeson County. Commissioner Marvel indicated that the Eastern Band of Cherokee will submit the name change to the legislation. She noted that it is on the legislative agenda for the state of North Carolina to recognize the name change. Commissioner Larece Hunt expressed concerns regarding "Trail of Tears". He noted that he will support the name being changed to "American Indian Hwy." Commissioner Marvel asked if the Commission is in support of the Eastern Band advocating and lobbying the name change for the designated part of the highway named "Andrew Jackson Hwy." It was suggested that this recommendation be tabled and brought back to the next Commission meeting in March 2017, for further discussion. Mr. Greg Richardson clarified that the discussion regarding the renaming of the highway 74 is being tabled and will be discussed at the



Commission meeting in March 2017. Commissioner Crowe requested a copy of the proposal that was submitted to the legislation. Vice Chairwoman Freeman noted that Eastern Band needs to withdraw the item from the legislative agenda until the Commission approves the proposed name change.

A motion was made on the floor by show of hands to table this item until the meeting in March 2017, was 8 to 5. The motion was carried to bring the item back to the Commission meeting in March 2017, for further discussion.

Employment & Training Committee: No report was noted.

Environmental Justice Committee: No report was noted.

Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Committee: Commissioner Marvel Welch introduced Mr. Jack Rogers, NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS). It was noted that the Indian Child Welfare conference is rescheduled for March 21, 2017 at the Western Carolina University. She noted that the March 21, 2017, agenda is the same as indicated on the November 3, 2016, agenda. Commissioner Welch indicated that the ICW program is scheduled to receive a small grant funding for foster care. The contract and paperwork has been signed. The ICW program is waiting for the funding to be transferred. In anticipation of the transfer of funds the ICW program has appointed Ms. Annie Francis as Coordinator for the Foster Care Program. Ms. Francis will recruit Indian parents to foster Native Indian children across the state of North Carolina. She will be in charge of training foster parents and ensure their licensing processes. The program hopes to get several families licensed before the June 30th deadline to spend the money. This will enable Indian children to have Indian homes for foster care. It was noted that Ms. Francis will be contacting the tribes and organization to seek families for the foster care program. Commissioner Welch indicated that she was just trained and Ms. Lori McClain, Domestic Violence Program Manager is currently undergoing the training. It was stated that Commissioner Welch and Ms. McClain will be available to train parents if needed to obtain their foster care license. Commissioner Welch indicated that Ms. Francis will help to get the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between different counties and the NC DHHS established. It was announced that the next ICW Sub-Committee meeting will be on December 14, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. Commissioner Welch thanked Mr. Kevin Kelly, Child Welfare Services Section Chief for his support with the funding. She also thanked Mr. Jack Rogers for his support with the ICW program and being part of this Commission.

Indian Education Committee: Commissioner Crowe presented this item. A handout of the Education Committee Teleconference Meeting minutes dated November 17, 2016 was distributed. The following was discussed:

- (a) American Indian Scholarship Fund: It was noted that changes to the application for the American Indian Scholarship Fund will be made by Ms. Sarah Battersby. This change to make it user friendly will be activated beginning January 1, 2017. The scholarship is renewable for four years. Commissioner Crowe expressed that with the closeout of the Education Talent Search Program, it is important that Commission members inform students in their communities about the American Indian Scholarship Funding. It was stated that the application has to be completed in order to be considered. The requirement is for the student to be an enrolled member of the state/ federal recognized tribe and have a 2.0 grade point average.
- (b) State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE): Ms. Deborah Williams is retiring and Ms. Susan Silver will be replacing her as the Department of Public Instruction – SACIE Liaison.



- (c) Commissioner Crowe read excerpts from the handout.
- (d) Applications for SACIE Board: Deadline was extended to December 1, 2016. Six positions needed to be filled. A draft handout was presented. It was noted the yellow highlighted information, term ends and need to be replaced by July 1st. The blue highlighted information, candidates have submitted their applications. It was noted that the Education Committee has not had the opportunity to review the applications. The Committee will review the applications and will bring the recommendation back at the March 2017, Commission meeting.
- (e) Commissioner Crowe informed that she attended the North Carolina Native American Youth Organization (NCNAYO) meeting in Clinton, NC. She reported that the meeting was well organized and that they are finding ways to continue their work without the assistance of the Education Talent Search Program. Commissioner Crowe concluded that NCNAYO is looking forward to having their conference in June 2017.

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

Indian Housing Committee: Mr. David Grigsby, Section 8 Housing Program Manager presented the Administrative Plan Change. The handout was included in the Board packet.

- The Commission will provide up to 5 briefings per month for certain households suffering from homelessness. An applicant must fit one of the three following categories to be considered: (1) Living in transitional or emergency shelter. (2) Living in a structure not suitable for human habitation. (3) Families with children which do not have a lease or deed in their name. Additional details are listed in the handout.

The Administrative Plan Change is attached and is an official part of the minutes.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

- Questions were asked on the time frame. Mr. Grigsby indicated that once a month they meet with five families. The notice for the meeting is given two weeks prior to the meeting. If the documents are in order according to the guidelines, the family will get the voucher the very same day. The average is approximately 45 days from the day they get the voucher and sign the lease agreement.
- Commissioner Jeff Anstead made a motion to accept the Administrative Plan Change. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Charles Richardson. Motion carried.

Legislative (2017 Legislative Agenda): No report was noted.

Commissioner Anstead requested a copy of the Bill regarding highway 74 be shared with all members. Mr. Mark Teague, Legal Counsel, Department of Justice, noted that he would obtain a copy and send it to Mr. Greg Richardson to be distributed to Commission members.

Recognition Committee: Commissioner Larece Hunt presented the item as follows:

- Chapter 71A-1: Indians of Robeson County initially known as Croatan Indians now know as Cherokee Indians of Robeson County; rights and privileges.
- Chapter 71A.2: Even though they are Cherokee they are not to be confused with the Eastern Band of Cherokee. Chapter not applicable to certain bands of Cherokee
- It was noted that both 71A-2 and 71A-2 are both still in discussion and in review.



- Draft Preliminary Findings & Conclusions – Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina Petition for State Recognition: It was noted that a total summary of the findings by the petition group will be submitted at the March meeting.
- Commissioner Hunt informed that at the recent teleconference meeting it was discussed that the Committee is requesting an additional staff for paralegal working with the petition group. Commissioner Larece Hunt made a motion on behalf of the Recognition Committee to authorize Mr. Greg Richardson and his staff permission to submit a request for an additional staff to provide paralegal assistance with the recognition petition process.
- Chairman Lambert indicated that the request made by the Committee requires no second.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

- There was a consensus among the members present to approve the recommendation to appoint a paralegal staff to provide assistance with the recognition petition process. The motion was unanimously approved.

Veterans Committee: Commissioner Sam Lambert discussed the following:

- Designation of a Veterans Service Officer in each Tribal Community: Commissioner Lambert noted that the Committee needs names of people interested in being the contact person for each tribal community. He requested members to provide the names to him. He noted that the Cherokee and the Lumbee tribes are the only ones that have volunteer officers.
- Veterans Recognition Program: Commissioner Lambert indicated that the Committee would like to recognize Veterans for their service. He expressed that the Committee would like to give certificates to Veterans from each tribe at the Unity Conference in March.
- Commissioner Lambert expressed that it would be nice for the Veterans to receive the award in person or they could give the certificate to the representative of the tribe.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

- Questions were asked on the criteria for recommendation.
- It was stated that the recommended person must be a Veteran who is in good standing/ Purple Heart Veteran.
- Questions were asked on the funding for the certificates.
- It was noted that the Committee/ Commissioner Lambert would cover the expenses for the certificates.
- Deadline to submit the names for the award is due by February 1, 2016 to Commissioner Lambert.

Tribal Announcements from Commission Members: None were noted.

FUTURE MEETING DATES & EVENTS: 2017 Meetings were listed on the agenda.

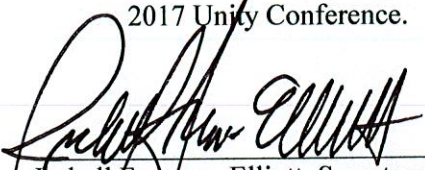
- December 2, 2016: Triangle Native American Society, potluck dinner tonight, December 2, 2016, at 7 p.m. at the Capitol Church in Garner.
- December 9, 2016: Foster Care Event, more details to follow via email.
- December 17, 2016: Haliwa Saponi Tribe, Steak and Dinner
- March 9-11, 2017, Unity Conference: It was announced that the Unity Conference is scheduled for March 9-11, 2017. Registration for the hotel accommodation is due by the third weekend in February 2017. Registration can be done online at the United Tribes website. It was indicated that



in order to get the discount, a certain percentage of rooms need to be reserved. The event is at the Renaissance Charlotte Suites Hotel, Charlotte, NC.

ADJOURNMENT:

- With there being no further items to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Jessie Jacobs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Larece Hunt. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2017, at the Renaissance Charlotte Suites Hotel, Charlotte, NC, in conjunction with the 2017 Unity Conference.

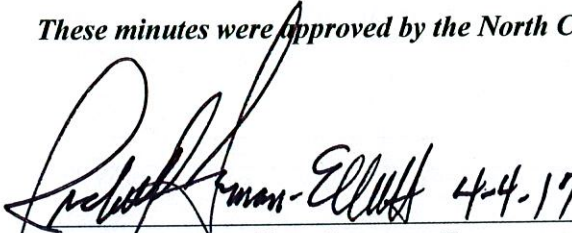


Isabell Freeman-Elliott, Secretary-Treasurer
NC Commission of Indian Affairs
(Sign & Date)

 3-9-17

Daphne Pinto, Recording Secretary
(Sign & Date)

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs on March 9, 2017.

 4-4-17

Isabell Freeman-Elliott, Secretary-Treasurer
NC Commission of Indian Affairs
(Sign & Date)



N.C. COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING

NC Association of Educators

700 South Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

1-800-662-7924

December 2, 2016

DRAFT AGENDA

Opening Session	10:00am – 10:30am
Welcome, Call to Order & Adopt Agenda	Furnie Lambert, Chairman
Invocation	Shirley Freeman, Vice-Chairman
Pledge of Allegiance	Sam Lambert, Commission Member
Roll Call	Daphne Pinto, Administrative Assistant
Ethics Statement	Greg Richardson, Executive Director
Approval of September 2, 2016 Meeting Minutes	Isabell Freeman-Elliott, Secretary/Treasurer
• Flower Fund Report	
Presentations	10:30am – 11:30am
Veterans Service Officers	Jim Prosser, Assistant Secretary for Veterans Affairs, NC Military Veterans Affairs
Veterans Recognition – NC Indian Unity Conference	Shirley Freeman, Vice-Chairman
NC Department of Public Instruction – Every Student Succeeds Act Presentation	Lou Fabrizio, Director of Data, Research & Federal Policy, & Donna Brown, Director of Federal Program Monitoring & Support
Executive Director Report	11:30am – Noon
• Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Grant – NCDHHS	Greg Richardson, Executive Director
• Update on Pending Grant Applications	Carly Kennedy, Grant Writer, NCDOA
• Humanities Council	Banu Valladares, Grants, Partnerships & Collaborative Programs Curator & Administrator
• Hurricane Matthew Recovery	Darlene Jacobs, Executive Director, Robeson County Church & Community Center
○ Robeson County Update	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mold Related Issues Quarterly Program 	Pierre Lauffer & Mina Shehee, Occupational & Environmental Epidemiology Branch, Division of Public Health, NCDHHS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Program Reports (copies included in packet) 	Program Directors
Luncheon	Noon – 1:00pm
Special Presentation	1:00pm – 1:30pm
UNC-Pembroke	Dr. Robin Cummings, Chancellor
Committee Reports – Action Items Only	1:30pm – 2:30pm
Adhoc Indian Health	Charles Richardson, Chair
Adhoc Land Trust	Furnie Lambert, Chair
Cultural Resources	Jeffrey Anstead, Chair Shirley Freeman, Vice-Chair
Employment & Training	W.D. Baucom, Chair Wanda Burns-Ramsey, Vice-Chair
Environmental Justice	Jeffrey Anstead, Chair Daniel Locklear, Vice-Chair
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adopt Community Clean-Up Project 2017 	
Indian Child Welfare	Marvel Welch & Jack Rogers, Co-Chairs
Indian Education	Dorothy Crowe, Chair Sam Lambert, Vice-Chair
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Title VI Consultation Requirements ● SACIE Appointment Recommendations 	
Indian Housing	Elton Ray Jacobs, Chair Isabell Freeman-Elliott, Vice-Chair
Legislative (2017 Legislative Agenda)	Roy Maynor, Chair
Recognition	Larece Hunt, Chair
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chapter 71A - Discussion ● Draft Preliminary Findings & Conclusions - Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina Petition for State Recognition 	
Veterans	Sam Lambert, Chair Daniel Jones, Vice-Chair
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Designation of a Veterans Service Officer in each Tribal Community ● Veterans Recognition Program 	
Tribal Announcements from Commission Members	(2 Minutes Only)

Adjournment	3:00pm
Future Meeting Dates & Events	Location
March 9-11, 2017 – 42nd Annual NC Indian Unity Conference March 9, 2017 – Commission Meeting in conjunction with NC Indian Unity Conference	Renaissance Charlotte Suites Hotel, Charlotte, NC
June 2, 2017 – Commission Meeting	TBD, Raleigh, NC