



**NORTH CAROLINA  
COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
QUARTERLY MEETING**

**March 7, 2024**

**Hilton Charlotte University Place  
Lake View Meeting Room**

8629 J M Keynes Dr., Charlotte, NC 28262

**WELCOME:** Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair, called the meeting to order at 09:36 am. He welcomed and acknowledged the guests, Commission Members, Tribal Leaders, Chiefs, State Officials, and staff.

**INVOCATION:** Commissioner Alfred Richardson remembered the fallen warriors this quarter, including Ms. Carolyn Crocker, Mrs. Varie Bledsoe Campbell, Ms. Eliza Jane Jacobs, and other Honorable mentions by Commission Members. A moment of silence was observed. Commissioner Alfred Richardson acknowledged those who were sick in the community and presented the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner W D Baucom led the membership and guests in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

**ROLL CALL AND ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA:** The Chair requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Larece Hunt made that motion. Commissioner Tony Hayes seconded the motion. The motion was carried out with no objection from the membership.

**ROLL CALL:**

**TRIBAL AND ASSOCIATION MEMBERS**

Coharie	Isabell Freeman-Elliott	Present
Coharie	Lenora Locklear	Present
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Helen Cook	Absent
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Gladys Hunt	Absent
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Joshua Welch	Absent
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Carolyn West	Absent
Guilford Native American Association	Shelia Epps Wilson	Present
Guilford Native American Association	DeVane Burnette, Sr.	Present
Haliwa Saponi	Alfred Richardson	Present
Haliwa Saponi	P. Sunshine Richardson	Present
Lumbee	Larece Hunt	Present
Lumbee	Ricky Burnett	Present
Lumbee	Vernanda Oxendine	Present
Meherrin	Constance Mitchell	Absent
Metrolina Native American Association	Walter D. Baucom	Present
Metrolina Native American Association	Greg Bryant	Present
Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation	Tony Hayes	Present



**ROLL CALL (Continued)**

Sappony	Dorothy Yates	Present
Triangle Native American Society	Danny Bell	Present
Waccamaw Siouan	Elton R. Jacobs	Present
Waccamaw Siouan	Nadine F. Patrick	Present

**STATE OFFICIALS**

President Pro Tem Appointee	Gerald Goolsby	Present
Speaker of the House Appointee	Craig D. McMillian	Present
Department of Administration (DOA), Pamela Brewington Cashwell, Secretary		Absent
Designee: David Elliott, Deputy Secretary		Absent
Department of Commerce/ ESC, Machel Sanders, Secretary		
Designee: Betty Marrow-Taylor, Chief Diversity Equity Inclusion Officer		Absent
Department of Environment Quality (DEQ), Elizabeth Biser, Secretary		
Designee: Sharon Martin, Deputy Secretary		
Representative: Cardina (Carolina) Fonseca Jimenez, NCDEQ		Present
Department of Health & Human Services, Kody H. Kinsley, Secretary		
Designee: Debra Farrington, Deputy Secretary Health Equity		Present
Department of Labor, Josh Dobson, Commissioner		
Designee: Julie Ryan, Director of Govt. Affairs		Absent
Department of Cultural Resources, Advisor, Vacant	- Adhoc- <b>Non-Voting Member</b>	
Designee: Rosie Blewitt, Assistant State Archaeologist and Site Registrar		Absent

**OTHER STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE**

NCNAYO	Ariel Locklear (Co-Chair) - <b>Non-Voting Member</b>	Absent
NCNAYO	Korbyn Walton (Co-Chair) - <b>Non-Voting Member</b>	Absent
NC NACOHE	Joshua L Richardson - <b>Non-Voting Member</b>	Absent

The Chair declared that a quorum existed; therefore, the meeting could proceed.

**STAFF PRESENT**

- Gregory Richardson, Executive Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs
- Candace Lowry, Deputy Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs
- Daphne Pinto, Administrative Secretary to the Executive Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs
- Kimberly Hammonds, Program Director, Supporting Undergraduate Native Students (SUNS) Program
- Pamela (Shena) Brewington, Program Director, Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)
- Steven (Steve) Maynor, Program Director, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program
- Tristan Ely, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program
- Candice Moore, Assistant Director, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program
- Maria Richardson, Program Director, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program
- Tenley (Nikki) Locklear, Program Director, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program
- Sarah McNeese, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program
- Elk Richardson, Program Director, State Recognition Program



Laury Chavis, Program Director, Tobacco Survey Program  
Wanda Ammons, WIOA Program  
Kearston Page Freeman, WIOA Program  
Lily Hunt, Workforce Trainee, WIOA Program  
Nahawa Chavis, Intern, WIOA Program  
Peggy Ammons, Tobacco Survey Program

#### **OTHER STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice

**OTHERS PRESENT:** A list is on file with the Commission.

**ETHICS STATEMENT:** Mr. Gregory Richardson, Executive Director, read the Ethics Statement on Behalf of Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair. He urged Commission Members to declare any conflicts of interest or the appearances of any conflicts of interest, which may exist in relation to any business matters before the Commission, as mandated by the State Ethics Act.

Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs declared a conflict of interest on one of the items on the agenda regarding the NC Indian Housing Authority Appointments. He would abstain from voting on that item.

Chair welcomed and acknowledged Mrs. Shelia Godwin, NC Indian Senior Coalition Princess, and Miss Zianne Richardson, Haliwa-Saponi, Miss Indian North Carolina for years 2024-2025.

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 01, 2023, MEETING MINUTES:** The minutes of the December 01, 2023, meeting were presented for adoption.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Tony Hayes made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 01, 2023. Commissioner Sheila Wilson seconded the motion. The Chair asked if there was any objection to the motion. None was noted. The motion was carried out with no objection from the membership.

#### **GUEST PRESENTATIONS:**

**Welcoming and Overview of the 2024 NC Indian Unity Conference:** Mr. Jesse Jacobs, President of United Tribes, presented a brief overview of the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual 2024 NC Indian Unity Conference. He welcomed everyone to Charlotte., This year's conference theme is "Our Children, Our Legacy." He indicated that details of the conference and the programs for the event are listed in the United Tribes of North Carolina booklet (distributed at the conference). Details are also listed on the United Tribes website.

#### **PRESENTATION**

**Scams and Frauds, Internet Safety, and How the NC Department of Justice Works for You:** Ms. Sarah Welsch, Outreach Specialist, Public Protection Section, NC Department of Justice (NC DOJ), presented this item.

NC DOJ Mission Statement: Protect and Defend the People of North Carolina and Support the Law Enforcement.

Ms. Welsch presented a brief overview of the Consumer Protection Service as follows:

- Discussed Mental Division; Criminal Division; State Crime Labs
- She focused on the Consumer Protection Division.
- Discussed Scam Robo Calls and Telemarketing Scams



- Discussed Fraud, Vehicle Scams.
- Discussed Consumer Complaints.
- Provided the website link to report frauds [www.ncdoj.gov](http://www.ncdoj.gov)
- Additional resources are available on the NC DOJ website.
- Discussed internet safety and the threat social media has on young children. She noted a town hall was scheduled at the Wake County Public School System to address these challenges.
- Noted that DOJ has staff all around North Carolina (Western, Central, and Eastern). Upon request, they can present the Public Protection Services at any location (community, school, or public location).

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

- Commission member asked clarifying question on fraud. Ms. Welsch noted that online frauds are common; one should not prepay, and one must check the actual product before paying.
- Mr. Gregory Richardson, Executive Director, noted that there is no database that illustrates fraudulent activities associated with American Indian (AI) Communities.
- Ms. Welsch stated that the NC Department of Justice does not have a fraud database tracking American Indian Communities. She noted that the NCDOJ would work to accommodate this request to collect data on fraud against American Indian Communities.

No handout was submitted.

#### **PRESENTATION**

**Update on USDA and Potential Partnership with the NC Commission of Indian Affairs:** Mr. Reginald Speight, USDA State Director, presented this item as follows:

- Discussed Tribal Communities of North Carolina that are unserved or underserved throughout the state.
- Mr. Speight noted that tribal communities have complex governance and nuances that must be considered and addressed to promote the service delivery of federal programs.
- It was announced that a “Tribal Relations Coordinator” full-time position was created. Ms. Pamela Sunshine Richardson, Haliwa-Saponi, and a member of the Commission, has been appointed to this position.
- It was noted that Ms. Richardson's role will consist of meeting with all tribal leaders to determine their needs. In addition, Ms. Richardson will collaborate with the NC Commission of Indian Affairs to promote the work of USDA.
- Mr. Speight concluded that Ms. Sunshine Richardson's effectiveness will be measured by the resources mobilized to address the needs identified during her discussions and partnerships with the tribes.

No handout was submitted.

#### **PRESENTATION**

**National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) – Update and Impact of the NCAI Constitutional Amendment:** Mr. Lance Gumbs, with the Shinnecock Indian Nation, and 2023-2025 NCAI Executive Committee Member spoke about the work of NCAI. He gave a brief overview of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Conference held in New Orleans in November last year as follows:



- Mr. Gumbs noted that the federally recognized tribes wanted to remove the state tribes from the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) as full voting members.
- Discussed the Resolution brought before the NCAI in 2012.
- He indicated that some federally recognized tribes want to change the actual NCAI constitution and remove voting rights for state recognized Indians. He stated it was not a resolution but rather an amendment to the NCAI Constitution that was presented in November.
- Mr. Gumbs noted the importance of state-recognized tribes attending the NCAI Conventions, having a presence at the meetings, participating in conference activities, and having a unified presence at the conference. He noted that the large presence of state-recognized tribes at the November Convention was the reason the proposed constitutional amendment was defeated! The show of presence from state tribes and collaboration among other tribes made a difference.
- He thanked everyone who attended the NCAI Conference in New Orleans.

No handout was submitted.

#### **MOTION:**

Mr. Craig McMillian made a motion that the NC Commission of Indian Affairs provide support resolution form to all NC State Tribes that encourages participation in all National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Conference to advocate for continuous inclusion in NCAI Conference that sustains and enhances the NC State Tribes opportunities. In addition, the June 2024 NC Commission of Indian Affairs Quarterly Meeting needs to be in Cherokee, North Carolina in conjunction with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Quarterly Meeting. Commissioner WD Baucom seconded the motion. The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion. Chair Rev. Burnett directed members to say “aye” if they are in favor of approving the action item presented. There were no “nay” votes, corrections, or objections from the membership; the motion was carried unanimously.

#### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

##### **Executive Director’s Report:**

Mr. Gregory Richardson, Executive Director NC Commission of Indian Affairs, presented his quarterly report. He welcomed the guest. The Executive Director Report was distributed in the Board packet, before the Commission meeting. Highlights of his report are as follows:

- SFY 2024-2025 Continuation Budget Request: (1) State Recognition Expansion Program, funding requested \$125,000; (2) Youth Leadership Program, funding requested \$ 300,000.
- NC Commission of Indian Affairs Vacancies: He noted the expiring terms of Commission members effective June 30, 2024. Details are listed in the Executive Director Report.
- NC Indian Housing Authority Vacancy, Term Expiry date June 30, 2024: Details are listed in the Executive Director Report. There is only one vacancy, with a term expiring June 30, 2024.
- State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE) Vacancies, June 30, 2024: Details are listed on the Executive Director Report.
- United Tribes Board Vacancy, Term Expiry date June 30, 2024: Mr. Greg Richardson is the primary representative, Ms. Candace Lowry is the secondary representative for United Tribes.

#### **MOTION:**

Commissioner Dorothy Yates made a motion to approve the reappointment of Mr. Greg Richardson as primary and Ms. Candace Lowry as secondary representatives to the United Tribes Board. Commissioner



Larece Hunt seconded the motion. With no further discussion from the members, a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**Executive Director's Report (Continuation):**

- Announced Ms. Nahava Clark's internship position for FY 2024-FY 2025. She will work at the Raleigh office for four days per week.
- Statement of Economic Interest (SEI), the due date to submit an SEI form is April 15 of each year. New members need to complete the extended version of the SEI form. The returning members must complete the condensed version of the SEI form.
- Discussed highlights of the new office location move to Albemarle Building. Mr. Richardson noted that the contact numbers and email addresses will remain the same.
- Mr. Steve Maynor, Section 8 Housing Program Manager, presented a short video of the new office location, Albemarle Building, 325 N Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27603.

The Executive Director's Report is on file and is an official part of the minutes.

**WORK SESSION FINAL DRAFTS**

Ms. Candace Lowry, Deputy Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs, presented the following:

**Strategic Plan Final Draft Review and Vote:**

A handout of the Strategic Plan (Final Draft) was distributed in the Board packet.

- Commissioner Yates noted that program directors need to show highlights and achievements within their respective programs at the Committee meetings in which they provide staff support. Ms. Lowry references page 10 of the draft Strategic Plan.
- Commissioner Yates noted that each Committee Chair needs to be allocated three minutes to present highlights of their respective Committee at the Quarterly Commission meeting. Commissioner Yates informed that currently the practice is Committee reports action item only. Commissioner Yates suggested including an information item that involves important work. Ms. Lowry referred this request to Chair Rev. Burnett to include when planning the agenda.
- Commission members asked clarifying questions regarding edits to the draft. Ms. Lowry noted that the "Key Performance Indicators" can be edited. She expressed that the draft Strategic Plan is the same as the past two years, and the document is edited each year.
- It was indicated that the Strategic Plan is an excellent document to follow regarding goals and plans. Ms. Lowry recommended to the Commission that the final draft of the Strategic Plan be approved.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Tony Hayes motioned to approve the Strategic Plan's final draft to be submitted to the DOA-Communications Division for formatting and printing. Commissioner Sunshine Richardson seconded the motion. With no further discussion from the members, a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The Strategic Plan (Final Draft) is on file and is an official part of the minutes.

**By-Laws Final Draft Review and Vote:**

Ms. Lowry recommended accepting the By-Laws with the amendments. The board packet included a handout of the By-Laws (Final Draft).



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

- Commissioner Dorothy Yates requested that the general statutes number need to be referenced in the by-laws. She noted that it is not listed in the final draft.
- Commissioner Lenora Locklear requested that the wording of the general statutes be listed on a separate page and cross-referenced in the By-law with the GS numbers.
- Mr. Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice, indicated that general statutes wording changes could lead to amendment of the by-laws. He stated that the general statute numbers stay the same, only the wording changes.
- Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs referenced page 3 of the by-laws. He noted that the Commission has a Cultural Resources Advisory position from State Archaeology (non-voting member) serving on this Commission Board.
- Commissioner Jacobs disagreed to include a non-voting member from the NC Indian Heritage to have a seat on this Commission. He stated that the Commission of Indian Affairs does not currently have a seat on the NC Indian Heritage Board.
- Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs referenced the Executive Committee stand-alone and Legislative Committee stand-alone.
- Ms. Lowry stated that the by-laws can be amended.
- Commissioner Gerald Goolsby asked for clarification on NC Indian Heritage representatives and whether they will be able to vote.
- Mr. Teague indicated “no,” he noted that the NC Indian Heritage representative will be in an ex-officio status. They will not be able to vote and therefore will not be counted in the quorum.

### **MOTION #1:**

Commissioner Dorothy Yates made a motion to include the NC General Statutes number with each by-law that is governed by the statutes. Commissioner Gerald Goolsby seconded the motion. With no further discussion from the members, a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.

### **MOTION #2:**

- Commissioner Lenora Locklear made a motion to add back the wording of each NC General Statutes included in the By-Laws or the wording needs to be in an attachment referencing the title in the By-Laws. Commissioner Alfred Richardson seconded the motion. The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion. Commissioner Gerald Goolsby and others stated their objection to the motion. Commissioner Sunshine Richardson called the question. Commissioner Freeman-Elliott requested clarification. Mr. Teague confirmed the GS number will remain the same, but the wording on the attachment referencing the general statute number might change.

It was noted the Chair will vote only if there is a tie, in accordance with “Robert’s Rules of Order.”

Roll Call Vote – A voice vote “Roll Call” was taken to add back the wording of each NC General Statutes referenced in the By-Laws or include the wording as an attachment. There were five (5) “ayes” in support of the motion, and twenty-five (25) “nay” votes. The motion failed.



The motion to indicate the wording in the By-Laws or on a separate page **failed**.

**MOTION #3:**

Commissioner Elton Ray Jacob made a motion for the Executive Board and Legislative Board (both) to stand alone. Commissioner Alfred Richardson seconded the motion. With no further discussion from the members, a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**MOTION #4:**

- Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs objected to the one non-voting member from the American Indian Heritage (AIHC) to have a seat on this NC Commission of Indian Affairs Board (NCCIA) (listed on page3). He expressed that the Commission of Indian Affairs Board members are currently not on the American Indian Heritage Board (AIHC) as ex-officio.
- Commissioner Jacobs requested that the recommendation to have a non-voting member from the American Indian Heritage to have a seat on this Commission must be referred to the Legislative Committee.

**MOTION #5:**

Ms. Candace Lowry, Deputy Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs, recommended that the By-Law revisions be approved with the edits.

Commissioner Craig McMillian, Vice Chair made a motion to accept the By-Laws with the edits discussed above. Commissioner Larece Hunt seconded the motion. With no further discussion from the members, a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.

- Ms. Lowry noted that she will edit the By-Laws as discussed above and submit them to the DOA-General Counsel and the DOA-Executive office for review before submitting them to the full Commission.

The By-Laws (Final Draft) are on file and are an official part of the minutes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION ITEM ONLY**

**American Indian Culture and Religion Committee:** Commissioner Danny Bell, Committee Chair, presented this item. He recommended the following action items approved at the Culture Committee Meeting dated February 9, 2024. A handout was distributed in the Board packet.

**MOTIONS:**

- (1) Seek clarification with UNC Chapel Hill about their policy regarding the identity of American Indians “federal and state recognized.” Details are listed in the handout submitted in the Board packet.
- (2) Request for the development of an agreement with a representative of the N.C. Office of State Archaeology to plan a regular visit to each tribe and organization.
- (3) Request the Commission of Indian Affairs to communicate with the UNC-TV organization regarding the need to employ American Indians and develop regular American Indian programming.
- Chair Rev. Burnett noted that a motion coming from a committee requires no second.
- The Chair asked if there was any further discussion, and hearing none, a vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.





The Culture Committee meeting minutes dated February 9, 2024, is on file at the Commission.

**American Indian Housing and Adhoc Land Trust:** Commissioner Elton Ray Jacob, Committee Chair, presented this item.

Committee Chair, Jacobs, recommended the following action items approved at the Indian Housing Committee Meeting. A handout of the action item was distributed in the Board packet.

**MOTION:**

- Appointment for the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority (NCIHA) Board: Thurman Lowry – Guilford County Native American Association. (1) Thurman Lowry, First Choice; (2) Perry Hunt, Jr., Second Choice.

Commissioner Sheila Wilson made a motion to accept the appointment for the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority Board prioritized as presented above. Commissioner Lenora Locklear seconded the motion. With no further discussion from the members, a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The American Indian Housing Action Item is on file at the Commission.

**AdHoc Land Trust:** Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs, Committee Chair, noted that the draft NCCIA-Land Trust Policies and Procedures for North Carolina Tribes will be presented later during the Legislative Committee report.

**Adhoc Indian Health Sub-Committee:** Commissioner Greg Bryant, Committee Chair, requested Dr. Ronny Bell, Adhoc member to present this item. Dr. Bell introduced Mr. Chris Pratt. Mr. Pratt discussed the screening for lung cancer and the task force created for this purpose. He discussed the opioid use among the American Indian communities. He brought with him white ribbons to bring awareness for lung cancer. The white ribbons will be distributed at the end of the meeting for those interested. Chair Rev. Burnett suggested that the white ribbons be given to the eight tribes and four organizations to create awareness for lung cancer.

No handout was presented.

**OTHER ITEM** (not on the agenda)

Chair Rev. Burnett took time to recognize Ms. Shirley Freeman, former Vice-Chair of the Commission, who was in attendance. Ms. Freeman received a standing ovation for her dedicated years of service to the NC Commission of Indian Affairs, on behalf of the Waccamaw Siouan tribal community.

Chair also recognized other prominent members of the American Indian community: Dr. Alfred Bryant, Campbell University, Representative Harvey Godwin (former Chairman of the Lumbee Tribe), Mrs. Shelia Godwin (NC Indian Senior Citizen Coalition Princess); Mrs. Chenoa Davis (Halifax County Commissioner), Mr. Tony Hunt (Hoke County Commissioner), Ms. Darlene Jacobs, Mr. Kerry Bird (Executive Director, NC Indian Heritage Commission), and many others in attendance.

**American Indian Education and American Indian Child Welfare Sub-Committee:** Commissioner Dorothy Yates, Committee Chair presented this item. Handouts from the Education Committee Meeting



dated February 7, 2024, and February 16, 2024, together with the State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE), Nominations for FY 2024-2025, included in the Board packet.

Commissioner Yates thanked the membership for their prayers, beautiful flowers, and cards she received during her recent surgery.

**ACTION ITEM:**

Committee Chair Yates recommended the SACIE Nominees for FY July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025, to the Commission for approval.

State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE), Nominees for FY 2024-2025 are as follows:

- Angelique Young; 2<sup>nd</sup> Term; Educator; Coharie; Application Complete
- Calvin Locklear; 2<sup>nd</sup> Term; Parent; Triangle Native American Society; Application Complete
- Jeremiah Moore; 2<sup>nd</sup> Term; Educator; Lumbee; Application Complete
- Stacey Lynch; 2<sup>nd</sup> Term; Parent; Haliwa-Saponi; Application Complete
- Candice Revels; 1<sup>st</sup> Term; Educator; Cumberland County Association for Indian People; Application Complete; Ms. Revels will replace Rodney Jackson; Resignation.
- Other applications have missing documents.

**MOTION:**

- Commissioner Sunshine Richardson made a motion to accept the recommendation of the American Indian Education Committee. Commissioner Craig McMillian seconded the motion.

The Chair asked if there was any further discussion on the motion approving the slate of appointees to the State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE) Nominees for FY 2024-2025, as presented. With no further discussion from the members, a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The handouts of the Education Committee Meeting dated February 7, 2024, and February 16, 2024, together with the State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE) Nominations for FY 2024-2025, are on file at the Commission.

**INFORMATION ITEM:**

Commissioner Yates, Committee Chair discussed the following:

- American Indian (AI) License Plate: Committee Chair, Yates urged members to encourage tribes and tribal members to purchase one of these license plates through NCDMV. The fees collected for the purchase supports the American Indian Scholarship fund. She noted that due to low license plate sales, scholarship funds are not being generated.
- The Executive Director reminded members of the Motorcycle American Indian License Plate, through the NC Department of Motor Vehicles, remains in limbo.

**OTHER ITEM** (not on the agenda)

**NC American Indian Business:**

Commissioner Tony Hayes introduced Mr. Archy White, Minority Farms. Mr. White provided a brief overview of the Minority Farm Program in North Carolina.

- Discussed that minority farmers contributed over a \$1B to the state of North Carolina, out of which Native American farmers contributed \$200M to the economy of the state of North Carolina.



- Discussed a Supply Chain, Equipment Grant from FY 2024-2027, funding up to \$100,000 in minority communities was generated. This funding will go towards refrigerated trucks, storage units, any type of alliance that will add value to the products.
- Announced the Minority Farmers and Landlord Conference, Raleigh, June 13-June 15, 2024.
- Commissioner Craig McMillian, Vice Chair, requested members to promote participation in each of their communities and to encourage everyone to attend the Minority Farmers and Landlord Conference in Raleigh, NC, to help make this event a success.

No handout was presented.

**Economic Development & Employment and Training (ED & ET) Committee:** Commissioner Craig McMillian, Chair presented this item. The handout of the ED & ET Committee Meeting Minutes dated February 6, 2024, along with the action item were distributed in the Board Packet.

- The Committee Chair thanked Mr. Archy White, Minority Farms, and Mr. Reginald Speight, USDA State Director for their presentations.
- The Committee Chair noted that the Economic Development Committee has created an American Indian Business Directory. The Business Newsletter was circulated in February 2024.
- He discussed that a Business Survey card was distributed at this meeting with a QR code to better understand the business needs and help promote the company. He noted that NCDOA will notify training opportunities, events and activities including funding opportunities. He requested members to distribute the cards in their community and request participation.

**MOTION #1:**

Committee Chair McMillian recommended that the Commission draft a Letter of Resolution to all North Carolina Departments and request that the Commission be included in their committee meetings to allow representation for the American Indian Communities in matters where they have not been represented.

- Chair Rev. Burnett noted that coming from the Committee requires no second.
- With no further discussion from the members, a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**MOTION# 2:**

Committee Chair McMillian recommended that the Commission lead the way and request funding for all North Carolina state tribes.

- Chair Rev. Burnett noted that coming from the Committee requires no second.
- Commission members asked clarifying questions regarding the distribution of funding to urban organizations.
- Commissioner WD Baucom asked if a negotiable percentage passed to the tribes can be included for urban organizations. Additionally, he requested clarification on who will be negotiating the percentage amounts.
- Committee Chair, McMillian noted that it will be the Commission.
- Commissioner Tony Hayes, Legislative Committee Chair noted that he will consult with legislative representatives and consult with Commission members, to agree on a consistent percentage of the proposed funding.
- Mr. Gregory Richardson requested clarification if this will be appropriate regarding funding from the General Assembly.
- Chair Rev. Burnett requested that the recommendation be referred to Commissioner Tony Hayes, Chair of the Commission's Legislative Committee.



- Commissioner Tony Hayes noted that he will include this item on the 2024 legislative agenda if the Commission does not object. He stated that the Legislative Committee will adopt the items on the 2024 Legislative Agenda.
- With no further discussion from the members, a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The handout of the ED & ET Committee Meeting Minutes dated February 6, 2024, is on file at the Commission.

**Environmental Justice:** No report

**Agriculture:** No report

**State and Federal Recognition Committee:** Commissioner Larece Hunt, Committee Chair noted that the program quarterly report was submitted in the Board packet. He requested Mr. Elk Richardson to present this item.

Mr. Elk Richardson, State Recognition Program Director, provided a brief program overview as follows: The Roanoke-Hatteras Indian Tribe of Dare County, NC for state recognition. Technical assistance has been ongoing with the petitioner, to assist the group in their submission of a fully documented petition for review.

**Veterans Affair Sub-Committee:**

Mr. Gregory Richardson announced that the Commission has received the nominations from the Tribes and Organizations for the Veterans plaques. The Veteran plaques will be presented during the 2024 Indian Unity Conference banquet.

**Legislative Committee:** Commissioner Tony Hayes, Committee Chair, presented this item. The handout Legislative Committee meeting minutes dated February 27, 2024, was distributed in the Board packet.

Committee Chair Hayes recognized Commissioner Nadine Patrick and Ms. Candace Lowry, Deputy Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs, for their efforts to visit North Carolina Senator Tom Tillis and Senator Ted Bud's offices in Washington, D.C.

Commissioner Nadine Patrick provided a brief remark on her trip to Washington DC.

Ms. Candace Lowry encouraged all members to contact their congressional representatives in Washington DC, and that it is important to stay connected with them.

**Legislative Committee Report (Continued)**

Legislative Committee Chair Hayes discussed the 2024 Legislative Agenda as follows:

- Request funding for an American Indian Youth Leadership program to support staffing and its operation.
- Request funding for State Recognition Program. Committee Chair Hayes noted the funding is necessary to meet the Commission's legislative mandate to address state recognition matters, review petitions for state recognition, support the State Recognition Committee, prepare State Recognition Reports, respond to petitioners and legislative requests, maintain state recognition records and files.



**ACTION ITEM:**

- Commission's Legislative Day Plan – Tentative date April 30, with May 7<sup>th</sup> being the alternate date, depending on the legislative schedule.

**MOTION #1:**

- Legislative Committee Chair Hayes made a motion to approve the Legislative Day date as stated above.
- Chair Rev. Burnett noted that coming from the Committee requires no second. The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion.
- With no further discussion from the members, a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.
- Legislative Committee Chair Hayes determined a need for a Legislative Planning Session.

**INFORMATION:**

Mascots Issue

- The Legislative Committee Chair Hayes noted that he will consult with Rep. Lowry on the mascot issue and seek guidance.
- American Indian License Plate - It was discussed that decline in sales of the American Indian License plate is resulting in loss of funding for the American Indian Scholarship fund. Committee Chair Hayes noted that the Committee is looking at motorcycle license plates for all the tribes and the license plate for individual tribes.

**ACTION ITEM:**

- Legislative Committee Chair Hayes requested for Resolutions in support for federal recognition for the Haliwa-Saponi and Lumbee Tribe.

**MOTION #2:**

Chair Rev. Burnett noted that coming from the Committee requires no second. The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion.

With no further discussion from the members, a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**ACTION ITEM**

- The Legislative Committee Chair Hayes requested a letter of support for Waccamaw Siouan Boys and Girls Club.
- Ms. Nadine Patrick presented her remarks and read a letter from Chief Michael Jacobs dated March 5, 2024, to the Commission. The letter was distributed to the Board.
- Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs requested the full Commission to endorse the mission.

Handout Waccamaw Siouan Tribe letter dated March 5, 2024, is on file at the Commission.

**MOTION #3:**

Chair Rev. Burnett noted that coming from the Committee requires no second. The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion.

With no further discussion from the members, a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.



## **ACTION ITEM**

### **Draft NCCIA-land Trust Policies and Procedures for North Carolina Tribes**

- Legislative Committee Chair Hayes discussed Land in Trust. He recommended an action on the draft NCCIA-land Trust Policies and Procedures for North Carolina Tribes. The handout was distributed to the Board.
- Commissioner Gerald Goolsby indicated that it needs to be amended before it can be adopted.
- Mr. Mark Teague, Attorney, Department of Justice, referred to item 8 “Confidentiality” on the draft Land Trust Policies and Procedures, he noted that North Carolina has a robust public record. He read the language after the coma as follows: “in accordance with state laws and regulations.” He stated due to the NC State Public Act, he is uncertain if all the information provided by the tribe can be considered confidential and shielded from public disclosure. Mr. Teague cautioned about public disclosure and informed members to be aware of this state law and to inquire with the Commission before submitting any materials.
- Mr. Teague noted that it is fine for the Commission to move forward with this draft.

## **MOTION #4:**

Chair Rev. Burnett noted that coming from the Committee requires no second. The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion.

With no further discussion from the members, a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The handout from the Legislative Committee meeting dated February 27, 2024, and the draft NCCIA-land Trust Policies and Procedures for North Carolina Tribes presented are on file at the Commission.

## **ACTION ITEM**

- Legislative Committee Chair Hayes made a recommendation to adopt a letter that will be sent to congressional representatives regarding the reauthorization of Work Force Innovative Opportunity (WIOA) Act funds and the Native American Housing Program. He stated that the Commission needs to support these programs.

## **MOTION # 5**

Chair Rev. Burnett noted that coming from the Committee requires no second. The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion.

With no further discussion from the members, a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.

## **ACTION ITEM**

### **Adopt the 2024-Legislative Agenda**

- Legislative Committee Chair Hayes made a recommendation to adopt the current 2024-Legislative Agenda.
- Commissioner Gerald Goolsby noted that the Legislative Agenda must be submitted in a reasonable time. He suggested indicating an end date.

## **MOTION #6:**

Chair Rev. Burnett noted that coming from the Committee requires no second. The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion.

With no further discussion from the members, a vote was taken, and the motion was carried unanimously.



**LUNCH BREAK**

The Chair Rev. Burnett announced lunch break at 12:33 pm. He requested Commission member Larece Hunt to bless the food.

After the lunch break the meeting reconvened at 1:09 pm.

**FLOWER FUND:** Ms. Nadine Patrick, Secretary/ Treasurer, presented this item as follows:

- As of December 01, 2023, there were two members that paid their dues of \$24 each.
- January 2024 outgoings were \$62.96.
- The current balance for the Flower Fund is \$480.72.

It was suggested that members must submit their annual dues at the rate of \$24 per person toward the flower fund by Cash App, pay by cash, or mail a check attention to Ms. Nadine Patrick.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Flyer “Tribal Leaders - Preserving Traditions, Saving Lives,” at the North Raleigh Hilton, event date April 15-16, 2024, from 2 pm to 3 pm, next day 8am to 5 pm. RSVP or Inquires contact Ms. Sharon Hunt or Mr. Tony V Locklear. The flyer was distributed at the meeting with the QR code to register.

Commission members announced their upcoming events.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Chair Rev. Burnett recited a short prayer and led the Commission meeting to dismissal.

**ADJOURNMENTS:**

With there being no further items to discuss, Chair Rev. Burnett announced the meeting to be adjourned. Commissioner Tony Hayes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Shelia Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

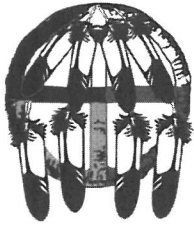
The meeting adjourned at 1:16 pm. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2024. Location Cherokee, NC.

Nadine F. Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer  
NC Commission of Indian Affairs  
(Sign & Date)

Daphne Pinto, Recording Secretary  
(Sign & Date)

*These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs on June 20, 2024.*

Nadine F. Patrick, Secretary-Treasurer  
NC Commission of Indian Affairs  
(Sign & Date)



**N.C. COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING**

**Hilton Charlotte University Place**

**Lake View Meeting Room**

**8629 J M Keynes Dr, Charlotte, NC 28262**

**March 7, 2024**

**9:30 am to 1:30 pm**

**DRAFT AGENDA**

**Held in conjunction with the 49<sup>th</sup> NC Indian Unity Conference, March 07-09, 2024.**

<b>Opening Session</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
Call to Order	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Invocation Acknowledgment of Fallen Warriors this quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carolyn Crocker, Long-Term Employee of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs</li> <li>Mrs. Varie Bledsoe Campbell, Former employee of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs and Metrolina Native American Association</li> <li>Eliza Jane Jacobs, Former Director of the Coharie Indian tribe and United Tribes Board Member</li> <li>Other Honorable Mentions by Commission Members</li> </ul>	Alfred Richardson, Commission Member
Pledge of Allegiance	WD Baucom, Commission Member
Roll Call and Adoption of Agenda (Present and Agree)	Daphne Pinto, Administrative Assistant
Ethics Statement	Gregory Richardson, Executive Director
Presentation and Approval of December 1, 2023, Meeting Minutes	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
<b>Guest Presentations: (Please be brief-10 minutes maximum)</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
Welcoming and Overview of the 2024 NC Indian Unity Conference	Jesse Jacobs, President of United Tribes of North Carolina
Scams and Frauds, Internet Safety, and How the NC Department of Justice Works for You.	Sarah Welsch, Outreach Specialist Public Protection Section, NC Department of Justice
Update on USDA and Potential Partnership with the NC Commission of Indian Affairs	Reginald Speight, USDA State Director
National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) - Update and Impact of the NCAI Constitutional Amendment.	Lance Gumbs, Citizen, <b>Shinnecock Indian Nation</b> , and 2023-2025 NCAI Executive Committee Member
<b>Business Items:</b>	<b>10:45 am</b>
Executive Director's Report, Briefing (Highlights Only) Staff Quarterly Program Reports (Included in meeting packet)	Greg Richardson, Executive Director
Deputy Director's Briefings on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Plan Final Draft Review and Vote</li> </ul>	Candace Lowry, Deputy Director



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bylaws Final Draft Review and Vote</li> </ul>	
<b>Commission Committee Reports</b> <b>*Only Committee reports with action items will be entertained.</b>	<b>11:20 am</b>
American Indian Culture & Religion Committee	Danny Bell, Chair
American Indian Housing AdHoc Land Trust	Elton Ray Jacobs, Chair
Adhoc Indian Health Sub-Committee	Greg Bryant, Chair
American Indian Education American Indian Child Welfare Sub-Committee	Dorothy Yates, Chair
Economic Development & Employment Committee Environmental Justice Agriculture	Craig McMillian, Chair
State and Federal Recognition Veterans Affairs Sub-Committee	Larece Hunt, Chair
Legislative 2024 Legislative Agenda Update	Tony Hayes, Chair
<b>WORKING LUNCH</b>	<b>12:00 Noon – 12:30 pm</b>
<b>Other Business Items:</b>	
Flower Fund Report	Nadine Patrick, Secretary/Treasurer
<b>2024 Commission Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>June 7, 2024</b> – Location TBA</li> <li>• <b>September 6, 2024</b> - Location TBA</li> <li>• <b>December 6, 2024</b> – Location TBA</li> </ul>	<b>(Now accepting invitations from tribes and Organizations to host future Commission meetings)</b>
<b>Adjournment</b>  <b>Convening of the</b> <b>2024 NC Indian Unity Conference</b> <b>Hilton Charlotte University Place</b> <b>8629 J M Keynes Dr, Charlotte, NC 28262</b> <b>March 7-9, 2024</b>	<b>1:30 pm</b>  <b>2:00 pm</b>