



**NORTH CAROLINA
COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2024**

Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperation (LREMC)
Cooperate Headquarters, 6090 HWY 711
Pembroke, NC 28372

WELCOME: Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. The Chair welcomed and acknowledged the guests, Commission Members, Tribal Leaders, Chiefs, State Officials, and staff.

INVOCATION: Commissioner Gerald Goolsby remembered Mrs. Shirley Freeman, Former Vice Chair and Commission Member; Commissioner Dorothy Yate’s, Brother Delton Norris Stewart, who passed away since the last meeting, the victim of 911; and other mentions by Commission Members. A moment of silence was observed, and then Commissioner Gerald Goolsby presented the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Danny Bell led the membership and guests in reciting the pledge of allegiance.

ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA: The revised agenda was presented.

ROLL CALL: Chair Rev. Burnett noted that when Commission member's names are called, each member will need to state their name and affirmation. In addition, he indicated that members need to state if they “approve” of the agenda.

TRIBAL AND ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

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



ROLL CALL *(Continued)*

Metrolina Native American Association	Greg Bryant	Present approved
Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation	Tony Hayes	Present approved
Sappony	Dorothy Yates	Present approved
Triangle Native American Society	Danny Bell	Present approved
Waccamaw Siouan	Elton R. Jacobs	Present approved
Waccamaw Siouan	Nadine F. Patrick	Present approved

STATE OFFICIALS

President Pro Tem Appointee	Gerald Goolsby	Present approved
Speaker of the House Appointee	Craig D. McMillian	Present approved
Department of Administration (DOA), Pamela Brewington Cashwell, Secretary Designee: David Elliott, Deputy Secretary		Present approved
Department of Commerce/ ESC, Mabelle 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		absent
Department of Health & Human Services, Kody H. Kinsley, Secretary Designee: Debra Farrington, Deputy Secretary Health Equity		Present approved
Department of Labor, Josh Dobson, Commissioner Designee: Julie Ryan, Director of Govt. Affairs		Absent
Department of Cultural Resources, Chris Southerly, Advisor, Adhoc- Designee: Rosie Blewitt, Assistant State Archaeologist and Site Registrar	Non-Voting Member	Absent

OTHER STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT

Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

NCNAYO	Kaylee Evans (Co-Chair) - Non-Voting Member	
	Olivia Goins, representing Ms. Evans – Non-Voting Member	Present
NCNAYO	Vacant (Co-Chair) - Non-Voting Member	Absent
NC NACOHE	Joshua L Richardson - Non-Voting Member	Absent

The Chair declared that a quorum existed; therefore, the meeting could proceed with the agenda being approved.

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
- Maria Richardson, Program Director, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program
- Tenley (Nikki) Locklear, Program Director, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program



Alice Bell McMillian, Crime Victim Advocate, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program
Elk Richardson, Program Director, State Recognition Program
Laury Chavis, Program Director, Tobacco Survey Program
Ashley Patrick, WIOA Program Coordinator

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. No conflicts were noted.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 20, 2024, MEETING MINUTES: The minutes of the June 20, 2024, meeting minutes were presented for adoption.

MOTION: Commissioner Tony Hayes moved to approve the June 20, 2024, meeting minutes. Commissioner Larece Hunt seconded the motion. The Chair asked if there was any objection to the motion. None was noted. The motion was approved with no objection.

HONOR & RECOGNITION OF THE LATE MRS. SHIRLEY FREEMAN, FORMER VICE CHAIR

Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair, and Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director, together presented a Resolution in honor of the former Vice Chair, an outstanding American Indian Advocate, and Tribal Leader for the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs and Indian people, who passed away on June 15, 2024. The Chair read the Resolution in the memory, honor, and legacy of Mrs. Shirley Freeman. It was noted that the resolution will be posted in remembrance and honor of the late Mrs. Shirley Freeman at the NC Commission of Indian Affairs Raleigh Office.

Mrs. Nadine Patrick, daughter of Mrs. Freeman and current Commission member, thanked the Commission for honoring her mother in this way, on behalf of her family. Other members of the Freeman family were present.

A Photo Session with Ms. Nadine Patrick, family member, Chair Rev. Ricky Burnett, and Mr. Greg Richardson was taken.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS:

Remarks by Lumbee Tribal Chair

Mr. John Lowery Chairman of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina welcomed everyone to the Lumbee territory and the Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperation (LREMC) Cooperate Headquarters. He gave a brief overview as follows:

- Discussed funding received from NCDHHS.
- Discussed additional funding from HUD to finish the housing sites.

Mr. Lowery introduced Mr. Jon T. Locklear, President and Chief Executive Officer, Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperation (LREMC), Pembroke, North Carolina.



Welcoming Remarks: Mr. Jon T. Locklear, President and Chief Executive Officer, Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperation, welcomed everyone. He expressed that he is proud and honored to host the Commission meeting at the Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperation (LREMC) Headquarters. He provided a brief overview of the LREMC. He indicated that LREMC was founded in 1940 and has thirteen Board members. The company serves Cumberland, Hoke, Robeson, Moore, and Scotland counties. He indicated that LREMC is an electric utility company, a non-profit organization, in Robeson County, North Carolina. The foundation of LREMC's service to its members is innovation, commitment to its community, accountability, and integrity. Mr. Locklear discussed in brief the values, goals, and commitments of the Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperation. Mr. John Dison, Executive Manager, was introduced and noted that Lumbee River Tech, a subsidiary of LREMC, is an internet service provider of fiber optics. The company provides safe, reliable, and affordable electricity, but also provides educational opportunities (free Wi-Fi and internet), and service.

No handout was provided.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:

- Commission members asked questions about the type of assistance provided for rural communities.
- Members expressed concerns regarding the internet services in other Indian Communities.
- It was noted that Lumbee River Tech is doing everything to help meet these challenges.
- Discussed government funding for tribes, regarding broadband opportunities.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY – NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director, welcomed and introduced the new and returning Members of the Commission.

Members were invited to take their place at the front of the room as their names were called out, in preparation for the swearing in ceremony.

Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair, welcomed and introduced the Honorable Matt Scott, District Attorney for Robeson County, NC.

The Honorable Matt Scott, District Attorney, for Robeson County, gave a brief remark, and presided over the swearing-in ceremony.

The following Commission members were sworn into office and the Oath of Office, was presented by the Honorable Matt Scott, District Attorney.

New Member:

- Jarrett Crowe, representing the Eastern Band of the Cherokee. (Not Sworn In – Attending Virtually)

Returning Members:

- Ricky Burnett, representing the Lumbee Tribe of NC
- Lenora Locklear, representing the Coharie Tribe



- Helen Cook, representing the Cumberland County Association for Indian People
- Pamela Sunshine Richardson, representing the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe
- Walter D Baucom, representing the Metrolina Native American Association, Inc.
- Danny Bell, representing the Triangle Native American Society, Inc.

Returning State Official:

- Craig D McMillian, representing the Speaker of the House Appointee

Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair, and Mr. Greg Richardson thanked The Honorable Matt Scott for presiding over the swearing-in-ceremony.

The Executive Director noted that Mr. Crowe was attending the meeting via Zoom and that he would need to take the Oath of Office in Cherokee, NC, prior to the next Commission meeting

Photo Session for New and Returning Members.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS, 2024-2025:

NOMINATION OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair, announced that there were two Commission officers up for election, and they are:
Vice Chair and Secretary/ Treasurer

Nomination for Vice Chair: Rev. Burnett, Chair, opened the floor for nomination.

- Commissioner WD Baucom made a motion to nominate Mr. Craig McMillian. Commissioner Danny Bell seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair asked if there were any other nominations for the office of Vice Chair. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to close the floor for nominations.
- Commissioner Larece Hunt made a motion to close the nomination for Vice Chair. Commissioner Gerald Goolsby seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair announced that Commissioner Craig McMillian has been elected as Vice Chair of the Commission.

Nomination of Secretary/ Treasurer: Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair opened the floor for the nomination for the office of Secretary/ Treasurer.

- Commissioner Alfred Richardson made a motion to nominate Ms. Nadine Patrick. Commissioner Larece Hunt seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair asked if there were any other nominations for the office of Secretary/ Treasurer. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to close the floor for nominations.
- Commissioner Gerald Goolsby made a motion to close the nomination for Secretary/ Treasurer. Commissioner Larece Hunt seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair announced that Commissioner Nadine Patrick has been elected as Secretary/ Treasurer.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS:

NC Highway Historical Marker Program: Mr. Kerry Bird, Director, NC American Indian Heritage Commission, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCAIHC) presented the following:



- Provided a brief description of the NC American Indian Heritage Commission (NCAIHC). It was noted that the NCAIHC is separate from NC Commission of Indian Affairs. The NC American Indian Heritage Commission protect, promote, and preserves history, arts, custom, and culture of the state American Indian population.
- Discussed the NC Highway Historical Marker Program. This program has operated jointly with NC Department of Transportation to share concise accounts of North Carolina's history.
- He gave an overview of highway markers that have already been installed in Tribal Communities and other markers to be installed in the state.
- A PowerPoint presentation was presented regarding the work of the NCAIHC.

No handout or copy of the PowerPoint presentation was provided.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:

- Members asked clarification questions about the school markers. Mr. Bird noted that one school marker will be installed in each of the tribal communities
- Mr. Greg Richardson requested a copy of Mr. Bird's PowerPoint presentation.

LUNCH BREAK

Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair, announced lunch break at 11:45 am. Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair blessed the food. The meeting was called back to order at 12:20 pm.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS: Continued

New Program – Equity Briefing on RSV, COVID-19 and Influenza-Impact on American Indian Communities: Ms. Catherine Guerrero, MPA, COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Lead, Division of Public Health, Epidemiology Section, NCDHHS

Ms. Catherine Guerrero presented the following:

- Discussed COVID-19 Vaccine initiatives.
- Discussed the respiratory Viruses that can cause cold symptoms, severe breathing problems, or worse.
- Discussed the primary goal to work with different communities that experience a higher risk factor with respiratory illness. Discussed preventable vaccines for the American Indian people in North Carolina.
- Discussed major components of the project: (1) Appoint a team of community-based advocates working with tribal populations across the state. (2) Promotion of preventable vaccines through community outreach efforts. (3) Efforts to improve vaccination data and data quality on American Indians in North Carolina to reduce preventable respiratory illnesses and vaccine-preventable diseases and improve the overall health and well-being of American Indians throughout the state of North Carolina.
- It was noted that the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) and the NC Commission of Indian Affairs (NCCIA) are partnering to reduce respiratory illnesses and improve the overall health and well-being of American Indians throughout North Carolina.
- Ms. Guerrero indicated that an advisory group led by NCDHHS in partnership with NCCIA to identify solutions and opportunities to address long-standing challenges that have disproportionately impacted the American Indian populations.



- It was noted that the program welcomes trusted community leaders to join the advisory group to help promote preventable vaccines, thus preventing respiratory illnesses.

No handout or copy of the PowerPoint presentation was provided.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:

- Members asked if this is a grant funding opportunity. Ms. Guerrero confirmed, “Yes.” It is a \$3M project.
- Ms. Candace Lowry, Deputy Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs, informed the Commission that when funding is made available, the program will hire a staff person from each tribal community to coordinate the program. The vaccines will be accessible to all, but preference will be given to American Indians from each community.
- Ms. Lowry indicated that this program is a continuation of the previous COVID-19 project, which is funded by NCDHHS. It was noted that Ms. Kearston Page Freeman submitted the final COVID-19 data at the end of her project study, which illustrated the need for increased vaccination work in Indian Communities.
- Ms. Lowry noted that the new project is a continuation, and the data from Ms. Freeman's project was instrumental in arguing our case for this funding.
- The Executive Director requested a copy of the PowerPoint presentation for the Commission’s record.

Parks Planning – Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): Ms. Shweta Nanekar, Registered Landscape Architect, - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional, Building Design and Construction. Parks Planning Practice Lead, McAdams. Ms. Vonda Martin, NC DNCR, Division of Parks and Recreation, presented this item as follows. A handout of the PowerPoint presentation was submitted in the Board packet.

- Gave an overview of the project team.
- Discussed the list of companies engaged with the Project Team.
- Discussed the Outdoor Recreation Grant Benefits. It was noted that this is a federal grant. North Carolina receives federal funding of \$7M annually to help state and local parks to create amenities and programming for all residents across the state. This plan is updated every five years. This grant helps communities improve access to outdoor recreation spaces, such as fishing, boating, hunting, climbing, swimming, walking trails, etc.
- Discussed how to obtain an outdoor recreation grant opportunity. This grant opportunity is through the NC Department of Parks and Recreation. Input is needed for the outdoor recreation and conservation priorities for 2025-2030. The engagement with the community for this project will help understand and better serve the communities and yield successful partnerships.
- Discussed the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is America’s most important program to conserve irreplaceable lands and improve outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the state. It was noted that the program works in partnership with federal, state, and local governments.
- Discussed the tribal community’s outreach needs.
- Discussed the online survey outreach. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r.SCORPTTribal> Survey

A handout of the PowerPoint presentation was provided and is on file at the Commission.



COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:

- Members asked clarifying questions about the Outdoor Recreation plan and planning.
- Ms. Shweta Nanekar requested Members to complete the survey to better serve the communities.
- The Executive Director asked the Commission members to please complete the survey, so that Parks and Recreation will have the input for future planning. He thanked Ms. Shweta Nanekar for her presentation.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Executive Director's Report: The Executive Director presented his quarterly report. He welcomed the guest. He requested staff to introduce themselves. The Executive Director Report was distributed in the Board packet, prior to the Commission meeting. Highlights of his report are as follows:

- Budget Updates FY 2024-2025
- NC Commission of Indian Affairs 2024 Tribal Leaders Legislative Day
- Ethics Commission Inquiry
- Cedar Point Archaeology Issue
- 2024 NCAI Convention
- HUD Section 8 Audit Visit
- American Indian remains Discovered, Burke County, near Morganton,
- Duke Stroke Study
- 2024 NC Indian Heritage Month Proclamation
- Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Funding
- USDA Tribal Leaders Listening Session, August 14, 2024
- Introduced New Employees, Ms. Ashley Patrick, WIOA Program for the Waccamaw Siouan Tribal Community, and Dorian Richardson, WIOA Program, for the Haliwa Saponi Tribal Community.
- Grant Writer/ Manager Position, the position has not been filled, however, interviews were held this quarter. The hiring process continues and may be reposted if a hiring decision cannot be achieved.
- Indian Businesses symposium, next week
- Annual Report Approval

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

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:

- **MOTION:** Commissioner Isabell Freeman-Elliott made a motion to accept the Executive Director's Report and the Annual Report. Commissioner Tony Hayes seconded the motion. The Chair asked if there was any objection to the motion. None was noted. The motion was carried with no objection from the membership.

Strategic Plan Update: Ms. Candace Lowry, Deputy Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs presented the Strategic Plan update as follows:

- Discussed the Committees. Members were urged to send an email to Candace and Greg indicating which Committee they wish to serve on during the upcoming fiscal year, so that they



can inform Chairman Burnett of such. This information will also be used to update the Commission's list of Committees.

- Discussed the importance of the Strategic Plan and the Committee Assignments. Participation in the Committee meetings is essential.
- It was noted that the Strategic Plan was voted on and adopted at the March 2024 meeting.

The Strategic Plan Update was distributed at the meeting as is on file at the Commission.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:

- A Commission Member asked clarifying questions about the red highlights as to who will take the lead.
- Ms. Lowry responded that the "Responsible Individual" is listed at the bottom of the page. She expressed that all the work is done during the Committee meetings. Participation of Committee members is essential to complete the work of the Commission.
- Ms. Lowry gave an overview of the upcoming Small Business Symposium Event, which will be held on September 17, 2024, at Robeson Community College in Lumberton, NC.

NCCIA Committee Consolidation

- The Committee Consolidation list was distributed for review and discussion.
- Members asked for clarifications on the Committee Assignments
- Ms. Candace Lowry noted that all requests, additions, or deletions need to be submitted to her and Greg. The updated Committee Assignment list will be distributed to the Commission members by email.
- Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs asked for clarification on the Executive Committee list and if Senior Members were included.
- Ms. Lowry responded the elective members were on the Committee as indicated on the list "Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Parliamentarian.
- Mr. Greg Richardson noted that the Senior Members were also on the Executive Committee. He confirmed that Senior Members of the Commission have always been on the Executive Committee.
- Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs requested an amendment to place the Senior Members back on the Executive Committee.
- Ms. Lowry noted that the discussion occurred at the June 2023 meeting.
- Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair, noted that if the Commission voted on the Executive Committee, it needs to stay the same. He expressed that this can be amended by the full Commission.
- Commissioner Dorothy Yates noted that on Page 5 of the By-Laws, the American Indian Child Welfare Committee is not listed as a standing Committee. She recommended that the AI Child Welfare Committee be added to the By-laws under Section 1. Articles VIII—Standing Committees. However, she expressed that it is listed on the Committee Consolidation list.
- Ms. Lowry noted that the American Indian Child Welfare Advisory Committee is listed as a sub-Committee under the American Indian Education Committee in the Committee Consolidation List.
- Discussion ensued regarding the American Indian Education Committee and the American Indian Child Welfare Advisory Committee.



The NCCIA Committee Consolidation Update was distributed at the meeting and is on file at the Commission.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:

- **MOTION:** Commissioner WD Baucom made a motion to leave the By-Laws as written. Commissioner Gerald Goolsby seconded the motion. The Chair asked if there was any objection to the motion. Two Members Opposed (Commissioner Dorothy Yates, and Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs Opposed), rest of the Members were in favor.
- It was noted that Commissioner Jarrett Crowe opposed it as well. Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair noted that Commissioner Crowe has not been sworn and could not vote at this time, but his objection was noted.
- Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair asked members to say “Aye” if they were in favor of the motion. With the Ayes being the majority. The motion was carried.
- In conclusion, Ms. Candace Lowry noted that she and the staff are continuing to work together to update the Strategic Plan and NCCIA Committee Consolidation. She thanked the Commission Members who were actively involved with the updates on both documents. She invited Members to attend the Small Business Symposium Event, September 17, 2024, Robeson Community College.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Not listed on the agenda.

Secretary Pamela Cashwell made a quick announcement as follows:

- American Indian Student Leaders Program, November 18-November 21, 2024. It was noted that enrollment is open.
- BIA Listening Session: The proposed revision to the Federal Acknowledgement Process. Comments are accepted through tomorrow, Friday, September 13, 2024.
- Grant Writer/ Manager Position will be reclassified into a Grant Administrator Position. The position will be posted after the reclassification process is complete.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION ITEM ONLY:

American Indian Culture & Religion Committee: Committee Chair Danny Bell

Staff Support: Pamela Brewington, Program Updates

The handout of the Culture Committee Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2024, was distributed in the Board packet.

Commissioner Danny Bell, Committee Chair presented the following recommendations:

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion 1: Cedar Point Issue: Legal and Archaeologist Request: The recommendation is for a small group from Commission members, together with the Indian Archaeologist or Attorney, State Archaeologist, Site developer, and General Assembly representative, visit Cedar Point to meet with the develop (S) and collect information that can be shared with the NC Tribal communities and the public about this site. The Commission should act to protect American Indian remains and artifacts, along with archaeological and anthropological data and reports. He noted that the story of the Indigenous American Indian People that lived at Cedar Point and the general area need to be told and remain protected.

- Chair Rev. Burnett noted that coming from the Committee requires no second.



- Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair asked members to say “Aye” if they were in favor of the motion. The Chair asked if there was any objection to the motion. None was noted. The motion was carried with no objection from the Membership

Motion 2: The Museum of History to present their draft plans for their planned inclusion of material on American Indians in the new renovations of the Museum of History, to the Commission of Indian Affairs at a future meeting. Details will be provided at the next Commission meeting. More details are listed in the Culture Committee Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2024.

- Chair Rev. Burnett noted that coming from the Committee requires no second.
- Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair asked members to say “Aye” if they were in favor of the motion. The Chair asked if there was any objection to the motion. None was noted. The motion was carried with no objection from the Membership.

Motion 3: Culture Committee recommendation to add a new ad hoc member, with essential expertise needed to address the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and other issues that arise. No action was taken.

Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair thanked Mr. Bell for his presentation and noted that a Committee Chairman, Mr. Bell has the authority to add an adhoc NAGPRA representative to his committee.

The handout of the Culture Committee Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2024, is on file.

Legislative Committee: Committee Chair, Tony Hayes presented the following:

- The items proposed on the 2024 Legislative agenda will probably be on the 2025 Legislative agenda.
- It was noted that the legislative items worked on during the year 2024, will be emailed to members.
- Members were urged to inform Committee Chair, Hayes of any additional request at the December 6, 2024, Commission meeting.
- Discussed the 2025 American Indian Legislative Day.
- He indicated that the Legislative Leadership meeting notice will go out after the December 6th Commission meeting, all items will be discussed at this meeting.

No handout was submitted.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:

- Mr. Greg Richardson suggested that due to the transition at the general assembly, additional items request for the 2025 Legislative agenda need to be received in mid-November, prior to the December 2024, meeting. Items need to be emailed to the Committee Chair Hayes, Mr. Greg Richardson, and Ms. Candace Lowry.
- Members were reminded to vote at the general elections, November 5, 2024. Committee Chair Hayes requested members to inform their communities to go vote.

DOA Legislative Updates – 2024-2025: Mr. Wes Kyatt, Legislative Liaison, NC Department of Administration gave a brief update as follows:



- Discussed the upcoming House Bills
- Discussed the Budget adjustment for the short session
- Discussed funding for lights and utilities
- Discussed funding for rent to upkeep government buildings

No handout was submitted.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:

- Members asked for clarification on when the bills will be introduced. Mr. Kyatt indicated that to the best of his knowledge, bills can be passed in January 2025.

American Indian Housing: Committee Chair, Elton Ray Jacobs indicated that the Committee did not have a meeting, Mr. Steve Maynor will present on his behalf.

Mr. Steve Maynor, Section 8 Housing Program, presented the following:

ACTION ITEM:

- A recommendation was presented regarding the amendment to the Section 8 Housing Administrative Plan for 2024. He read an excerpt of an adoption statement as follows: “NC Commission of Indian Affairs Housing Program is seeking approval to amend the language in the Admin Plan as required by HUD to include language on the admission process for the Stability Voucher Program, effective 10-1-2024, for thirty individuals/ families from NC 901 portfolio to agree with the referral process established in partnership with the North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness.”
- **MOTION:** Commissioner Dorothy Yates made a motion to accept the amendment to the Admin Plan. Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs seconded the motion. The Chair asked if there was any objection to the motion. None was noted. The motion was carried with no objection from the membership.

No handout regarding the Action Item was provided.

Adhoc Land Trust:

- Commissioner Gerald Goolsby asked for clarification on the Land Trust as to where does it stands. Commissioner Craig McMillian, Vice Chair indicated that the policies and procedures have not been approved. He noted that the Committee is working on it.
- Mr. Greg Richardson indicated that the process is still active and is being reviewed.
- Mr. Mark Teague, Attorney, Department of Justice, clarified that at the March 2024 meeting the Lumbee Tribe wanted to withdraw the current trust agreement. It was noted that more specific details need to be submitted.
- Commissioner McMillian, Vice Chair indicated that he needs to submit more details.
- Mr. Teague indicated that the Commission must provide clear guidance to the tribes.
- Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair, noted that this item needs to be discussed at the Adhoc Land Trust Committee meeting. He stated that to accomplish an outcome, Committee members assigned to the Adhoc Land Trust Committee need to be present action items to address land in trust.

American Indian Health Committee (Victim Services):

Presentation by Mrs. Virginia Locklear, Director, Rape Crisis Center, Robeson County, NC:



Committee Chair, Greg Bryant, noted that there is no report from the Committee. He indicated that Mrs. Virginia Locklear had a scheduling conflict and was not able to attend the Commission meeting.

American Indian Education: Committee Chair, Dorothy Yates presented the following information:

- Committee Chair Yates informed the Commission that a Draft Letter to the UNC Board of Directors was submitted in the Board packet for review and adoption.
- Committee Chair Yates read the excerpt from the letter as follows “The Commission requests a report from the UNC system detailing the status of American Indian college students, including data on applicants, enrollees, and graduates, broken down by campus and aggregated across all campuses. If possible, the report should also include information on tribal affiliations.”
- **MOTION:** Chair Rev. Burnett noted that coming from the Committee requires no second.
- Chair Rev. Burnett requested Committee Chair Yates to repeat the motion. She stated the following: “to send the letter to UNC System inquiring on how the American Indian students perform once they enter the UNC system, and to see what courses the university offers to the American Indian students.”
- The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion. Chair Rev. Burnett requested members to say “Aye” if they were in favor of approving the action item presented and then asked those who opposed the motion to indicate so verbally “Nay.” In announcing the voice vote, the Chair stated that the Aye’s was a majority, with no correction or objections from the membership. Motion carried by unanimous consent.
- Committee Chair made an announcement that the American Indian Education Director position with the NC Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI) was filled by Dr. Leslie Locklear. She welcomed Dr. Locklear to the Education Committee as an Adhoc member. Committee Chair Yates thanked Dr. Silver for previously serving in this role.
- Discussed the American Indian Fund Scholarship. It was noted that the scholarship portal for 2025 application submissions will open in mid-December 2024-early March 2025.
- Mrs. Yates announced that a Virtual Kindship Workshop will be held Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 7 pm-8 pm and is sponsored by United Tribe. The registration link is <https://www.unitedtribes.nc.org>.

A handout of the Draft letter to UNC and the Education Committee Meeting Minutes dated September 5, 2024, was included in the Board packet and is on file at the Commission.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:

- Mr. Greg Richardson expressed concern about the payment to grandparents in the Kinship Placement program at NCDHHS. He indicated that Foster Care Parents are paid more than the grandparents, which seems like a disparity since the cost of food, supplies, housing, etc., is the same for Foster Care and Grandparents, as it relates to caring for children.

Economic Development & Employment Committee: Committee Chair Craig McMillian presented this item as follows:

ACTION ITEM:

- Committee Chair McMillian recommended a one-page flyer/ brochure that includes information of all NCCIA programs and resources when presenting to tribes including surveys.
- **MOTION:** Chair Rev. Burnett noted that coming from the Committee requires no second.



- Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair asked members to say “Aye” if they were in favor of the motion. The Chair asked if there was any objection to the motion. None was noted. The motion was carried with no objection from the Membership.
- Committee Chair made an announcement on American Indian Business Symposium, Sponsors Meeting with Duke Energy, September 17, 2024, at the Robeson Community College.
- Discussed the American Indian Student Week.

A handout of the Action Item and Economic Development and Employment and Training Committee Meeting minutes dated August 6, 2024, was included in the Board packet. It is on file at the Commission.

Environmental Justice (Sub Committee): No Report

State Recognition Committee: Committee Chair Larece Hunt informed that the Committee is busy with the State Recognition petitioning process. The Commission continues to provide consistent and timely technical assistance to potential petitioning groups for State Tribal Recognition. The State Recognition Committee is currently working on petition submitted by the petitioning group "Roanoke-Hatteras Indian Tribe of Dare County, NC."

Mr. Elk Richardson, Program Director for the Commission's State Recognition Program provided a brief overview.

ACTION ITEM:

- Discussed the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) Branch of Acknowledgment and Research (BAR) proposed revisions to the federal recognition procedures. The proposed revisions would allow petitioners who have been denied administrative federal recognition to apply to re-petition through the administrative process. A template of suggested comments that tribes may use were drafted and will be sent to NC tribes currently engaged in the administrative recognition process. A handout of the draft was shared at the meeting. The comments must be received at the BAR, by midnight tomorrow, September 13, 2024.
- Mr. Elk Richardson noted that the comments must be submitted electronically via email or go to the federal government website.
- Mr. Elk Richardson indicated that he would share with our tribes a copy of comments being submitted by the Commission to the BAR.
- A copy of the Commission's comments regarding the proposed revisions was provided to the Commission members.
- MOTION: Commissioner Danny Bell made a motion to accept the draft of the comments for submittal to the BAR. Commissioner Sunshine Richardson seconded the motion. The Chair asked if there was any objection to the motion. None was noted. The motion was carried with no objection from the membership.
- Discussed other information items listed in the State Recognition Program Quarterly Report, distributed in the Board packet.

Handouts of the letters were distributed and are on file at the Commission.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:

- Mr. Greg Richardson suggested that the comments need to be submitted as written.



- He expressed that it is important that North Carolina tribal interests in the federal acknowledgment process are represented since the federal recognition process involves all the tribes of North Carolina.
- Mr. Greg Richardson announced that funding for this State Recognition Program is running out.

ACTION ITEM:

NOMINATION FOR PARLIAMENTARIAN: (Not on the Agenda)

Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair opened the floor for the nomination for the Parliamentarian as stated in the By-Laws.

- **MOTION:** Commissioner WD Baucom made a motion to nominate Mr. Gerald Goolsby. Commissioner Craig McMillian seconded the motion.
- Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair asked if there were any other nominations for Parliamentarian positions. Hearing none, motion carried.
- Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair announced that Commissioner Gerald Goolsby has been elected as the Parliamentarian to the Commission.

OTHER ITEMS:

ACTION ITEM:

FLOWER FUND: Commissioner Nadine Patrick, Secretary/ Treasurer, presented the following:

- Deposit: \$293
- Expenses: \$62.85
- Total Balance: \$551.31
- Commissioner Nadine Patrick, informed members the annual payment per member is \$24. Payments can be made via Credit Card, or Check, or Cash. Members need to contact Commissioner Patrick directly.

No handout was submitted.

- **MOTION:** Commissioner Craig McMillian made a motion to approve the flower fund as presented. Commissioner Larece Hunt seconded the motion.
- Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair asked members to say “Aye” if they were in favor of the motion. The Chair asked if there was any objection to the motion. None was noted. The motion was carried with no objection from the Membership.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Tribal announcements from Commission Members as follows:

- Commissioner Dorothy Yates thanked everyone for the condolences and kind words of comfort she received from the membership during the recent death of her brother.
- Commission members announced their upcoming events.
- Mr. Greg Richardson asked staff and commission members to gather at the front of the room to take photos.

ADJOURNMENTS:

With there being no further items to discuss, Chair Rev. Burnett adjourned the meeting. Commissioner Alfred Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Larece Hunt seconded the motion. Motion carried.



Chair Rev. Burnett thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He thanked the Commission staff for their help.

Chair Rev. Burnett requested Commissioner Alfred Richardson to recite a closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 3:09 pm. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2024.

Location TBD.

Nadine F. Patrick 1-14-25

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

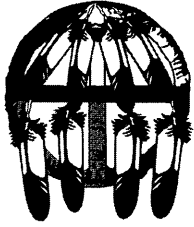
Daphne Pinto 12-6-2024

Daphne Pinto, Recording Secretary
(Sign & Date)

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs on December 6, 2024.

Nadine F. Patrick 1-14-25

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



N.C. COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
ANNUAL MEETING

Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperation (LREMC)
 Cooperate Headquarters
 6090 HWY 711
 Pembroke, NC 28372

September 12, 2024
10:00 am to 3:30 pm
(Final Agenda)

Opening Session	10:00 am – 10:15 am
Welcome, Call to Order & Adopt Agenda	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Invocation	Gerald Goolsby, Commission Member
Pledge of Allegiance	Danny Bell, Commission Member
Roll Call	Daphne Pinto, Administrative Assistant
Reading of Ethics Statement	Greg Richardson, Executive Director
Approval of June 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes	Chairman Burnett
Honor and Recognition of the late Mrs. Shirley Freeman Former Vice Chair	Chairman Burnett
	10:15 am – 11:00 am
Remarks By Lumbee Tribal Chairman Introduction of Jon T. Locklear	John Lowery – Chairman of the North Carolina Lumbee Tribe
Welcoming Remarks	Jon T. Locklear, President and Chief Executive Officer, Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperation (Invited)
Swearing-in Ceremony	11:00 am - 11:15 am
<p style="text-align: center;">Welcome and Introduction New and Returning Members of the Commission Greg Richardson, Executive Director</p> <p>New Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jarrett Crowe, Representing the Eastern Band of the Cherokee. (Replacing Carolyn West) <p>Returning members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ricky Burnett, Representing the Lumbee Tribe of NC • Lenora Locklear, Representing the Coharie Tribe • Helen Cook, Representing the Cumberland County Association for Indian People 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pamela Sunshine Richardson, Representing the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe • Walter D Baucom, Representing the Metrolina Native American Association, Inc. • Danny Bell, Representing the Triangle Native American Society, Inc. <p>Returning State Official: Craig D McMillian, Representing the Speaker of the House Appointee</p>	
<p align="center">Welcome and Introduction of the Presiding Officer Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman</p> <p align="center">The Honorable Matt Scott, District Attorney Robeson County, NC</p>	
	11:15 am - 11:30 am
Election of Officers	Chairman Burnett
Nomination for 2023-2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice-Chair • Secretary/Treasurer 	
Resolution Honoring Mrs. Shirley Freeman, Former Member, NC Commission of Indian Affairs	Chairman Burnett
Guest Presentations	11:30 am – 12:30 pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC Highway Historical Marker Program • New Program - Equity Briefing on RSV, COVID-19 and Influenza - Impact on American Indian Communities • Parks Planning - Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 	<p>Kerry Bird, Director, NC American Indian Heritage Commission, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources</p> <p>Catherine Guerrero, MPA, COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Lead, Division of Public Health, Epidemiology Section, NCDHHS</p> <p>Shweta Nanekar, Registered Landscape Architect, - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional, Building Design and Construction Parks Planning Practice Lead, McAdams</p> <p>Vonda Martin, NCDNCR, Division of Parks and Recreation</p>
Executive Director’s Report Staff Quarterly Program Reports (Included in Meeting Packet by	Gregory Richardson, Executive Director

email)	
Annual Report Approval	
Strategic Plan Update	Candace Lowry, Deputy Director
Lunch Break	12:30 pm – 1:00 pm
Committee Reports and Action Items Only	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
American Indian Culture and Religion Committee Briefing on Historic Cedar Point Archaeological Site and Impact of Development	Danny Bell, Chair
American Indian Housing Adhoc Land Trust	Elton Ray Jacobs, Chair
American Indian Health Committee (Victim Services) Mrs. Virginia Locklear, Director, Rape Crisis Center, Robeson County, NC	Greg Bryant, Chair
American Indian Education Committee American Indian Child Welfare Subcommittee	Dorothy Yates, Chair
Economic Development & Employment Committee Environmental Justice Agriculture	Craig McMillian, Chair
State Recognition Committee	Larece Hunt, Chair
Legislative Committee Legislative Agenda Discussion 2024-2025 DOA Legislative Updates - 2024-2025	Tony Hayes, Chair Wes Kyatt, Legislative Liaison NC Department of Administration
Other Items	
Flower Fund Report	Nadine Patrick, Secretary/ Treasurer, NC Commission of Indian Affairs
Items from Commission Members and Announcements	Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Adjournments	3:30 pm
Upcoming Commission Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 6, 2024 – Location to be announced (Campbell University is being considered) • March 6, 2025-Meeting be held in conjunction with the 	

2025 NC Indian Unity Conference - March 06-8, 2025,
Conference Location - Koury Convention Center,
Greensboro, NC

See the United Tribes Website for Details at:

<https://united-tribes.org/>

- June 7, 2025 – Location to be announced

Upcoming events:

- The 81st National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Convention and Market Place, Las Vegas, Nevada, From October 27 to November 2024, at the MGM Grand Las Vegas
<https://www.ncai.org/event/81st-annual-convention-and-marketplace>
- November 8, 2024, NC Indian Senior Citizens Coalition (NCISCC) Conference, 12:00 Noon to 8:00 pm, Sampson Expo Center, 414 Warsaw Road, Clinton, NC 28328
- November 23, 2024, 28th NC Indian Heritage Month Celebration, NC Museum of History, Raleigh, NC.
- March 6, 2025, Commission Meeting, Koury Convention Center, Greensboro, NC
- March 6-8, 2025, NC Indian Unity Conference, Koury Convention Center, Greensboro, NC

<https://united-tribes.org/>

New Commission Website:

Commission members are encouraged to review our new website at:

<https://www.doa.nc.gov/boards-commissions/commission-indian-affairs>