



**NORTH CAROLINA  
COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES  
Via Telephone Conference**

**December 4, 2020**

116 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699

**WELCOME:** Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:02 am with the quorum being present. He acknowledged and welcomed the Commission Members, Tribal Leaders, Chiefs, State Officials, staff, and guests to the December meeting.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** The agenda was accepted as consent item, with no objections. Action to adopt the agenda will be taken during the vote on all action items at one time before the close of the meeting.

**INVOCATION:** Rev. Burnett, Chairman, acknowledged Mr. Delton Stewart, who is undergoing a transplant surgery at Duke Hospital. Commissioner Larece Hunt, Lumbee Tribe, recited the opening prayer. Commission members and acknowledged, community members that were suffering from illnesses and the recent deceased family and friends were remembered at that time.

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

**ROLL CALL:** Chairman Burnett noted that when the name is announced the members need to respond by stating his/her name and affirmation as “present”.

Coharie	Isabell Freeman-Elliott	Absent
Coharie	Lenora Locklear	Present
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Helen Cook	Present
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Gladys Hunt	Present
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Sam Lambert	Present
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Carolyn West	Present
Guilford Native American Association	Vacant	Vacant
Guilford Native American Association	DeVane Burnette, Sr.	Present
Haliwa Saponi	Jeffrey Anstead	Present
Haliwa Saponi	Charles (Pete) Richardson	Present
Lumbee	Larece Hunt	Present
Lumbee	Ricky Burnett	Present
Lumbee	Furnie Lambert	Present
Meherrin	Constance Mitchell	Absent
Metrolina Native American Association	Walter D. Baucom	Absent
Metrolina Native American Association	Rebecca LaClaire	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 Chief Michael Jacobs Present

**STATE OFFICIALS**

President Pro Tem Appointee Daniel Locklear Present  
Speaker of the House Appointee Wanda Burns-Ramsey Present  
Department of Administration (DOA), Machel Sanders, Secretary  
Designee: Betty Marrow-Taylor, Deputy Secretary Absent  
Department of Commerce/ ESC, Anthony Copeland, Secretary  
Designee: George Sherrill, Chief of Staff Present  
Department of Environment Quality (DEQ), Michael Regan, Secretary  
Designee: John Nicholson, Deputy Secretary Present  
Representative: Sheila Holman, NCDEQ  
Department of Health & Human Services, Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary  
Designee: David Locklear, Deputy Director Absent  
Department of Labor, Cherie Berry, Commissioner  
Designee: Jennifer Haigwood Present  
Department of Cultural Resources, Advisor, John Mintz - **Non-Voting Member** Present

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE**

NCNAYO Brayden N Locklear - **Non-Voting Member** Absent  
NCNAYO Evynn Richardson (Co-Chair) - **Non-Voting Member** Absent  
NC NACOHE Joshua L Richardson - **Non-Voting Member** Present

**STAFF PRESENT**

Gregory Richardson, Executive Director  
Daphne Pinto, Administrative Secretary  
Kimberly Hammonds, Program Director, Economic Development Program &  
Supporting Undergraduate Native Students Program  
Pamela Brewington, Program Director, Low Income Energy Assistance Program  
Steven (Steve) Maynor, Program Director, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program  
Candace Lowry, Program Director, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Program  
Sue Faircloth, Field Staff, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Program  
Tenley (Nikki) Locklear, Program Director, Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program  
Beth Roach, Program Director, Tribal Resilience Program

**OTHER STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice

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



**ETHICS STATEMENT:** Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director, read the Ethics Statement on behalf of the Chairman Burnett. He urged Commission Members to declare any conflicts of interest, or the appearances of conflicts of interest, that may exist in relation to any business matters before the Commission, as mandated by the State Ethics Act. No conflicts were noted.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2020, MEETING MINUTES:** The minutes of the September 4, 2020, meeting were presented, as a consent item, no objection, by the membership. Therefore, it was tabled for action at the end of the meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Update:**

Dr. Connie Locklear, Title VI Indian Education Program, Director, Robeson County Schools National Indian Education Association (NIEA), Board Member presented the following:

- Discussed the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Membership
- Discussed the membership fees: Basic \$80, Professional \$150 (from July through June)
- Discussed the geographic distribution of NIEA members.
- Emphasized the importance of joining and being a member of NIEA and why “it is important to have a seat at the table, the importance of our voices to be heard and to be a part of the national Indian education discussions”.
- Discussed the advocacy and why it is important to meet and to get to know our Congressional Leaders.
- Discussed the importance of funding for Indian Education Programs.
- Commission members asked clarifying questions regarding membership. Dr. Locklear noted that they first “need to be a member”. Second “be part of Committee work at NIEA”, she explained the different sub-committees. Dr. Locklear informed that once a member and having been in a committee, when a position becomes available a member can run for a committee seat when it becomes available.
- Mr. Greg Richardson noted that the Commission of Indian Affairs has become a member of NIEA, and he expressed the benefits of the NIEA memberships.

The handout on “National Indian Education Association” are attached and is an official part of the minutes (**Attachment A**).

**American Indian Solar Energy Initiative:**

Laura Combs, Business Development, Director, Eagle Solar & Light, And Ethan Blumenthal, CEO of Good Solar, gave a brief overview. Handouts were included in the Board packet.

- Ms. Combs discussed solar incentives and benefits for non-profits.
- Discussed the HB 589 and its importance for solar energy.
- She pointed out that businesses can save up to 75% with solar incentives. Discussed types of incentives: Incentive 1, Incentive 2, and Incentive 3.
- Mr. Blumenthal, a co-presenter, discussed Good Solar and its renewal energy and energy efficiency solutions for nonprofits, tribes, and communities. He gave a brief overview on Vision, Mission, Services, Rooftop Solar, and Finances
- Mr. Greg Richardson informed members that they could email questions and he will forward the questions to Ms. Combs and Mr. Blumenthal.



The handouts regarding “Solar Incentives”, “Good Solar” and PowerPoint presentation are attached and are an official part of the minutes. (**Attachment B**)

**Partnerships, Government to Government relationships, and Environmental Justice and Equity challenges:**

Michael Regan, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) presented the following:

- He expressed the importance of partnership between Tribal Communities and NC Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) was for cultural preservation, air quality, water, and land.
- Strengthening government to government relationships have helped his leadership team. Secretary Regan noted that Mr. John Nicholson, designee at the Commission of Indian Affairs participates quarterly commission meetings.
- It was noted that DEQ is ready to discuss successful government to government partnerships, especially with tribal communities, discuss issues or topics of concern within our state that will impact the NC tribal communities.
- Discussed the Mission of NC DEQ: Site based environmental prosperity of all North Carolinians Stewardship health and prosperity of all North Carolinians. He noted that NC DEQ will work towards inclusion, demand equity, and celebrate the diversity of the people of our great state.
- Discussed the importance of clean air and clean water for present time and future generations to come.
- Discussed the Environmental Justice and Equity Board and its members. Expressed the goal “Work of DEQ and interest of the tribes and protection of land and water”.
- Indicated that protecting natural resources is important and critical to the future of our state.
- Discussed the Economic Interest and the importance of the Andrea Harris Task Force. Indicated that the Commission’s Executive Director, Greg Richardson, Serves on that Task Force.
- Discussed water quality and protection of rivers, cultural and natural resources as well. Share the same responsibility to work together.
- Discussed social and racial inequity needs.
- Secretary Regan discussed in brief the Atlantic Coastal Pipeline (ACP). He informed the Commission that the tribal outreach began immediately.
- Discussed Governor Cooper’s Climate Change Executive Order.
- Discussed Climate Resiliency and Climate Planning. What Climate change impact means to tribal communities and its impact throughout the state.
- Discussed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and legislative changes.
- Secretary Regan thanked members for the opportunity to work in partnership with Commission and tribal communities.

**Comments from Commission:**

- Chairman Rev. Burnett thanked Secretary Regan for his presentation, leadership, and dedication. He extended an invitation to visit all tribal communities.
- Chairman Rev. Burnett also thanked the previous presenters Dr. Connie Locklear, Ms. Combs, and Mr. Blumenthal for copies of their presentations.

\*\*Following the December Commission Meeting. Secretary Regan was nominated by the Biden Administrator to serve as Secretary of the US Department of Environmental Protection.

No handout was provided.



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs, noted that due to time constraints he will only give highlights of his quarterly report and that a copy of the is included in the meeting packet.

Program Director Quarterly Briefing - Included in the packet.

- Received \$260,000 per year for three years, total \$780,000 for a new grant funding for Victims of Human Trafficking in Native Communities (VHT-NC). The effective date of the grant is October 1, 2020 and will end Oct 30, 2023.
- Gave an overview of the COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on the work of the Commission this quarter.
- Contact Tracing Staff – 25 American Indian Contact Tracers were hired in the state this quarter because of the commission's advocacy work.
- 2020 Indian Heritage Month Proclamation was issued by Governor Cooper.
- 2020 Indian Heritage Month Celebration – Was held Virtually and was well attended.
- Governor's Interstate Indian Council (GIIC) – Was held Virtually and was well attended.
- National Congress of American Indians Annual Convention – Was held Virtual and NC Tribes were well represented during the convention.
- Governor's Hometown Strong Initiative is still reaching out to tribal communities.
- Acknowledged Mrs. Sue Faircloth retirement December 31, 2020. Mr. Greg Richardson thanked her dedicated years of service. Ms. Faircloth has completed 37 years with the NC State. Mrs. Faircloth was presented with her state retirement certificate.
- The Executive Director Report was accepted as consent item, no objection and action to adopt the Executive Director Report will be taken when action items are voted on at the end of the meeting.

The handout "Executive Director Report" is attached and is an official part of the minutes (**Attachment C**)

**FLOWER FUND REPORT:** Ms. Wanda Burns-Ramsey, Secretary/ Treasurer, presented the following:

- Flower Fund: Balance is \$ 440.39. Ms. Wanda announced that a contribution of \$6 per quarter is donated by members and that a check can be mailed to her each quarter or members can pay the entire total for the year or \$24.00.

No handout was provided.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Chairman Rev. Burnett announced that only action items to be reported.

Adhoc Goals Committee – No Action Item

Adhoc Indian Health Committee – No Action Item

#### Presentation

Historically Marginalized Population and Clinical Research – Ms. Jessica Saucier, Associate Director, Clinical Trial Educator, Research and Development Solutions, Clinical Trial Educator. She gave a brief overview. The following was discussed:

- Clinical Research (CR) bringing new medication to the community. Volunteer research study for safety, risk, and wellbeing.



- COVID-19 Inequities (Racial and Ethnicity)
- Clinical Trial (CT) Process
- Diversity and why it was important.
- New medication or treatment must be conducted based on age, race, ethnicity, weight, and sex.
- Noted that white, black, or Hispanic may react different to medication.
- Indicated that Clinical Research can be complicated. How CR has changed and evolved over the years to ensure human rights are protected throughout the process.
- Expressed all Clinical Trials must follow strict process. It is completely voluntary. Before enrolling for Clinical Trials (CT), participants must sign a consent form between the researcher and volunteer to make sure everything is outlined.
- Indicated that safety is a top priority in Clinical Trials. Ms. Saucier discussed in brief the safety protocol with regards to the pharmaceutical companies.
- In conclusion, Ms. Saucier shared her email address and web link [www.ensemble.com](http://www.ensemble.com)

The handouts “Information Brochure on Clinical Research Study and COVID-19 Inequities” are attached and are an official part of the minutes (**Attachment D & E**)

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued):**

**Adhoc Land Trust Committee** - No Action Item

**Veterans Committee** - No Action Item. Chair Sam Lambert reminded everyone about the December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for Veterans Award nominations. He also requested a donation of \$100 from each tribe and association to offset the cost of the 2021 Veterans awards.

**Cultural Resources Committee** – Chair Danny Bell recommended the action items as follows: To establish American Indian Heritage Commission with the Cultural Resources Committee.

No handout was provided.

#### **Comments from Commission Members:**

- Chairman Rev. Burnett asked if there was any objection. None responded. Chairman Rev. Burnett noted that the recommendation from the Cultural Resources Committee will be placed on the consent agenda and voted at the end of the meeting.

**Employment and Training Committee** - No Action Item

**Environmental Justice Committee** - No Action Item

**Indian Child Welfare Committee** - No Action Item

**Indian Education Committee** – Chair Ms. Dorothy Yates, reminded everyone that the Committee needs applications for the SACIE vacancies and that they are due on February 1, 2021, so that they can be voted on at the March Commission meeting.

Terms expiring June 30, 2021, was noted as follows:

- Alicia Leyva, Parent; Coharie; (Completing first term, eligible for nomination)



- Kamiyo Lanning, Parent; Eastern Band of Cherokee (Completing first term, eligible for nomination)
- Reah Jacobs, Educator; Waccamaw-Siouan (Completing first term, eligible for nomination)
- Connie Harland, Parent; Lumbee (Completing second term, not eligible for nomination)
- Will Paul, Educator; Sappony (Completing second term, not eligible for nomination)

**Comments from Commission Members:**

- Mr. Greg Richardson asked Chair Yates if notification letters have been sent out to Tribes and Organizations.
- Chair Yates indicated that letters had not gone out, but they would be sent out following the Commission meeting.

**Indian Housing Committee - No Action Item**

**Legislative Committee – No Action Item**

Mr. Tony Hayes, Chair, thanked everyone for their prayers for the loss of his stepson who passed away a in November.

The following legislative agenda items was discussed:

- HB 589, Solar Energy Bill
- Funding request for \$100,000, for State Recognition Program at the Commission of Indian Affairs
- Funding request for Assistant Director within the Commission of Indian Affairs and advised the commission that this position is in the Governor's budget.
- Birth Certificate – Race to be indicated on the Birth Certificate (Issues re legislative movement concerning in NC race being placed on the birth certificate)
- American Indian Legislative Caucus in NC General Assembly
- Amendments to Chapter 71A of the NC General Statutes - the Executive Director expressed concerns with regards to any amendments or changes to Chapter 71A

No handout was provided.

**Comments from Commission Members:**

- Chairman Rev. Burnett asked if there was any objection. None responded. Chairman Rev. Burnett noted that the recommendation from the Legislative Committee will be placed on the consent agenda and voted at the end of the meeting, however, the Chapter 71A item would not be considered.

**Recognition Committee –** Mr. Larece Hunt, Chair, advised the membership that the Committee has recommended Funding request for \$100,000, for State Recognition Program at the Commission of Indian Affairs.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Tribal Announcements from Commission Members:** Commission members announced their upcoming events.



**FUTURE MEETING DATES & EVENTS:** The meeting dates were listed on the agenda.

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

Motion on the consent items was conducted. Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director read the consent items on behalf of Chairman Rev. Burnett as follows:

- Adoption of Agenda, December 4, 2020
- Approval of September 4, 2020, Meeting Minutes
- NIEA Report – Re Membership
- Executive Director Report

**Committees:**

- Cultural Resources Committee - Committee Chair Danny Bell
  - Action Item – To establish American Indian Heritage Commission within the Cultural Resources Committee. Jeff Anstead, Commission Member questioned this item but did not clarify to “Remove” the item from the consent item. (He did not request that this item be removed so it was not clear as to whether this item would remain under consideration).
- Legislative Committee – Legislative Agenda
  - HB 589, Solar Energy Bill
  - Funding request for \$100,000 for Commission’s State Recognition Program
  - Funding request for Assistant Director within the Commission of Indian Affairs
  - Birth Certificate - Race to be indicated on the Birth Certificate (Legislation to require race on birth certificate in NC).
  - American Indian Legislative Caucus in NC General Assembly
  - Chapter 71A – Greg requested that the Commission take a closer look at this item and urged caution with any effort to amend or change 71A.
  - Chapter 71A – Commission voted to “remove” this item from the Consent Agenda, as further discussion is needed.

Commission members Dorothy Yates, Charles Richardson, Larece Hunt, Gladys Hunt requested the Chairman to remove Chapter 71 A from the Legislative Agenda. Chairman Rev. Burnett asked the Commission to confirm this motion. With no objection from other members, Chairman Rev. Burnett stated that “Chapter 71 A” be removed from the Consent Agenda.

**Vote-Roll Call:**

Members	Yes	No	Remarks
Isabell Freeman-Elliott			<b>Absent</b>
Lenora Locklear	<b>Yes</b>		
Helen Cook	<b>Yes</b>		
Gladys Hunt	<b>Yes</b>		
Sam Lambert	<b>Yes</b>		
Carolyn West	<b>Yes</b>		
Vacant – N/A			





DeVane Burnett, Sr.	Yes		
Jeffrey Anstead	Yes		
Charles Richardson	Yes		
Larece Hunt	Yes		
Furnie Lambert	Yes		
Ricky Burnett	Yes		
Constant Mitchell			Absent
Rebecca LaClaire	Yes		
Walter D. Baucom			Absent
Tony Hayes	Yes		
Dorothy Yates	Yes		
Danny Bell	Yes		
Elton R Jacobs	Yes		
Michael Jacobs	Yes		
Daniel Locklear	Yes		
Wanda Burns-Ramsey	Yes		
<b>State Officials</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Betty Marrow-Taylor			Absent
George Sherrill or Robert Collins			No comment
John Nicholson			No comment
David Locklear			No comment
Jennifer Haigwood			No comment

**Total:** 19-members voted “Yes”. Mr. Greg Richardson noted that a quorum was still in effect; therefore, these actions are official at this time.


**Motion:** Commissioner Jeffrey Anstead made a motion to approve the consent items as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Charles Richardson. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With there being no further items to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Furnie Lambert. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Charles Richardson. Motion carried. The

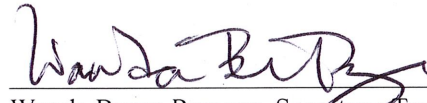


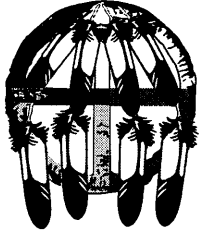
meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the meeting will be held via conference call.

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

 3-11-21  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Daphne Pinto, Recording Secretary  
(Sign & Date)

*These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs on March 11, 2021.*

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



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

**By Conference Call**  
**1-877-810-9415**  
**Access Code: 8060945**

**December 4, 2020**  
**10:00 am to 12:00 pm**  
**DRAFT AGENDA**

<b>Opening Session</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
Call to Order & Adopt Agenda	Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Invocation	Rev. / Chief Michael Jacobs, Commission Member
Pledge of Allegiance	Furnie Lambert, Commission Member
Roll Call	Daphne Pinto, Administrative Assistant
Ethics Statement	Greg Richardson, Executive Director
Approval of September 4, 2020, Meeting Minutes	Ricky Burnett, Chairman
<b>Presentations:</b>	
National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Update	Dr. Connie Locklear, Title VI Indian Education Program, Director, Robeson County Schools National Indian Education Association, Board Member
Proposed American Indian Solar Energy Initiative	Laura Combs, Business Development, Director, Eagle Solar & Light And Ethan Blumenthal, CEO of Good Solar
Strengthening Government to Government Communications, Building Effective Partnerships and Tackling Environmental Justice	Michael Regan, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
<b>Executive Director Report</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Director's Report</li> <li>• Quarterly Program Reports (copies included in packet)</li> </ul>	Greg Richardson, Executive Director
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flower Fund Report</li> </ul>	Wanda Burns-Ramsey, Secretary/Treasurer

<b>Committee Reports – Only Reports with Action Items will be addressed.</b>	
Adhoc Goals Committee	Wanda Burns-Ramsey, Chair

Adhoc Indian Health-Presentation  Historically Marginalized Populations and Clinical Research Jessica Saucier, BSN, RN Associate Director, Clinical Trial Educator Research and Development Solutions	Charles Richardson, Chair
Adhoc Land Trust	Furnie Lambert, Chair
Veterans • Nominations - Veteran Awards for 2021 Indian Unity Conference – Discussion	Sam Lambert, Chair
Cultural Resources	Danny Bell, Chair
Employment & Training	W D Baucom, Chair
Environmental Justice	Jeffrey Anstead, Chair
Indian Child Welfare • 2021 Indian Child Welfare Gathering – Discussion	Carolyn West, Chair
Indian Education	Dorothy Yates, Chair
Indian Housing	Elton Ray Jacobs, Chair
Legislative	Tony Hayes, Chair
Recognition	Larece Hunt, Chair
<b>Announcements from Commission Members</b>	<b>(2 Minutes Only)</b>

<b>Adjournment</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>
<b>2021 Future Meeting Dates &amp; Events</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>March 11, 2021</b> – Commission Meeting (Due to the pandemic meeting may not be held in conjunction with the NC Indian Unity Conference-Plans are still in the works)	Via Conference Call
March 11-12, 2021 – 46 <sup>th</sup> Annual NC Indian Unity Conference	Virtual Conference
<b>June 4, 2021</b> – Commission Meeting- <b>Conference call</b>	Location, TBD
<b>September 3, 2021</b> – Commission Meeting	Location, TBD
<b>December 3, 2021</b> – Commission Meeting	Location, TBD

