

**Commission of Indian Affairs  
Quarterly Commission Meeting  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
March 11, 2010**

Chairman Paul Brooks called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with a quorum being present. He then gave the welcome and introductions.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Coharie	Isabell Freeman-Elliott
Coharie	Don Carter
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Roy Maynor
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Barbara Melvin
Eastern Band of Cherokee	Patrick Lambert
Guilford Native American Association	Julia Phipps
Haliwa Saponi	Ruth Ealing
Haliwa Saponi	Barry Richardson
Lumbee	Larece Hunt
Lumbee	Furnie Lambert
Lumbee	Daniel Jones
Metrolina Native American Association	Earlene Stacks
Metrolina Native American Association	Barbara Locklear
Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation	Sharn Jeffries
Sappony	Shelia Wilson
Triangle Native American Society	Brett Locklear
Waccamaw Siouan	Lila Spaulding
Waccamaw Siouan	Elton Jacobs
President Pro Tem Appointee	Paul Brooks

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Guilford Native American Association	Ruth Revels
Speaker of the House Appointee	Ray Littleturtle

**STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Department of Labor: Cherie Berry, Commissioner  
Representative- Tiffany Lathan  
Department of Environment & Natural Resources: Dee Freeman, Secretary  
Designee: David Knight  
Department of Administration: Moses Carey Jr., Secretary  
Designee: June Michaux

**STATE OFFICIALS ABSENT**

Department of Health and Human Services: Lanier Cansler, Secretary  
Designee: Maria Spaulding  
Employment Security Commission: Lynn R. Holmes, Chairperson  
Designee: Patrice Fields

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT**

LeAnn Martin, Assistant Attorney General

**LEGISLATIVE LIAISON PRESENT**

Christy Agner

**STAFF PRESENT**

Greg Richardson, Executive Director  
Alexandria Eubanks, Administrative Assistant  
Sue Brewington, Workforce Development Coordinator  
Missy Brayboy, Director, Health Initiative  
Elk Richardson, Director, Workforce Investment Act Program  
Sadie Barbour, Director, Community Services Program  
Mickey Locklear, Director, Educational Talent Search  
Kerry Bird, Program Director, NOT on Tobacco Program  
Consuela Richardson, Educational Talent Search  
Colmorene Wilson, Community Services Program

**OTHERS PRESENT** - A list of others present is on file at the Commission office

**SECRETARY MOSES CAREY JR.**

Chairman Brooks introduced the special guest; the new Secretary of the Dept of Administration, Moses Carey Jr.

Secretary Carey began by noting that he has been around a long time and gave his greetings from Governor Perdue. He said that he has been in this position for a week and a half and he still has a lot to learn about the Commission's goals and priorities. He said that he knows that the Commission will continue to work hard to help the American Indian community. Secretary Carey then made comments about what the Governor's team is meant to do and their priorities. He thanked the Commission for inviting him and allowing him to make a few comments. He then notified the Commission that Anne Bander is the new COO of the Department of Administration.

## **GOLDEN LEAF FOUNDATION, DAN GERLACH**

Chairman Brooks introduced the next speaker, President of the Golden Leaf Foundation Dan Gerlach. He has been President since Sept. 2008. Mr. Gerlach noted that Chairman Brooks is one of the newest board members and the first American Indian on the board. Judge Wake Barber, who signed the order recognizing the Ocannechi Band of Saponi Nation, is also on the board. He described the importance of investing money in projects that will help to rebuild the economy. He discussed having an open grant cycle and how as we redevelop, we need to have the skills ready. He also talked about their partnership with a self help program, access to capital problems and how they are working on broadband in education so your children will have the same opportunities as others. The foundation will invest in your communities and that the door is open to talk about whatever; they are prepared to do more.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE AND ETHICS STATEMENT**

Commissioner Furnie Lambert led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Richardson then paraphrased the Ethics Statement for the meeting. Introductions were then made around the room.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Brooks asked if there are any changes to the minutes of December 2009, minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting and the minutes of the February Commission meeting. Commissioner Roy Maynor made a motion to accept the minutes; Commissioner Sheila Wilson seconded the motion. Commissioner Lambert noted a misspell in the Executive Director Report. Minutes are approved.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT- GREG RICHARDSON**

Mr. Richardson began by noting that this is a very historic meeting held in conjunction with the 35 Annual NC Indian Unity Conference. He said that he could remember 35 years ago during first Unity Conference. He is proud of what it has accomplished and the many programs the Commission has become apart of. He is proud in knowing that here in NC we have a lot of activities that we can be apart of that are not found in our neighboring states. He said that there is strong American Indian leadership in the state and tribal leaders who have come to join in the event.

Mr. Richardson highlighted the major and important things in his Director's Report. He began by discussing the Statement of Economic Interest and how Commissioners are required to submit the SEI form. He said that everyone has had time to fill those out and hopefully by now all members are in place with those forms because if you don't comply

there is a significant dollar fine. He then discussed Secretary Carey and how his background and experience is very appropriate to the position that he serves in.

Mr. Richardson then talked about the 2010 Census and how forms are due by April 1<sup>st</sup>. He discussed the major push by tribal leaders to make sure that our people are counted and how the census count is very important towards the funds we receive and our recognition. Another way we can achieve a form of recognition is to make sure that our people are counted and represented. He went on to say that Mr. Hatcher will be on the program for the conference and we will have a unique opportunity to see tribal leaders from the neighboring states present for the Census day on Friday and how it is a good opportunity to collaborate with other leaders.

Mr. Richardson then addressed budget issues. He noted that NC is not alone in this. He had to submit a budget reduction break in 3%, 5%, and 7%. He said that it is not something that we can afford but it could be a lot worse. Mr. Richardson then discussed the major strategic planning effort by DOA which ended in December and now they are in the performance phase of planning. Data will be put on the DOA webpage each month. Christy Agner, the legislative liaison will track and follow all our legislative items when the General Assembly comes in May.

Mr. Richardson then concluded his report and noted that the reports by program directors are in the Commission member packets as well as a list of action items from the previous meetings. The winter newsletter is now on the Commission webpage.

### **State Capitol Memorial- Mike Hill, Research Supervisor**

Mr. Richardson introduced Mr. Mike Hill and discussed the efforts to make some changes at the state capitol. American Indians aren't recognized at the state capitol and the state capitol memorial wants to hear from communities about what they would like to see at the state capitol.

Mr. Mike Hill began by talking about plans for changes at the capitol. He mentioned that he is with Deanna Mitchell and Michelle with the state capitol and they would be passing out handouts and copies of PowerPoint presentations. Mr. Hill noted that there is scarcely any representation of American Indians, African Americans or Women at the capitol which isn't good for students or tourists to see. He said that their governing board established a committee to change this and they welcome your input and understand that NC is diverse. They could recommend figurative work or non figurative work, depicting not one person or people but landmarks also. Everything is in granite and marble. They understand they need to be culturally sensitive to American Indians. They will not recommend removal of existing monuments even though some are focal points of criticism. He then closed by saying that his contact information is listed and the committees information is on the handout as well as a reference to their blog.

Barbara Locklear asked Mr. Hill if they have thought of choosing an American Indian artist to create a work that represents American Indian people. Mr. Hill explained that they will definitely consider that.

### **Identity Theft- Caroline Farmer, DOJ**

Caroline Farmer was not present.

### **Community Development Training**

Barry Blevins was not present.

Missy Brayboy, Sadie Barbour and Colmorene Wilson provided a work session on Community Services.

Missy Brayboy discussed the importance of talking to your tribal council about the programs they are going after and to make sure that they include community development in those proposals.

Sadie Barbour explained some of the activities that they are doing along with Colmorene Wilson. They are working with low energy and weatherization programs and how you can read more about what they are doing in the report in the Commission packets. Colmorene Wilson works in Warren and Halifax County as an outreach worker. They are working very hard to reach all low income needy people to have repairs made to their homes and have their homes weatherized. They have made progress, however they need everyone to help get more funding for the elderly and low income people to pay their fuel bills.

Sadie explained that during the past year they had a lot of people on a waiting list but also a lot of people who received services. They have people who need urgent repairs but no one has the money. There is more energy and stimulus money but it's not for repairs. Sadie said that they're helping people but not helping some in the way that some need.

Mr. Richardson confirmed that they need to work on how to keep the funding flowing to our communities. He said that we have a small population and our people tend to fall through the cracks. He noted hearing about major cuts in the Indian housing program and said that they need the Commission's help and we're going to need a lot more advocacy.

### **Indian Child Welfare Initiative- Dr. Kidwell**

Dr. Kidwell with the American Indian Center at UNC discussed the Indian child welfare Initiative. She took the lead in organizing many meetings and pulling together people to help with this issue. There are three pieces of legislation, Indian child welfare act, legislation dealing with ethnic placement, and another saying that similar situations and placements should be made. The task force has been working with representatives within

the state and now counties. The main concern is how American Indian children are appropriately identified and how tribes and tribal communities can help and their role in the placement of children and training as well. They developed a structure to keep organized. There has been an ad hoc effort by the center to help the commission. It is essential that communities and organizations be involved in this. Need to have tribes actively involved. The workshop in the program scheduled for Friday afternoon will give you a clearer overview of the work of the taskforce.

Mr. Richardson noted that Chairman Brooks is now Chairman of the Finance Committee with the Golden Leaf Foundation.

Mr. Richardson discussed the new Committee appointed by the Speaker of the House, the State House Study Committee on the Preservation of Culture and Customs of Indian Children. Next meeting is March 16, 2010.

### **Meherrin Court Case**

LeAnn Martin came forward to discuss the Meherrin tribe court case. LeAnn Martin gave a report on the Meherrin Indian tribe case. On February 2, the Commission held a hearing to render a final decision on the case. Since then, the tribe represented by Barry Nakell has filed a petition for judicial review through the Supreme Court, second petition and amendment to the second petition. This renders procedural reviews on the manner in which the Commission conducted the hearing. On March 29 there will be a trial to determine to affirm the decision the commission made or the court can modify the decision. The court could remand it back to the Commission. We hope to report a near conclusion to that matter next time we meet. LeAnn would like to also advise that the Hertford County case is still pending in Hertford county superior court.

### **NC Indian Cultural Center**

A recommended decision has been issued by the administrative law judge and therefore that matter is now before the Commission for a final decision

Larece Hunt made motion to go into closed session, Barry Richardson seconded. Chairman Brooks announced that we are now in closed session.

### **Open Session**

Chairman Brooks announced that the Commission was back in open session. Sharn Jeffries read the motion “to accept the recommended decision of the administrative law judge except where such decision is inconsistent with NC Law in those instances it is the decision that the Commission will abide by NC law.” Commissioner Barry Richardson seconded. There were zero no votes. The motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Adhoc Land Trust**

Commissioner Furnie Lambert said that the committee hasn't received any movement

### **Veterans**

Commissioner Furnie Lambert said that a community based outpatient unit should be opening this spring in Pembroke in April or May. Commissioner Lambert noted that it would save our veterans a lot of money. Going to include veterans from parts of South Carolina. Secretary's advisory committee on minority veterans traveling to San Diego. Veteran's office at the tribe is attempting another grant for homeless veterans' shelter.

### **Adhoc Legislative**

Commissioner Roy Maynor had nothing to report. There was a motion for this body to vote on a confirmation for our director and confidence in his work. Commissioner Maynor would like for the board to recommend a vote of confidence. Commissioner Furnie Lambert seconded. Commissioner Earlene Stacks asked to expand that vote of confidence to all the staff. Commissioner Roy Maynor would also like to expand the motion to include all the staff as well. Commissioner Barry Richardson thinks it is inappropriate to vote to include all staff. Commissioner Brett Locklear disagrees and believes that Greg can't do his job without the assistance of his staff and that the body should vote to recognize Greg and his entire staff as well. Commissioner Earlene Stacks asked Commissioner Roy Maynor what he thinks. Commissioner Barry Richardson says the staff isn't the issue, he's looking at it as a supervisor and if the staff doesn't work up to standards down the road. Brett Locklear noted that you can't forecast the future. Paul Brooks asked for no votes. Barry Richardson is the only person with a no-vote. Motion is to give Greg and the staff a vote of confidence. Zero no votes.

### **Cultural and Religion**

Commissioner Larece Hunt asked for an update on Commissioner Littleturtle. He is in the process of getting ready to go into dialysis. He has problems with that and stress factors from being a veteran. He is a genuine patriot and citizen of the Commission. Let us all honor him. He sends his love to everyone.

### **Economic Development and Employment**

Ruth Revels is not in attendance. Mr. Richardson says that she isn't feeling well and busy on preparing the Unity Conference program booklet. She will be at the conference. Kimberly Hammonds gave an update. There was a blog given on the Governors blog page on the S.U.N.S program and it was a very positive review.

Elkton Richardson passed out a handout. DOL met last week. He gave a general overview of the Native American workforce programs. The SGA for Section 166 WIA program is set to go out on the Federal Register any day now. Make sure that all your grant applications get done in time and are completed accurately.

Chairman Paul Brooks asked how many people present will have a child graduating from high school and going to college. He mentioned that Golden Leaf gives 200 scholarships each year. He will see if they can get Golden Leaf money for youth in our communities. Need to increase the amount. Chairman Brooks noted that he believes it would be better if they limit the applications to 150 and go to \$10,000 a year.

There is an interest in Golden Leaf to expanding scholarships to Graduate Programs and in helping secondary education markets.

Commissioner Ruth Ealing doesn't believe that we should reduce the number of students that receive scholarships, but just increase the total scholarship amount.

Commissioner Barry Richardson asked for data on how many students within our communities received the scholarships.

Commissioner Brett Locklear asked if the scholarship was need based or merit based. He believes that students in rural settings aren't as competitive. Suggests that Golden Leaf should help students to apply and compete for scholarships. They should teach students how to be articulate and how to appropriately sell themselves to make them more competitive. He believes there should be an initiative to show students how to find funding and navigate.

Chairman Brooks also noted that there is a leadership program in Greensboro. Commissioner Brett Locklear also asked that a set number of seats be allocated for American Indian students. Chairman Brooks would also like for the Commission to make the decision on who gets the scholarships.

Commissioner Don Carter discussed the dropouts of students in his tribe, the Coharie Tribe. He learned during an after school program that American Indian students in Sampson County are afraid to speak up.

Chairman Brooks discussed what the Lumbee tribe has been working on for education. He discussed the use of broadband.

### **Education**

Commissioner Earlene Stacks talked about the American Indian fund and asked the Commission to contribute to it. They do have money coming in on a fairly regular basis but from only a few people. Haven't gotten a 501C3 yet, and have been told recently that



IRS regulations have changed. The committee is trying to have a meeting with a group to come up with wording to satisfy the IRS. She talked about the NCNAYO community project. They only had one community meeting with the “Youth Gives” project.

Commissioner Stacks also talked about the State Advisory Council and how everyone is invited to attend a meeting. There was discussion over the need to change legislation so that every tribe and organization can have a representative on the council and whether to aim for this during the short session or long session. Mr. Richardson suggested that they continue to do this during the short session. Mrs. Stacks expressed the concern over the number of Talent Search programs in schools being cut.

Consuela Richardson announced that the large majority of their Talent Search students are going to college and that two of their students are finalists for the Gates Scholarship.

Tribal consultation in Washington, D.C. and the Department of Education was discussed and how the definition of tribes was discussed and how there is risk of funding being cut from non-Federally recognized tribes. Drafting a possible resolution in response to this was discussed.

### **Health and Community Services**

Mr. Richardson relayed information for Dr. Cummings. The Indian Health Board is not going on to incorporate with a non-profit or organization, but are partnering with an institute in Wake Forest where Dr. Bell is employed. Dr. Bell will volunteer to work with the Indian Health Board and their project through Wake Forest.

### **Human Resources**

Commissioner Ruth Ealing noted that they haven't had a meeting since January.

### **Recognition**

Commissioner Larece Hunt said that they have not met during this quarter. He also mentioned that Commissioner Furnie Lambert and others had a meeting with other State Recognized tribes at the White House.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The importance of the U.S. Census was discussed and how vital it is that all American Indians be counted and accurately. There are still Census positions open for employment.

Commissioner Lambert mentioned that the Lumbee Powwow will be held April 30, 2010. Haliwa-Saponi Annual Powwow April 16-18, 2010.

Commissioner Brett Locklear had a question about the budget and the cuts in 3, 5, and 7%. He discussed the amount of Federal funding that the Commission brings in to the state and asked how the cuts could impact the Commission. Mr. Richardson advised the Commission that the cuts would come out of the funding left over and provided from the Commission's previous lease and old office building. Should find out in a couple of weeks about the budget cuts taken from the Commission. The state deficit is around \$300,000,000. Budget cuts aren't just coming from the Commission, but the entire DOA. Mr. Richardson also added that the Commission is working on getting another Substance Abuse grant that will bring in more funding as well. Commissioner Locklear believes that the Commission needs to be proactive instead of reactive.

Mr. Richardson asked the Commission and others to plan to attend county commission meetings and look for stimulus money. Generating a lot of revenue through this state through our Indian Organizations and Tribes.

Mr. Richardson discussed E North Carolina, broadband. Email from E North Carolina folks. They sent out a survey and we need to respond. Jane Patterson is leading the process.

Mr. Richardson mentioned that Chris Pierce wanted to talk about economic development, heading up an organization called UIDE business services.

Long term project is the Commission's video project. Dr. Nick will move ahead with the Commission's video project.

Mr. Richardson further discussed the 2010 census. Pay attention to spelling your tribe right. Make sure that the head of household fills out the form if you want to be labeled as American Indian. Encourage others to just put down American Indian. Census director will be at the conference tomorrow. Census invited tribes from our region and will have a Census luncheon. Any seats that are left are fair game besides the ones that are reserved.

Barry Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Furnie Lambert seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 12:52 pm.

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Lila Spaulding, Secretary/Treasurer