

Commission of Indian Affairs
 Quarterly Commission Meeting
 North Carolina Indian Economic Development Initiative
 5800 Faringdon Place
 Raleigh, North Carolina
 December 4, 2009

Chairman Paul Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. with a quorum being present. Commissioner Furnie Lambert led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Roy Maynor offered the Invocation.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Coharie	Don Carter
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Roy Maynor
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Barbara Melvin
Guilford Native American Association	Ruth Revels
Haliwa Saponi	Ruth Ealing
Haliwa Saponi	Barry Richardson
Lumbee	Larece Hunt
Lumbee	Furnie Lambert
Lumbee	Donald Jones
Metrolina Native American Association	Barbara Locklear
Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation	Sharn Jeffries
Sappony	Shelia Wilson
Triangle Native American Society	Brett Locklear
President Pro Tem Appointee	Paul Brooks

MEMBERS ABSENT

Coharie	Isabell Freeman-Elliott
Eastern Band of Cherokee	Patrick Lambert
Guilford Native American Association	Julia Phipps
Metrolina Native American Association	Earlene Stacks
Waccamaw Siouan	Lila Spaulding
Waccamaw Siouan	Elton Jacobs
Speaker of the House Appointee	Ray Littleturtle

STATE OFFICIALS PRESENT

Department of Labor: Cherie Berry, Commissioner
 Designee: Tina Morris-Anderson
 Employment Security Commission: Moses Carey, Jr., Chairman
 Designee: Patrice Fields
 Department of Administration: Britt Cobb, Secretary

Designee: June Michaux, (Gretchen Aycock, General Counsel for The Secretary represented the Deputy Secretary during the opening of the meeting)

STATE OFFICIALS ABSENT

Department of Environment & Natural Resources: Dee Freeman, Secretary

Designee: David Knight

Department of Health and Human Services: Lanier Cansler, Secretary

Designee: Maria Spaulding

ADHOC HEALTH COMMITTEE CHAIR

Robin Cummings

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

LeAnn Martin, Assistant Attorney General

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON PRESENT

Christy Agner

STAFF PRESENT

Greg Richardson, Executive Director

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

Sonya McIver, Program Assistant, Section 8 Housing Program

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

ETHICS STATEMENT

Greg Richardson read the Ethics Statement on behalf of Chairman Brooks. No conflicts of interests were reported.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Brooks asked for corrections to the September meeting minutes. Commissioner Larece Hunt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Furnie Lambert, that the minutes be approved as documented. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – GREGORY RICHARDSON

Mr. Richardson reviewed his report with the membership (Attachment 1).

Restrictions remain in effect on state-appropriated funds expenditures. Additional cuts are possible for the next quarter.

The Executive Director attended the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Convention in November. Jefferson Keel was elected as the new president NCAI. Archie Lynch, Tribal Administrator, Haliwa Saponi Tribe, was re-elected as Vice President for the South Eastern Region, and Larry Townsend was elected as the alternate.

On November 3, the Executive Director represented the region during the blessing of the NCAI's American Indian Embassy in Washington, DC, and provided tobacco for use in the blessing ceremony.

NCAI is considering North Carolina as a site its 2013 Annual Conference. The Executive Director urged the tribes and organizations to support this effort by sending letters to President Keel. He also urged each tribe to become a member of NCAI.

The Strategic Plan of the Department of Administration has been fully implemented. Performance data for the Commission will be available for viewing on the website in 2010.

A contract was awarded to complete a utilities allowance survey for the Section 8 Housing Program. Data will be provided to the Commission at the completion of the survey. The Section 8 Housing Program has applied for and received \$336,000 in additional funding for housing payments. The Commission serves 936 units at this time.

The Administrative Secretary position for the Commission has been approved and will be filled on a temporary basis during the next quarter. Interested candidates should contact the Executive Director for information about the position and/or to obtain information about the application process.

Approximately 9,000 people attended the 2009 Indian Heritage Month Celebration at the NC Museum of History in Raleigh on November 21. The Indian Heritage Month Celebration is now the largest event held at the Museum.

The winter edition of the Indian Times Newsletter is available on the Commission's webpage. The Commission membership was encouraged to review it and share the information with the Indian community.

Commissioner Roy Maynor made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Locklear, that the Commission's Annual Report be approved as submitted. Comments were made regarding corrections. It was recommended that the members of the Commission have 30 days to submit any changes or corrections to the report, after which time the final report will be produced for publication. Motion carried.

The Governor's Complete Count Committee has been authorized, and a meeting will be held soon to roll out the work of the committee. The Executive Director encouraged the tribes to become engaged in the 2010 US Census to assure that we have a complete count of the American Indian Communities in North Carolina during the upcoming Census.

There was discussion regarding the White House Conference on American Indians, which was held in November, and the fact that state-recognized Indians were not invited to the meeting. Commissioner Brett Locklear made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Barry Richardson, that a letter be sent to President Obama, with copies to the cabinet secretaries, stating the concerns of our state-recognized tribes and the implications of not being included in such high-level meetings with the Administration. Further, it was recommended that a meeting be scheduled between President Obama and state-recognized tribal officials to discuss the issue. Motion carried.

There was discussion regarding NCAI in relation to the state-recognized tribes not being included in the White House meeting. Commissioner Barry Richardson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brett Locklear, that a letter be sent to the National Congress of American Indians soliciting their support and encouraging the organization to include state tribes in all administration meetings in the future. Motion carried.

Discussion ensued regarding the Commission's WIA program and whether any of the stimulus monies were received by the tribes. It was noted that the tribes did not receive any of the federal stimulus monies, except for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. In North Carolina, the funds were distributed through the local Workforce Development Boards, and tribes had to apply through those channels. The Executive Director and the WIA Director met with the State's Recovery Office staff to discuss this matter earlier this year and were advised of the above referenced process. The Commission worked with the Workforce Development Boards in each of its service areas to make sure that the tribes were informed about the process, and also, the Commission held a telephone conference call with each of the Tribal Representatives to discuss the process. Otherwise, the state-recognized tribes were not included in the Economic Stimulus or Recovery Funding process, because they were not eligible to receive direct funding due to the design of the program at the federal level.

Meherrin Court Case

Ms. Martin reported that a new case has been filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings relative to the swearing in of Mr. Doug Patterson at the September 2008 meeting and a teleconference call by the Commission at the end of September rescinding that action. Mr. Patterson is contending that the Commission could not take this action because his three-year term had not expired.

NC Indian Cultural Center

Ms. Martin reported that a proposed decision has been received in this matter, but has been deemed improper. The court will be asked to reconsider their recommended decision. Information will be provided at the March meeting regarding this issue as it progresses.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AdHoc Land Trust – Commissioner Furnie Lambert, Chair

Commissioner Lambert reported that the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina has passed a resolution to place land owned by the tribe into trust with the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs. He indicated that the Lumbee Tribal Administrative staff has been authorized to

negotiate as necessary to facilitate placing the land into trust. The parcel of land under consideration is located in Red Springs, North Carolina.

Veterans Committee – Commissioner Furnie Lambert, Chair

The Community Based Outpatient Clinic has been approved and will be built in **COMTEC, a business development park near Pembroke, North Carolina**. Members of the Lumbee Tribe have received the contract for construction.

He indicated that the Homeless Shelter Grant was not approved. An appeal to that decision is in process.

He reported that a Veterans Stand Down was held on November 7 at Pembroke Elementary School. During this event the Veterans Administration provided health screening, food, and numerous giveaways for attendees.

The Native Visions Magazine, out of Pembroke, has been publishing a series of articles on veterans. Members were encouraged to submit articles for the publication.

AdHoc Legislative Committee – Commissioner Roy Maynor, Chair

Commissioner Maynor reported that three Legislative Requests were received for the Commission's 2010 Legislative Agenda. (See attachment 2)

- Waccamaw Siouan School Issue – Legislation setting forth a mutual agreement between Columbus County Board of Education, Bladen County Board of Education, and the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe. The agreements are needed so that Indian students living in Bladen County can continue attending Columbus County Schools and be bused to and from school by Columbus County buses at no charge to the parents of the students.
- Coharie Tribe – Legislation requesting funds to install a modern cost-efficient central heating and air conditioning unit in the Eastern North Carolina Indian School, which was constructed in 1943 using state-appropriated funds. The cost of the unit is estimated to be \$92,000; of this amount the Tribe will contribute \$25,000, leaving a total legislative request of \$67,000.
- Education - Elimination of American Indian Description Naming Mascots, Logos, and Sports Team Nicknames for North Carolina Public Schools – Legislation to direct all public schools in the State of North Carolina to eliminate the use of American Indian Descriptions, Mascots, Logos, and Sports Team Nicknames from their policies, publications, instructional materials, signage, etc., effective on the date that the bill is signed into legislation.
 1. Amend current State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE) legislation already up for vote to include the names of the tribes and organizations is added to SACIE: Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation and the Triangle Native American Society.
 2. Increase the population served from Pre-K through 20 to include higher education.

Commissioner Roy Maynor made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Larece Hunt, that the proposed Legislative Agenda for 2010 be adopted. Motion carried.

Health Committee – Dr. Robin Cummings, – Chair

Dr. Cummings reported that the primary focus of the committee has been the formation of the North Carolina American Indian Health Board. Items discussed during the most recent meeting included:

- The Board’s decision not to apply for a 501(c) 3 designation at this time.
- The Maya Angelo Center in Wake Forest has offered its services to the Board, and an MOU is being developed. With this partnership, the Board can apply for grants, etc.
- The Board is working on their Mission, Vision, and Bylaws.
- A grant proposal was submitted to Blue Cross/Blue Shield for funding to help with expenses.
- The Board will apply to the Secretary of State’s Office for official chartering as the “North Carolina American Indian Health Board.”

Information was presented regarding a study, “Developing Planning & Policy Strategies to Improve Access to Healthy Foods within NC Tribal Communities,” being conducted by Dr. Sheila Fleischhacker of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The tribes and organizations will be contacted requesting their support of this study.

Economic Development Committee – Commissioner Ruth Revels, Chair

Commissioner Revels thanked the Economic Development Initiative staff for hosting the Commission meeting.

Kimberly Hammonds reported that the Supporting Undergraduate Native Students “SUN’s” program is filled to capacity at this time. The program is scheduled for its annual monitoring review this month. Results will be reported to the Commission at the completion of the review.

Elk Richardson reported that the Workforce Investment Act “WIA” is up for reauthorization in Congress. He encouraged the tribes and organizations to monitor the reauthorization legislation and watch for exclusions of state-recognized Indians.

The Executive Director reported that Governor Perdue requested a list of Commission priorities that her NC Washington staff could monitor in Congress. Staff met and forwarded the following priorities: federal recognition, education, job training, economic development, housing, and health issues among the American Indian communities.

Discussion took place regarding Governor Perdue’s support of federal recognition and the inclusion of the American Indian population in economic development efforts in North Carolina. Chairman Brooks met with Governor Perdue concerning these issues. He reported that her support of both federal recognition for NC Indian tribes, as well as economic development opportunities, which would be forthcoming, appears to be favorable.

Education Committee – Mickey Locklear on behalf of Commissioner Earlene Stacks, Chair

Mickey Locklear reported that the Education Committee met via teleconference on November 29. Minutes from the meeting are attached (Attachment 3).

Actions items from the meeting are as follows:

- The Commission should draft a letter to UNC Pembroke asking that an American Indian be considered as Chancellor for UNC Pembroke, and that the person selected be knowledgeable of the historical significance of UNC Pembroke as a training ground for American Indian students. Therefore, recruitment of American Indian candidates should be the priority for the Chancellor Search Committee. Additionally, a letter should be sent to the University of North Carolina General Administration regarding the prioritization of American Indian candidates for the Chancellor position at UNC Pembroke. Motion made by Commissioner Furnie Lambert, seconded by Commissioner Sheila Wilson, and carried.
- The Commission should draft a letter to UNC Pembroke asking for information and data relative to the speech testing of freshmen and the resultant course requirements for students who do not “pass” that test. Motion made by Commissioner Brett Locklear, seconded by Commissioner Furnie Lambert, and carried.

There was much discussion regarding the student population at UNC Pembroke and the fact that American Indians are now the minority. There was further discussion regarding recruitment activities at the different national conferences to recruit American Indian students from federal tribes to UNC Pembroke.

NC Economic Development Initiative Presentation – Tony Hayes – CEO

Mr. Hayes welcomed the Commission to the Initiative offices. He reported on activities current activities of the Economic Development Initiative. A video presentation was shown featuring pictures from activities of the Initiative from it’s beginning until the present. He noted that the Initiative’s funding flow-through has been moved to the NC Department of Commerce, and that any state appropriations received will flow through Commerce in the future, and not the Commission as it has in the past. The Initiative pursued this action in an attempt to enhance its funding strategy and to bring the Initiative more in line with NC Department of Commerce’s, goals, objectives, etc.

A Resolution of Appreciation for Organizational and Operational Support was presented to the Commission. (Attachment 4)

Cultural/Religion Committee – Commissioner Ray Littleturtle, Chair, Absent

No report

Recognition Committee – Commissioner Garth Locklear, Chair, Absent

Chairman Brooks appointed Commissioner Larece Hunt as the new Chairman of the committee replacing Mr. Garth Locklear. Mr. Garth’s term on the Commission expired June 30, 2009, however, he was reappointed by the Lumbee Tribe as an interim representative until the Lumbee

Tribe selects a replacement. The Lumbee Tribe selected Mr. Daniel Jones to serve on the Commission effective December 1, 2009.

Human Resources Committee – Commission Ruth Ealing, Chair

Commissioner Ealing reported that the Human Resources Committee did not meet this quarter. She reminded the members regarding the Utilities Allowance Audit being completed for the Commission's Section 8 Housing Program and noted that results of the audit will be forwarded to the members.

Commissioner Ealing noted that she had been asked by Commissioner Barry Richardson to request that the Commission go into closed session to discuss a personnel issue. Commissioner Barry Richardson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ealing, that the Commission proceed into closed session. Closed session began at 2:30 p.m. and concluded at 3:10 p.m.

Items from Commission Members

Commissioner Ruth Revels announced the 2010 Indian Unity Conference will be held March 11-14 in Raleigh, North Carolina, at the Hilton North Raleigh. She encouraged the members to submit recommendations for speakers, workshops, etc., to the board members of the United Tribes of NC, Inc. She also encouraged the membership to consider creating scholarships to be presented during the Unity Conference.

Commissioner Furnie Lambert announced the opening of the Lumbee Tribe's Housing Complex, or the "Turtle Building" in Pembroke, North Carolina, on December 19 from 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Chairman Brooks announced that the Golden Leaf Foundation has set aside \$900,000 for scholarships. The scholarships will be distributed to thirty-six universities with each to receive eight \$3,000 scholarships. For more information, go to the Golden Leaf Foundation website.

Commissioner Furnie Lambert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Locklear, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Lila Spaulding, Secretary/Treasurer