

Commission of Indian Affairs
Quarterly Commission Meeting
Raleigh North Carolina
March 8, 2012

(Adopted 6/1/2012)

Chairman Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with a quorum present. Invocation: Chairman Paul Brooks. Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Furnie Lambert.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

One correction to the previous meeting minutes, Faline Locklear-Dial's tribal affiliation was corrected to show that she is a member of the Lumbee tribe not the Coharie Tribe.

Motion to approve the minutes: Commissioner Julia Phipps, second Commissioner Daniel Jones and carried.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

Chairman, President Pro Tem Appointee	Paul Brooks	Present
Speaker of the House Appointee Lumbee	Faline Locklear-Dial	Present
Coharie	Isabell Freeman Elliott	Present
Coharie	Charlene Jacobs	Absent
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Roy Maynor	Present
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Barbara Melvin	Present
Eastern Band of the Cherokee	Patrick Lambert	Absent
Eastern Band of the Cherokee	Marvel Welch	Visitor
Guilford Native American Association	Ruth Revels	Present
Guilford Native American Association	Julia Phipps	Present
Haliwa Saponi	Jeffrey Anstead	Present
Haliwa Saponi	Ruth Ealing	Present
Lumbee	Larece Hunt	Present
Lumbee	Daniel Jones	Present
Lumbee	Furnie Lambert	Present
Meherrin	Chassidy Hall	Absent
Metrolina Native American Association	Walter D Baucom	Present
Metrolina Native American Association	Jessie Jacobs	Present
Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation	Sharn Jeffries	Absent
Sappony	Dorothy Crowe	Present
Triangle Native American Society	Brett Locklear	Present
Waccamaw Siouan	Elton R Jacobs	Present
Waccamaw Siouan	Shirley Freeman	Present

NCNAYO	Dietrick Richardson	Absent
NCNACHOE	Toni Henderson	Absent

STATE OFFICIALS

Department of Administration, Moses Carey, Jr, Secretary Designee: June Michaux	Present
Employment Security Commission, Lynn R Holmes, Chairman Designee: Debra Derr	Present
Department of Health & Human Services, Lanier Cansler Designee: Maria Spaulding	Present
Department of Labor, Cherie Berry, Designee: Tina Morris-Anderson	Absent
Department of Environmental Natural Resources, Dee Freeman Designee: Charles Malone	Absent
Special Guest – Budd Berro, Director Governor’s Piedmont Office	Present

AD HOC HEALTH COMMITTEE CHAIR

Robin Cummings – Present

STAFF PRESENT

Greg Richardson, Executive Director
 Ruth F Maitz, Administrative Assistant
 Sadie Barbour, Community Development
 Mickey Locklear, Director, Educational Talent Search
 Elk Richardson, Director, Workforce Investment Act Program
 Melody Gates, Director, Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program
 Kerry Bird, Program Coordinator, Teen Tobacco Use Prevention 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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Included in the March commission meeting packet and on file at the commission.

UPDATES OF COURT CASES

Attorney Mark Teague reported the Meherrin case is in Hertford County Superior Court a decision has not been rendered.

Riverside Golf Course – The State Property Office is considering a 5-year lease with three a 5-year renewal option, which could be exercised at the option of the Tribe.

MEHERRIN TRIBE - Chief Thomas Lewis, stood and clarified that his group is not affiliated with the group of Meherrin tribal members who have filed suit against the Commission.

INDIAN HOUSING PROGRAM UPDATE – Kevin Fitzgibbons, Director

Commissioner Brooks commented when he first met Mr Fitzgibbons in 1986 the NC budget for Indian Housing was \$850M, in 2012 the budget had dropped to \$650M. Mr Fitzgibbons reported that the North Carolina 2013 budget will have no reduction in funds. Commissioner Brooks said, “ Flat spending is a good thing”.

Points made by Mr Fitzgibbons:

- Excited with the creativity in North Carolina. Every housing dollar is expended with \$11M recovered. This makes the HUD program look good.
- Green energy – Green housing units decreases costs, efficient to maintain and saves the tenants money.
- Homeless veterans’ –He indicated that focus will be on social issues facing veterans. One out of every five veterans is homeless, native population comprises 20% of the veterans.
- Urban native delegations –Urban native organizations are having a hard time to sustain themselves. Urban Indian organizations bring different programs together such as, Section 8/CSBG, to share ideas. There is a need to have more native organizations to give insight.
- Indian housing needs assessment has not been done since 1996 and his office is moving forward with a new assessment.

NATIONAL INDIAN PARENT INFORMATION CENTER (NIPIC), Grants Pass , OR –

Anita Lena, Trainer/Outreach Coordinator

Mrs. Anita Lena is a member of the Seminole tribe of Oklahoma and resides in Oregon. She indicated that Commission employee Sadie Barbour is a board member of her organization and represents North Carolina. Mr Mike Groves a member of and representing the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities at the Unity Conference sponsored Amy Locklear Hertel to speak at one of the conference workshops. The NIPIC mission statement reads as follows, “Our Mission is to strengthen our community through support, education, and encouragement for American Indian families with children with disabilities or learning challenges, educating and supporting parents, families and professionals in building partnerships that meet the needs of children and youth with the full range of disabilities, ages birth to twenty six.” (See attachment). Mrs. Lena indicated that she was happy to be in North Carolina to share information about the NIPIC.

LONG LEAF PINE AWARD *(This award is the highest civilian honor bestowed by the Governor)*

Mr Budd Berro, Director, Governor’s Piedmont Office, presented the Long Leaf Pine Award to Reverend Simeon Cummings, accepted by Dr. Robin Cummings. Rev. Cummings dedicated his life to improving the Indian community through his Christian ministry and willingness to help all people. His good work has touched the lives of thousands of individuals and his influence has reached all Indian communities.

WORKING LUNCH

Commissioner Roy Maynor offered the blessing of our food. The following items were discussed and debated in relation to the agenda for the upcoming retreat:

- Retreat – send all recommendations/tribal concerns to Greg, who will compile for agenda, including strategic plan for 2012-2013. Motion to approve: Commissioner Roy Maynor, second by Furnie Lambert and carried.
- GAO – Commissioner Brett Locklear would have liked to have had more time to discuss this item. Commissioner Paul Brooks met with North Carolina delegation, due diligence has been done by all; everyone is waiting to see final document, which will be released during the next quarter. The Unity Conference is presenting a workshop on the GAO study.
- Federal Recognition Procedures, the need for them to be revised and designed to address non-reservation Indian tribes.
- Resolve infighting – Unity is needed among Indian tribes, instead of tribes/tribal leaders fighting against each other and against other tribes/tribal leaders. The statewide focus should be on Indian issues promoting unity/harmony in all North Carolina tribes and organizations.
- How do we address and support programs for advocacy, cultural diversity and Indian issues.
- Indian education, health needs.
- 2012 elections and impact on Indian programs
- New Commission initiatives-Where do we go from here?

40th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Brett Locklear indicated that he was honored to be the Chairman for the 40th Anniversary Celebration. Commissioner Locklear reported that Kerry Bird will have a printed report for distribution later during the meeting. (See attached). Although there was not a written report provided, Commissioner Locklear confirmed that all expenses were paid and that there was a \$1K+ profit remaining; He indicated that making a profit was not the intent of the committee. Two suggestions for disposition of the remaining funds were brought to the floor: 1) donate the money to the Commission for publication costs of brochures and/or; 2) donate the money to the American Indian Scholarship Fund. Motion was made by Commissioner Furnie Lambert to donate 50% to the Commission for publication costs of brochures and 50% to the American Indian Scholarship Fund, second Commissioner Roy Maynor and carried.

ADHOC LAND TRUST & VETERANS

Veteran Activities - Commissioner Furnie Lambert stated the Lumbee Color Guard will be “Posting of Colors” during the opening general assembly of the Unity Conference. “Retiring of the Colors” will be performed by the Lumbee Warriors Society Honor Guard at the close of the conference. A community out-based Clinic opened in Pembroke 14 months ago and has served 1,200 patients with the numbers increasing weekly.

Land Trust – The Committee hasn’t received a response from the Attorney General’s office regarding this matter. Commissioner Jeffery Anstead requested to know the definition of a Land Trust in North Carolina. Mr. Lambert indicated that he is waiting for a response from the Attorney General’s office with regards to the Trust Agreement, which is needed before the Commission can proceed with Indian Land Trust matters.

ADHOC LEGISLATIVE

No meeting or report this quarter. Part of the 3/8/12 Commission Meeting packet.

CULTURE & RELIGION

No report this quarter. It was announced that the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe is trying to educate the surrounding communities about their tribal heritage and culture. Commissioner Shirley Freeman may be calling on other commission members for help with this program. Commissioner Jeffrey Anstead brought two examples to the Commission's attention - Museum of History employs **no** American Indian people and communication of upcoming events is not publicized in a timely manner to the Indian communities. He encouraged the Commission to address these issues.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT

Kim Hammonds report was in the commission meeting packet. Elk Richardson passed out copies of a draft of a letter for the Commission to send to North Carolina's congressional delegation regarding H.R. 3610, the "Streamlining Workforce Development Programs Act," introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Virginia Foxx. Mr. Richardson also passed out a sample letter received from the Native American Employment and Training Council (NAETC), and encouraged each tribe and organization to customize a letter to fit their unique tribal circumstances. Other congressional proposals outlined by the NAETC as threats to the WIA Section 166 Indian and Native American program include H.R. 3611, the "Local Job Opportunities and Business Success Act of 2011," introduced by Rep. Heck. See attachments.

EDUCATION

Commissioner Brett Locklear – SACIE- delete their Legislative item. Dr Olivia Oxendine is the new SACIE liaison for DPI.

HEALTH & COMMUNITY SERVICES

No action this quarter; next meeting April 13, 2012.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Commission member Ruth Ealing made a motion for the Commission to approve the new Section 8 model Administrative Plan. Motion carried.

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE

Committee recommended that training be setup for all tribes regarding the process for the new forms used by DSS. The new forms will be used to identify Indian children who are in adoption process at DHHS and protect confidentiality issues with social services, DHHS and the courts. The hope is to address the issue of Indian children being adopted outside the Indian family and tribal community. These children are not receiving the type of care they deserve

REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES GRAHAM

Representative Charles Graham – Indian Child Welfare Act was read into legislature. House Bill 681 – Study of American Indian Mascots at schools passed the first reading. No new bills heard.

Greg Richardson – referenced how redistricting may affect Indian communities. Rep. Graham - this is an agonizing process and district lines are time sensitive, many amendments for the most part were left half satisfied and the legislature is returning to Raleigh during the middle of May 2012.

Greg Richardson - any recommendations “what should we do”? Rep. Graham - utilize caucus, Speaker Thom Tillis’ has presented a positive outlook, is very sensitive to Indian needs and ideas.

Commissioner Jeffrey Anstead – “What sovereignty rights do Indian Tribes have with the legislative branches in North Carolina.

Rep Graham - Legislature “what can we do to help maintain and promote economic opportunities in this unique culture with unique issues; making sure the communities get what is entitled to them and making sure they get what is needed”. Rep Graham was hoping to have a legislative process in place to hold the House of Representatives and Senate accountable on Indian issues.

MR. TONY HAYES, CEO, NC Indian Economic Development Initiative

Tribal Chairman, Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation - Points shared by Mr. Hayes

- Indian communities should hold job opportunity fair
- Hold educational seminars
- Unity – work closely and genuinely together
- No Indian companies certified in bridge repairs
- Green certification class for building green ten companies participated
- First minority green company certified was a Waccamaw Siouan member

Commissioner Ruth Revels asked if we, as tribal citizens, are supporting our businesses/organizations in our Indian communities, and how many dollars are staying in the tribal community and how many Indian vendors are doing business with Indians? Everyone needs to support Indian business instead of going outside the community to make our purchases.

FEDERAL GRANT

Commissioner Elton Jacobs – Waccamaw-Siouan tribe received a federal grant and purchased a new fire truck with the funds.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Commissioner Jeffrey Anstead – annual Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Powwow will be Apr 20-22

Commissioner Furnie Lambert – Lumbee Pow-Wow will be May 4-5

Commissioner Julia Phipps – Sappony 5K Trail Run will be June 16

Flower Fund collection – Led by Commission Faline Dial.

NEW BUSINESS

Commission Retreat- Chairman Brooks asked, do we want to plan a retreat and how should we structure it. Would it be in conjunction with the June meeting? We need to give thought to these items at this time.

Greg Richardson expressed appreciation and thanks from his family and himself for all expressions of sympathy extended to his family with flowers, cards, prayers during the loss of his father, Chief Jessie Richardson.

ITEMS AND ADJOURNMENT

Indian child welfare – Reduce the number of Indian children placed out of the care of Indian families; sometimes these families don't understand the culture, activities.

Motion to adjourn the Commission meeting by Commissioner Furnie Lambert, second by Commissioner Roy Maynor at 1:45 p.m and carried.

Future Meeting Dates:

- June 1, 2012

Faline Locklear Dial