



NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2025

VIRTUAL VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

325 N. Salisbury St.
Raleigh, NC 27603

WELCOME: Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm am. The Chair welcomed and acknowledged all the Commission Members, State Officials, and staff. Chairman Burnett, noted that this special meeting was called for the purpose of ratifying Governor Josh Stien's appointment of Mr. Greg Bryant, as Chairman of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs, as required, by NC General Statute **GS 143 B-407 (b)**

INVOCATION: Commissioner Larece Hunt gave the invocation.

ADOPTION OF THE MEETING AGENDA: The agenda was presented and adopted during the following roll call.

ROLL CALL:

TRIBAL AND ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Coharie	Isabell Freeman-Elliott	Absent
Coharie	Lenora Locklear	Absent
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Harrison Jones	Present and Approved
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Tina Dicke	Present and Approved
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Michael Lambert	Present and Approved
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Jarrett Crowe	Present and Approved
Guilford Native American Association	Perry L Hunt Jr.	Present and Approved
Guilford Native American Association	DeVane Burnette, Sr.	Absent
Haliwa Saponi	Alfred Richardson	Present and Approved
Haliwa Saponi	P. Sunshine Richardson	Absent
Lumbee	Larece Hunt	Present and Approved
Lumbee	Ricky Burnett	Present and Approved
Lumbee	Vernanda Oxendine	Absent
Meherrin	Constance Mitchell	Present and Approved
Metrolina Native American Association	Walter D. Baucom	Present and Approved
Metrolina Native American Association	Greg Bryant	Present and Approved
Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation	Tony Hayes	Present and Approved
Sappony	Dorothy Yates	Present and Approved
Triangle Native American Society	Danny Bell	Present and Approved
Waccamaw Siouan	Elton R. Jacobs	Present and Approved
Waccamaw Siouan	Nadine F. Patrick	Present and Approved



STATE OFFICIALS

President Pro Tem Appointee	Gerald Goolsby	Present and Approved
Speaker of the House Appointee	Craig D. McMillian	Present and Approved
Department of Administration (DOA), Gabriel J. Esparza, Secretary		
Designee: Noelle S. Talley, Deputy Secretary		Present and Approved
Department of Commerce/ ESC, Lee Lilley, Secretary		
Designee: Emily Roach, Director of Policy and Strategic Planning		Absent
Department of Environment Quality (DEQ), D. Reid Wilson, Secretary		
Designee: Jeff Hart, Environmental Justice Manager		Present and Approved
Department of Health & Human Services, DevDutta Sangvai, Secretary		
Designee: Debra Farrington, Deputy Secretary Health Equity		Present and Approved
Department of Labor, Luke Farley, Commissioner		
Designee: Chris Bullard		Present and Approved
Department of Cultural Resources, Chris Southerly, Advisor,		
Adhoc- Non-Voting Member		Present
Designee: Rosie Blewitt, Assistant State Archaeologist and Site Registrar		

OTHER STATE OFFICIALS

Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice	Present
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YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

NCNAYO	Kaylee Evans (Co-Chair) - Non-Voting Member	Absent
	Vacant (Co-Chair) – Non-Voting Member	Absent
NC NACOHE	Thorn Grove - Non-Voting Member	Present

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
Stephen (Steve) Maynor, Program Director, Section 8 Housing Program
Elkton (Elk) Richardson, Program Director, State Recognition Program
Kimberly Hammonds, Program Director, Supporting Undergraduate Native Students (SUNS) Program
Pamela (Shena) Brewington, Program Director, Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)
Maria Richardson, Program Director, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program
Tenley (Nikki) Locklear, Program Director, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program
Laury Chavis, Program Director, Tobacco Survey Program

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

Mr. Greg Richardson, Executive Director, requested Mr. Gary Mark Teague, Attorney, Department of Justice to make a brief comment regarding the requirements for a quorum.

Mr. Teague, Attorney, noted the General Statutes 143B-408. Paragraph B states “Simple majority of the Indian members of the Commission must be present to constitute a quorum. He noted that these members



of the Commission representing the eight recognized Indian tribe and four urban organization. He stated that currently there are twenty-one (21) Indian members on the Commission, so the meeting must have a total of eleven (11) members to constitute quorum to conduct the business.

Mr. Greg Richardson announced that we have a total of eighteen Indian members present.

ETHICS STATEMENT: Mr. Gregory Richardson, Executive Director, read the Ethics Statement on Behalf of Chairman Ricky Burnett. He urged Commission Members to declare any conflicts of interest or the appearances of any conflicts of interest that may exist in relation business matters before the Commission. No conflicts were announced.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND WELCOME OF NEW COMMISSION CHAIRMAN, MR. GREG BRYANT

Chairman Burnett congratulated and welcomed Mr. Greg Bryant, as the newly appointed Chairman. He announced that the ratification of the newly elected Chair is to be affirmed by vote of the Commission and thereby would be effective March 13, 2025.

Chairman requested Ms. Daphne Pinto to do a roll call. He requested members to say “accept” or “deny” when their names are called. It was noted the Chair will vote only if there is a tie with regards to the votes, in accordance with “Robert’s Rules of Order.”

ROLL CALL: Ratification of Mr. Greg Bryant, as Chairman of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs. TRIBAL AND ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Coharie	Isabell Freeman-Elliott	Absent
Coharie	Lenora Locklear	Absent
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Harrison Jones	Accept
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Tina Dicke	Accept
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Michael Lambert	Accept
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Jarrett Crowe	Accept
Guilford Native American Association	Perry L Hunt Jr.	Accept
Guilford Native American Association	DeVane Burnette, Sr.	Absent
Haliwa Saponi	Alfred Richardson	Accept
Haliwa Saponi	P. Sunshine Richardson	Absent
Lumbee	Larece Hunt	Accept
Lumbee	Ricky Burnett	
Lumbee	Vernanda Oxendine	Absent
Meherrin	Constance Mitchell	Accept
Metrolina Native American Association	Walter D. Baucom	Accept
Metrolina Native American Association	Greg Bryant	Accept
Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation	Tony Hayes	Accept
Sappony	Dorothy Yates	Accept
Triangle Native American Society	Danny Bell	Accept
Waccamaw Siouan	Elton R. Jacobs	Accept
Waccamaw Siouan	Nadine F. Patrick	Accept

STATE OFFICIALS

President Pro Tem Appointee	Gerald Goolsby	Accept
Speaker of the House Appointee	Craig D. McMillian	Accept



STATE OFFICIALS (Continued)

Department of Administration (DOA), Gabriel J. Esparza, Secretary	
Designee: Noelle S. Talley, Deputy Secretary	Accept
Department of Commerce/ ESC, Lee Lilley, Secretary	
Designee: Emily Roach, Director of Policy and Strategic Planning	Absent
Department of Environment Quality (DEQ), D. Reid Wilson, Secretary	
Designee: Jeff Hart, Environmental Justice Manager	Accept
Department of Health & Human Services, DevDutta Sangvai, Secretary	
Designee: Debra Farrington, Deputy Secretary Health Equity	Accept
Department of Labor, Luke Farley, Commissioner	
Designee: Chris Bullard	Accept
Department of Cultural Resources, Chris Southerly, Advisor,	
Adhoc- Non-Voting Member	
Designee: Rosie Blewitt, Assistant State Archaeologist and Site Registrar	

OTHER STATE OFFICIALS - Non-Voting

Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

NCNAYO	Kaylee Evans (Co-Chair) - Non-Voting Member
	Vacant (Co-Chair) – Non-Voting Member
NC NACOHE	Thorn Grove - Non-Voting Member

Mr. Greg Richardson announced that there was a total of twenty-two (22) members present, out of which a total of seventeen (17) Indian Members representing the tribes and organizations, and four (4) state officials present at the meeting, agreed to ratify the appointment of a new chairman.

Mr. Richardson stated that this ratification is affirmed. He announced that Mr. Greg Bryant is now the Chair of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs. Mr. Richardson welcomed the new Chair, Greg Bryant.

Mr. Greg Bryant, the newly appointed Chairman thanked everyone for their support and stated that he has big shoes to fill. He also thanked Rev. Ricky Burnett for serving and leading the Commission as Chairman since 2017. Mr. Bryant, Chair, indicated that he is ready to serve and is looking forward to working with Commission membership, Director Richardson and his staff.

Chairman Bryant thanked Governor Josh Stein for having the confidence in him to lead the Commission and that he is honored to serve as Chairman of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs.

Mr. Ricky Burnett, past Chairman, extended his congratulation to Mr. Greg Bryant in his new role as Chairman and wished him the very best as our new leader!

Director Richardson noted that this is history making moment in time and that the Commission has officially ratified and seated the new Chair of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs. Everyone gave a (virtual) round of applause!



Director Richardson noted that the Chairmanship ratification is the only business items on the agenda, thus all business has been concluded in his opinion and the meeting continued under the leadership of Chairman Bryant.

CLOSING PRAYER: Chairman Bryant requested that Mrs. Dorothy Yates lead the membership in a closing prayer.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Bryant requested a motion to adjourn.

- Larece Hunt made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Danny Bell seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- The meeting adjourned at 4:22 pm.
- The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2025. Location TBD.

Nadine F. Patrick 6-6-25

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

Daphne Pinto 6-6-25

Daphne Pinto, Recording Secretary
(Sign & Date)

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs on June 6, 2025.

Nadine F. Patrick 6-6-25

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



**N.C. COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
SPECIAL MEETING
VIRTUAL VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

325 N. Salisbury St. Raleigh, NC 27603

March 13, 2025

04:00 pm – 04:30 pm

DRAFT AGENDA

Opening Session	04:00 pm
Welcome and Call to Order	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Immediate Past Chairman
Invocation	Larece Hunt, Commission Member
Roll Call and Adoption of the Agenda (Present and Agree)	Daphne Pinto, Administrative Assistant
Reading of Ethics Statement	Gregory Richardson, Executive Director
Announcement and Welcome of New Commission Chairman, Mr. Greg Bryant	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Immediate Past Chairman
Per NC GS 143B-407(b): Ratification of Governor Josh Steins' appointment of Mr. Greg Bryant as Chairman of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs, effective Thursday, March 13, 2025	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Immediate Past Chairman
Remarks from New Chairman	Mr. Greg Bryant, Chairman
Closing Prayer	Gerald Goolsby, Commission Member
ADJOURNMENT	4:30 pm