



NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

March 06, 2025

Koury Convention Center

(Held in conjunction with the 2025 NC Indian Unity Conference)

3121 W. Gate City Blvd,

Greensboro, North Carolina 27407

WELCOME: Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m. The Chair welcomed everyone and acknowledged guests, Commission Members, Tribal Leaders, Chiefs, State Officials, and staff. The Chairman announced that this would be his last meeting as Chairman and that a new Chairman would be announced following this meeting. He thanked everyone for their support during his tenure as Chairman of the Commission and his service since 2017.

INVOCATION: Commissioner DeVane Burnette Sr. acknowledged those sick in the communities and presented the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ms. Page Freeman, 2025-2026 Miss Indian North Carolina, led the membership and guests in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ROLL CALL:

TRIBAL AND ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Coharie	Isabell Freeman-Elliott	Present
Coharie	Lenora Locklear	Present
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Harrison Jones	Present
Cumberland County Association for Indian People	Tina Dicke	Present
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Michael Lambert	Present
Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation	Jarrett Crowe	Absent
Guilford Native American Association	Perry L Hunt Jr.	Present
Guilford Native American Association	DeVane Burnette, Sr.	Present
Haliwa Saponi	Alfred Richardson	Present
Haliwa Saponi	P. Sunshine Richardson	Present
Lumbee	Larece Hunt	Present
Lumbee	Ricky Burnett	Present
Lumbee	Vernanda Oxendine	Present
Meherrin	Constance Mitchell	Present



ROLL CALL *(Continued)*

Metrolina Native American Association	Walter D. Baucom	Present
Metrolina Native American Association	Greg Bryant	Present
Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation	Tony Hayes	Present
Sappony	Dorothy Yates	Present
Triangle Native American Society	Danny Bell	Present
Waccamaw Siouan	Elton R. Jacobs	Present
Waccamaw Siouan	Nadine F. Patrick	Present

STATE OFFICIALS

President Pro Tem Appointee	Gerald Goolsby	Present
Speaker of the House Appointee	Craig D. McMillian	Present
Department of Administration (DOA), Gabriel J. Esparza, Secretary		Present
Designee: Noelle S. Talley, Deputy Secretary		Present
Department of Commerce/ ESC, Lee Lilley, Secretary		
Designee: Emily Roach, Director of Policy and Strategic Planning		Present
Department of Environment Quality (DEQ), D. Reid Wilson, Secretary		
Designee: Jeff Hart, Environmental Justice Manager		Present
Department of Health & Human Services, DevDutta Sangvai, Secretary		
Designee: Debra Farrington, Deputy Secretary Health Equity		Present
Department of Labor, Luke Farley, Commissioner		
Designee: Chris Bullard		Present
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	Present
	Vacant (Co-Chair) – Non-Voting Member	Absent
NC NACOHE	Thorn Grove - Non-Voting Member	Absent

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

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
Peggy Ammons, Tobacco Survey Specialist
Alice Bell, Crime Victim Advocate, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program
Leilani Locklear, WIOA Trainee, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program
Ashley Patrick, Program Coordinator, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program
Dorian Richardson, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program
Brittany Bullard, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program
Tristan Ely, Program Coordinator, Business and Home Ownership Project, USDA

OTHERS PRESENT: A list is on file with the Commission.

ETHICS STATEMENT: Director Richardson read the Ethics Statement on Behalf of Chairman Burnett and urged Commission Members to declare any conflicts of interest or the appearances of any 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 DECEMBER 06, 2024, MEETING MINUTES: December 06, 2024, minutes were presented for adoption.

MOTION: Commissioner Gerald Goolsby moved to approve December 06, 2024, minutes. Commissioner Tony Hayes seconded the motion. The Chair asked if there was any objection to the motion. None was noted. The motion was approved.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS:

Welcoming from the Guilford Native American Association: Ms. Nora Dial-Stanley, Chairperson of the Guilford Native American Association, presented greetings on behalf of the Guilford Native American Association in Greensboro. She welcomed everyone to the 50th NC Indian Unity Conference and noted that this year is the 50th anniversary of the Guilford Native American Association, an Urban Indian Organization located in Greensboro, NC.

Welcome and Introduction of the New Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the NC Department of Administration (NCDOA): Director Richardson, Executive Director of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs, welcomed and introduced Mr. Gabriel Esparza, Secretary of the NC Department of Administration (NCDOA), and Mrs. Noelle Talley, Deputy Secretary of the NC Department of Administration (NCDOA).

Secretary Esparza presented brief comments on his work prior to being appointed Secretary of the NC Department of Administration and expressed his Mission, Vision, and Goals for the NC Department of Administration.

- He introduced Deputy Secretary Talley, who leads the Advocacy Divisions within the Department.
- As Secretary, he is excited to lead the DOA's work, especially the advocacy work led by the NC Commission of Indian Affairs.
- Secretary Esparza thanked Rev. Ricky Burnett for his dedicated years of service and leadership as Chair of the Commission.
- Secretary Esparza welcomed the new Commission members and the newly appointed state officials who serve on the Commission.



- Secretary Esparza spoke of his work with the US Small Business Administration and his work with the Navajo Nation.
- He noted that he will be focused on the following three themes as Secretary of NCDOA: Efficiency, Innovation, and Culture.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION CEREMONY

Secretary Esparza, Deputy Secretary Noelle Talley, and Director Richardson led a Special Presentation for a retiring employee.

Retirement Award for Kimberly Hammonds: Mrs. Kimberly Hammonds, Program Director for the Commission's Economic Development and SUNS Program, was presented with the retirement award for her thirty-two years of dedicated service to the state of North Carolina. Governor Josh Stein and Secretary Gabriel Esparza, NC Department of Administration, signed the award. Her retirement date is effective April 1, 2025.

Photo Session: A group photo was taken to commemorate the special presentation with Ms. Kimberly Hammonds and Mr. Davie Hammonds (her husband).

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Executive Director's Report:

The Executive Director's Report was distributed in the Board packet before the Commission meeting. Director Richardson presented highlights from his report:

- **Guest Introduction:** Mr. Richardson introduced Ms. Tessa Brown and Ms. Venus Evans, representatives of the Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission.
- **Grant Freeze:** It was noted that the "Grant Freeze", January 28, 2025, has not affected the Commission. The programs are continuing to serve the Indian communities.
- **Governor's Expansion Budget:** Discussed the proposed additional funds for the State Recognition Program.
- **ICW Program Funding:** The Commission has announced that it has received funding from Healthy Blue for the Indian Child Welfare Program. The job posting is processed through NCDOA-Human Resources.
- **Grant Position:** Candidate has been selected. The hire recommendation has been submitted to Human Resources.
- **Audit:** Section 8 Audit 2025 is in progress.
- **Proclamation:** 2025 Missing Indigenous Women's Proclamation, May 5th, is being processed.
- **Business Symposium:** The Economic Development Committee held a successful Business Mixer, March 5, Inaugural Business Symposium, Greensboro Train Station.
- **Scholarship Funds:** The United Tribes Scholarships fund totals \$25,000.
- **Staff Quarterly Program Reports:** Copies are included in the board packet.

The Executive Director's Report is on file and is an official part of the minutes.

Rape Crisis Center of Robeson County – Ms. Virginia Locklear, Director, Rape Crisis Center of Robeson County. Ms. Virginia Locklear, Director, presented this item. The following was discussed:

- Approximately 59% of the cases of victims are indigenous women in Robeson County.



- There is a 24-hour crisis hotline.
- Discussed victimization and rape kit availability for evidence collection.
- It was noted that the Rape Crisis Center of Robeson County provide legal representation.
- This indicates that prevention and intervention are the most critical aspects of this work.
- Discussed details on education and outreach programs that are culturally appropriate for American Indians.

No handout was presented.

Opioid Settlement – Mr. Tony Locklear, NC DHHS, Raleigh, NC (moved to later, presenter was not in attendance).

By-Laws, Executive Committee Discussion: Mr. Gary Mark Teague, Attorney at the NC Department of Justice, presented this item. At the December meeting, one of the Commission members brought to the Commission’s attention that the recently adopted By-Laws do not appear to be in compliance with the Administrative Rules and need to be addressed. He was asked to review this matter and report back to the Commission.

- Mr. Teague discussed a letter dated March 4, 2025, to Mr. Greg Richardson, noting the findings. A copy of this letter was distributed at the meeting.
- Mr. Teague noted a discrepancy in the By-Laws concerning the Executive Committee. The recently adopted By-Laws allow the Commission to form a standing committee to deal with various matters. One of the matters listed in the By-Laws is termed as “Executive”. The Chair is given the discretion to appoint the Committee members for all the Commission Committees.
- It was noted that the Administration Code has specific requirements.
- The Administrative Code mandates that the senior Commission members from each tribe and Urban Indian Organization serve on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is composed of twelve (12) members.
- Mr. Teague recommended that the Chair follow the rule that protects the Commission from a legal challenge.
- Mr. Teague recommended that the Commission’s By-Laws be amended to reflect the above requirements. Additionally, he recommended that the membership of the Executive Committee structure be changed to reflect the above requirements.
- It was noted that the Administrative Rule-Making process is coming up for review towards the end of 2026. Therefore, if the Commission wishes to change the requirements for the Executive Committee, it will need to present the changes to the recommendations as part of the Administrative Rulemaking process. The Administrative Rule-Making process goes into effect every 10 years. The following process goes into motion in 2026 as indicated above.

The letter dated March 4, 2025, is on file at the Commission.

NCCIA Committee Assignments: Discussion and Adoption: Chairman Burnett presented this item. The Chair noted that the Committee assignments are as per the members' request. The handout was distributed in the Board packet, and an additional copy was presented during the meeting for members to review and discuss.



- Rev Ricky Burnett, Chair, noted that a few members requested to be on several committees, but this may conflict with the other meetings taking place at the same time. This can often result in a committee not having a quorum. It was recommended that members consider serving on two to three Committees, maximum.
- He also pointed out that if a member misses three consecutive meetings, the Chair of the Committee can remove that member from the Committee.
- Director Richardson pointed out that, as a practice, new members will be inserted into the Committee that the former commission members served in, unless the new member prefers to serve on a different committee.
- Members requested clarification on “senior members.” Mr. Teague clarified that this means that members who have served the longest period on the Commission would automatically be considered senior members and would serve on the Executive Committee.

The committee assignments handout is on file in the Commission’s office.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:

MOTION:

- Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs made a motion to return the Executive Committee to the Committee assignments as per the Administrative Code and the letter dated March 4, 2025. For the record, it was stated that the Executive Committee consists of twelve senior members of each tribe, as indicated in the letter from Mr. Mark Teague, Attorney, NCDOJ, dated March 4, 2025.
- Commissioner Alfred Richardson seconded the motion.
- The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion. Chair Rev. Burnett directed members to say “aye” if they favor approving the action item presented. There were no “nay” votes, corrections, or objections from the membership; the motion was carried unanimously.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS ONLY:

American Indian Culture & Religion Committee: Commissioner Danny Bell, Committee Chair, presented the report.

It was noted that the Culture Committee Meeting Minutes for February 19, 2025, were distributed in the Board packet.

Commissioner Bell informed the Commission that the Culture Committee item for archaeology and anthropology was distributed in the Legislative Committee agenda in the Board packet.

Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair, asked if this was an action item. None noted.

The handout of the Culture Committee Meeting Minutes dated February 19, 2025, is on file in the Commission’s office.

American Indian Housing Committee: Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs, Committee Chair, American Indian Housing Committee noted that the Committee did not have a quorum at the March 3, 2025, meeting. He requested staff member Mr. Steve Maynor, Director, Section 8 Housing Program, to present the Action item on his behalf.

Mr. Maynor noted that the American Indian Housing Committee met on March 3, 2025, but did not achieve a quorum. Thus, this action is being presented to the full Commission for consideration and was distributed to the membership prior to today's meeting.



- The Annual Housing Plan and 5-Year Plans are essential strategic documents required by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for public housing agencies (PHAs) to ensure compliance with federal housing policies and promote accountability in the administration of HUD-funded programs. These plans serve as a roadmap for PHAs to outline their long-term goals, objectives, and strategies for providing affordable housing and self-sufficiency opportunities for low-income families.

The handout of the Action Item from the American Indian Housing Committee is on file in the Commission's office.

ACTION ITEM #1: Approval of the Annual HUD Plan Goals and Objectives:

- **Ensuring Compliance:** Verifying adherence to HUD requirements, fair housing laws, and proper use of federal funds.
- **Strategic Planning & Accountability:** Establishing long-term goals through the 5-Year Plan and measurable actions in the Annual Plan for transparency and efficiency.
- **Public & Stakeholder Engagement:** Encouraging collaboration with residents, local governments, and community partners to address housing needs.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Outlining the allocation of HUD funds, including Section 8 and Public Housing Resources, to maximize impact.
- **Supporting Economic & Housing Development:** Aligning HUD-funded programs with state and local policies to promote community growth.

MOTION:

- Committee Chair Elton Ray Jacobs made a motion to approve the action item as presented.
- Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair, noted that since the Committee did not have a quorum, he needed a second for the action item to be approved.
- Commissioner Danny Bell seconded the motion.
- Chair Rev. Burnett directed members to say "aye" if they favor approving the action item presented. There were no "nay" votes, corrections, or objections from the membership; the motion was carried unanimously.

Adhoc Land Trust Discussion-Consideration of New Legislation: Commissioner Elton Ray Jacobs, Committee Chair, requested Mr. Gary Mark Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice, to present this item. Mr. Teague noted no additional information since the December 6, 2024, meeting. The following was discussed:

- He noted that it needs to be considered a new process and move away from the Land and Trust concept. The Commission needs to think of this as a legislative strategy to achieve the goals that the tribes have for economic development.
- It was suggested that if the tribes need to pursue this matter, the most efficient way is to contact their legislators and look at the possibility of having a legislative solution to achieve the goals.

No handout was provided.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:



- Commissioner members asked a clarifying question on one of the principles in the Land and Trust.
- Mr. Teague noted that land and trust were added to the general statutes in 2001. He stated that the legislative history does not stipulate the intent or how placing land into trust can be accomplished based on the state of North Carolina's Requirements.
- The current statutes do not stipulate economic development. The Commission has a limited role; it is only to conserve the land.
- Mr. Teague noted that this matter could be handled through the Legislative Committee. The tribes need to make specific recommendations, define the goal of placing land into trust, define how the land will be utilized, etc., and present these to the Legislative Committee.
- Mr. Teague informed that economic development can be complicated due to tax laws, municipal regulations, county regulations, and state regulations.

MOTION:

- Commissioner Gerald Goolsby motioned to return the Land and Trust matter to the Legislative Committee. Commissioner Sunshine Richardson seconded the motion.
- Chair Rev. Burnett asked if there were any questions. None noted. The motion was carried out with no objection from the membership.

INFORMATION (Continued)

Opioid Settlement – Tony Locklear, NC DHHS, Raleigh, NC: Mr. Tony Locklear, Tribal Liaison with the NC Health and Human Services, Injury and Violence Prevention Branch, presented a PowerPoint presentation as follows:

- Discussed Opioid issues in tribal communities across the state of North Carolina.
- Discussed the Opioid funding dispersed to communities across the state by Governor Josh Stein and the Attorney General.
- It was noted that the Opioid crisis is mostly among blue-collar workers in construction, due to work site injuries, which are prescribed as pain medication.
- Discussed drug overdose among the American Indian population
- Discussed funding for state-recognized tribes.
- It indicates that every person's pathway to addiction and recovery is different.
- Mr. Locklear requested the Commission to advocate for Opioid funding.

No handout of the PowerPoint presentation was provided

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSION:

- Commission members expressed concerns.
- Director Richardson asked Mr. Locklear to bring a graphic back onto the monitor, illustrating the opioid crisis in North Carolina, so Commission members could take a second look at the counties impacted by the opioid crisis in North Carolina.
- Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chair, noted that this program is excellent, and the Commission needs to support it.
- Suggestions were made for the Legislative Committee Chair to advocate for Opioid funds.

MOTION:



- Commissioner Greg Bryant, Committee Chair for the American Indian Health Committee (Victim Services), made a motion to request funds to work towards addressing the Opioid crisis in Indian Communities.
- Commissioner Alfred Richardson seconded the motion.
- The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion. Chair Rev. Burnett directed members to say “aye” if they favor approving the motion presented by Committee Chair Bryant. There were no “nay” votes, corrections, or objections from the membership; the motion was carried unanimously.

Commission Committee Reports: (Continued)

American Indian Health Committee (Victim Services): No report.

American Indian Education Committee: Commissioner Dorothy Yates, Committee Chair, presented the following:

- Committee Chair Yates thanked Commission members and staff for the cards and flowers sent to her during her recent illness.
- She noted that four of the five SACIE members whose term started July 1, 2025, were approved by the Commission at the December meeting. There was a need for one additional parent position. The Education Committee has approved the following:
Ms. Kristin L Oxendine; Educator/Parent; Lumbee Tribe; SACIE Application complete, Eligible to serve in parent vacancy
- It was noted that the approval of the parent position will be submitted to the State Board of Education meeting, upon the approval of the Commission today.

The handout of the State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE) Nomination received for the term starting July 1, 2025, is on file at the Commission.

MOTION:

- Committee Chair Yates recommended that Ms. Kristin Oxendine, parent position, be approved to serve on SACIE
- Rev. Burnett, Chair, noted that coming from the Committee does not require a second.
- The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion. Chair Rev. Burnett directed members to say “aye” if they favor approving the motion presented by Committee Chair Yates. There were no “nay” votes, corrections, or objections from the membership; the motion was carried unanimously.

2025 Indian Education Program Funding Update: Dr. Connie Locklear, Director, Robeson County Indian Education Program/ National Indian Education Board Member, presented this item. The following was discussed:

- Handouts were distributed at the meeting for members to review and follow along.
- Discussed the North Carolina-specific data details in the handout provided.
- Discussed the funding cuts based on the Executive Orders.
- Discussed the impact on the communities due to funding cuts by the Office of Indian Education.
- Mr. Kerry Bird, Director of the American Indian Heritage Commission, presented additional information regarding the funding cuts.



- Title VI Education funding. A handout was provided at the meeting for members to review and follow along.
- Discussed Title VI funding in North Carolina and the impact of funding cuts.
- The American Indian Heritage Month, November 2024, Celebration was held at the Governor's mansion.
- In conclusion, Mr. Bird provided a brief update on the American Indian Heritage Commission (AIHC) and their work. Gave an overview of historic markers being installed across the state.

The handouts distributed are on file in the Commission's office.

Economic Development & Employment Committee: Commissioner Craig McMillian, Committee Chair, presented this item. The handout of the Economic Development and Employment and Training Committee meeting minutes of February 18, 2025, was distributed in the Board packet. The Tribal Leader Talking Points and draft letter of support regarding the NC Commission of Indian Affairs ScholarPath Program were distributed for members to review and follow along.

The following was discussed:

- The Committee Chair McMillian noted that the Economic Development & Employment Committee held its first Business Mixer, March 5, 2025, in Greensboro in conjunction with the 2025 NC Indian Unity Conference. The intent is to promote business opportunities for Tribal Businesses throughout the state.

ACTION ITEM #1:

- It was noted that Commissioner Nadine Patrick made a motion at the Committee meeting to rewrite the letter to include State Recognized Tribes and present the letter for action to the full Commission. The handout "Ensuring Tribal Sovereignty and the Delivery of Obligations to State Recognized Tribes in North Carolina in the Implementation of State and Federal Policies, including Tribal Leader Talking Points," was distributed for members to review. Commissioner McMillian, Committee Chair, read the handout in its entirety.

MOTION:

- Committee Chair McMillian recommended that the talking points be approved.
- Rev. Burnett, Chair, noted that coming from the Committee requires no second.
- The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion. Chair Rev. Burnett directed members to say "aye" if they favor approving the motion presented by Committee Chair McMillian. There were no "nay" votes, corrections, or objections from the membership; the motion was carried unanimously.

The handout "Ensuring Tribal Sovereignty and the Delivery of Obligations to State Recognized Tribes in North Carolina in the Implementation of State and Federal Policies, including Tribal Leader Talking Points," is on file in the Commission's office.

ACTION ITEM #2:

- Letter of Support for the NC Commission of Indian Affairs ScholarPath Program. Commissioner McMillian, Committee Chair, read the handout in its entirety.

MOTION:



- Committee Chair McMillian recommended that the above-mentioned letter of support for the NCAI ScholarPath Program be approved.
- Rev. Burnett, Chair, noted that coming from the Committee requires no second.
- Members asked for clarification. Commissioner McMillian responded that it is grant funding that includes staffing.
- The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion. Chair Rev. Burnett directed members to say “aye” if they favor approving the motion presented by Committee Chair McMillian. There were no “nay” votes, corrections, or objections from the membership; the motion was carried unanimously.

The handout of the letter of Support for the NC Commission of Indian Affairs (NCAI) ScholarPath Program is on file in the Commission’s office.

State and Federal Recognition Committee: Commissioner Larece Hunt, Committee Chair, presented this item together with Mr. Elk Richardson, Director of the state Recognition Program.

The following was discussed:

- Provided an update on the petition process of the Roanoke-Hatteras Indian Tribe of Dare County, NC. Committee Chair Hunt noted that since the December 6, 2024, meeting, they have received additional documents from this group. It will take the Committee 30-45 days to review and process. The findings will be brought back to the full Commission.
- Provided an update on the Catawba group of North Carolina.

The handout of the Recognition Committee meeting minutes dated November 12, 2024, was distributed in the Board Packet. The handout is on file in the Commission’s office.

Mr. Carl Richards, Talent Advisor, Veterans Recruiting (Consultant): No Show

Legislative Committee: Commissioner Tony Hayes, Committee Chair, presented this item. A handout of the Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2025, was provided in the Board packet.

- A review and update to the 2025 Legislative Agenda was provided.

ACTION ITEM #1:

- It was noted that the February 20, 2025, meeting lacked a quorum. However, the discussion at the meeting included a recommendation by Commissioner Bell to include funding and the creation of a Tribal Anthropology and Archeology Committee to oversee and administer Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) issues.

MOTION:

- Committee Chair Hayes recommended adopting Commissioner Bell’s request into the Commission’s legislative agenda. The priority items listed on page 2 of the handout included the following: (1) Funding for Tribes and Associations; (2) Future American Indian Youth Leadership Program (staff recommendation); (3) Indian Child Welfare Program Funding-Carried (a carry forward request from last year’s staff recommendation); (4) Funding for NC Commission of Indian Affairs membership training, and development/ operations.
- Commissioner Gerald Goolsby seconded the motion,



- The Chair asked if there were any questions or objections to the motion. Chair Rev. Burnett directed members to say “aye” if they favor approving the motion presented by Committee Chair Hayes. There were no “nay” votes, corrections, or objections from the membership; the motion was carried unanimously.

The handout of the Legislative Committee meeting minutes dated February 20, 2025, was distributed in the Board Packet. It is on file in the Commission’s office.

ACTION ITEM #2:

- Committee Chair Hayes presented HB 224, the Strengthen Our Tribal Communities Act, by Representative Lowery.
- The handout of HB 224 was distributed at the meeting for members to review and discuss.

MOTION:

- Committee Chair Hayes recommended, referencing HB 224, continuing working with Representative Lowry on this bill. He noted that HB 224 will support the Commission and the tribes, supporting and strengthening the American Indian communities.

ACTION ITEM #3:

- Committee Chair Hayes recommended drafting a resolution of support for House Bill 224 by the Commission of Indian Affairs. He requested all tribes write and submit correspondence to their state legislature supporting HB 224.
- Commissioner Craig McMillian, Vice Chair, requested Committee Chair Hayes to entertain an amendment that all tribes and all urban Indian organizations communicate their support of HB 224 to their legislators. Committee Chair Hayes concurred with this request.
- Commissioner Michael Lambert asked for clarification on the Indian gaming funds and whether they include the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian Tribe. Committee Chair Hayes confirmed yes and noted that Catawba was included as well.
- Commissioner Lambert asked if the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) leadership was consulted.
- Committee Chair Hayes noted that the Commission has not communicated with the EBCI leadership. Representative Lowery has legislatively introduced HB 224.
- Commissioner Lambert made a subsidiary motion to table this motion until the Commission consults with the Eastern Band of Cherokee leadership, stating they have not had a chance to review the proposed legislation. He noted that the legal counsel for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians needed to review the legislation because there is a contract between the state and the tribe concerning using these funds.
- Commissioner Lambert requested that the original motion be tabled until consultation with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians can take place.
- Commission members asked for clarification.

MOTION (Table the Motion)

- Commissioner Lambert reiterated that he would like the motion tabled until Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians had a chance to review the legislation and ensure it is consistent with the contract. He added that the tribes most affected by this were not consulted.



- Rev. Burnett, Chair, requested a second to the subsidiary motion from Commissioner Lambert to table the motion.
- Roll Call Vote was requested on the subsidiary motion.
- Commissioner Doroty Yates objected that the Commission was out of order due to two simultaneous motions being on the table. She indicated that the Commission should vote on the first motion, then move to the second before taking up the first motion.
- Committee Chair Hayes clarified that his initial motion was for the Commission to approve the Legislative Committee to communicate with Representative Lowery to see if the Commission can support HB 224.
- Commissioner Gerald Goolsby, Parliamentarian, noted that if the motion to table fails, the Commission could return to the first motion.
- A roll call vote was taken.

It was noted that, according to Robert's Rules of Order, the Chair will vote only if there is a tie.

Roll Call Vote – A voice vote “Roll Call” was taken on the subsidiary motion from Commissioner Lambert to table the motion. There were three (3) “ayes” in support of the motion, eighteen (18) “nay” votes, five (5) abstained, and one (1) absent. The subsidiary motion **failed**.

MOTION (Original Motion from Committee Chair Hayes):

- The Chair noted that he will get back to the original motion.
- Committee Chair Hayes restated the motion: The motion is to approve the Legislative Committee’s action to work with Representative Lowery on HB 224, to draft a Resolution supporting House Bill 224 by the Commission of Indian Affairs.
- The Chair requested a second to the motion.
- Commissioner Goolsby seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- The Chair asked if there was any further discussion, questions, or objections to the motion. Chair Rev. Burnett directed members to say “aye” if they favor approving the motion presented by Committee Chair Hayes. There was one “nay” vote, objection from Commissioner Lambert; the motion was carried.

The handout of HB 224 distributed in the Board packet is on file in the Commission’s office.

ACTION ITEM #4:

- Committee Chair Hayes noted that last year (2024), the Commission supported the Lumbee and Haliwa-Saponi federal recognition efforts by going through Congress.

MOTION:

- Committee Chair Hayes motioned for the Commission to draft and submit resolutions supporting the federal recognition of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian tribe and the Lumbee tribe.
- The Chair asked if this was a motion. Committee Chair Hayes confirmed yes.
- The Chair requested a second to the motion.
- Commissioner Gerald Goolsby seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Members asked for Clarification.
- Committee Chair Hayes noted that it was just general for tribes applying for federal recognition.



- Director Richardson clarified that Haliwa-Saponi and Lumbee had active bills before Congress seeking Federal Recognition, and Chair Hayes confirmed this.
- Chair Hayes noted that the Commission has always supported all North Carolina tribes seeking federal recognition.
- Chair Rev. Burnett directed members to say “aye” if they favor approving the motion presented by Committee Chair Hayes for the Commission to draft and submit resolutions supporting federal recognition of the Haliwa-Saponi and Lumbee tribes. There were no “nay” votes, corrections, or objections from the membership; the motion was carried unanimously.

No handout was distributed.

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING: This item was not listed on the agenda.

Vice Chair McMillian requested action to approve a Special Called meeting of the Commission to ratify the appointment of the new Chairman.

MOTION:

- Vice Chair McMillian made a motion to approve a Special Called meeting of the Commission to ratify the new Chairman's appointment to occur on March 12 or March 13, 2025.
 - It was noted that the meeting cannot take place until the Governor announces the appointment. Therefore, the meeting date will be announced after the Governor's announcement.
 - The Chair requested a second to the motion.
 - Commissioner Gerald Goolsby seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - A roll call vote was taken.
- It was noted that, according to Robert's Rules of Order, the Chair will vote only if there is a tie.

Roll Call Vote – A voice vote “Roll Call” was taken to approve the Special Called Meeting for the newly appointed Chair by Governor Josh Stein.

- There were twenty-four (24) “ayes” in support of the motion, and two (2) “nay” votes, one (1) absent. The motion **passed**.
- The motion from Vice Chair McMillian to approve a Special Called Meeting on March 12th or March 13th.
- Chairman Burnett announced that a Special Called Meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams on March 12th or March 13th to appoint a new chairman, contingent upon the Governor's appointment being announced.

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS:

FLOWER FUND REPORT: Ms. Candace Lowry, Deputy Director, NC Commission of Indian Affairs, presented this item on behalf of Commissioner Nadine Patrick, Secretary/ Treasurer. The following was discussed:

- Expense: One purchase made in January 2025, for Chairman John Lowery and Representative Jarrod Lowery's father.
- Collected and Deposited: \$88.03 at the December 2024 meeting
- Current balance in the Flower Fund: \$564.72 as of the February 2025 statement.



- Ms. Candace Lowry informed members that the annual payment per member is \$24. Payments can be made via Credit Card, Check, Cash, or Cash App. Members need to contact Commissioner Patrick directly.
- Mr. Greg Richardson informed new members that the flower fund is maintained in a separate account, managed by the Commission Secretary/ Treasurer, Ms. Nadine Patrick. These funds are used to support Commission members and their families during illness, loss, or other significant life events.

No handout was submitted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

- Commission members announced their upcoming events.

COMMENTS FROM NCNAYO REPRESENTATIVES: This item was not on the agenda.

- Kaylee Evans, NCNAYO Representative, requested a Youth Commission in North Carolina like the National Congress of American Indians. She also requested that the quarterly meetings be held during school hours and suggested changing the time to accommodate NCNAYO Representatives. Members requested clarification. Discussion ensued.

MOTION:

- Commissioner Bryant motioned to approve the NCNAYO Representative's request. Commissioner Nadine Patrick seconded the motion.
- Chair Rev. Burnett directed members to say “aye” if they favor approving the motion presented by Ms. Kaylee Evans, Co-Chair of NCNAYO. There was one “nay” vote, and the motion was carried.
- The commission member asked for clarification on the motion that passed.
- Ms Evans clarified that it meant pushing the meeting for a couple of hours, and the start time was around 3:00 pm so that they could attend. She also requested a virtual meeting as an option with the start time after 3:00 pm.
- Commission members noted that the schools give an excused absence because it is considered educational, so a waiver should not be a problem. The Commission should not change its meeting schedule.
- Commission members reiterated that attending the meeting would be educational for NCNAYO representatives. This does not require the Commission to change the dates and timings of the quarterly meetings.
- Vice Chair, McMillian requested Commissioner Bryant to make a substitute motion to approve the change.

No handout was submitted.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

- Commissioner Bryant made a substitute motion to approve the Commission not changing the meeting schedule.
- The Chair asked if there were any further questions or discussion. None noted.



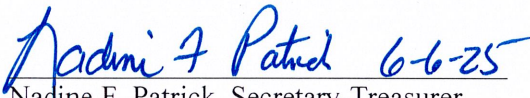
- Chair Rev. Burnett directed members to vote “aye” if they were in favor of approving the substitute motion; there were no “nay” votes. The motion carried.

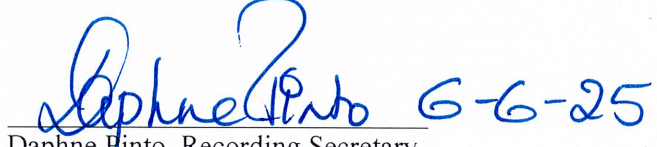
CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING OF THE FOOD: Chair Rev. Burnett recited a short prayer, blessed the food, and led the Commission meeting to dismissal.

ADJOURNMENTS:

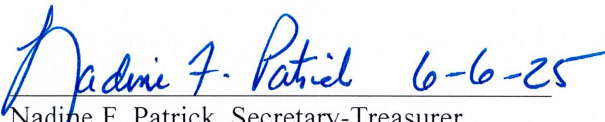
In Closing, Chairman Burnett indicated that this would be his last meeting as Chairman. He expressed that he appreciated the support of the Commission membership and staff during his tenure as Chairman. He indicated that serving as Chairman has been a pleasure and pledged his support for the new Chairman. The Commission membership expressed gratitude and thanks to him for serving as Chairman.

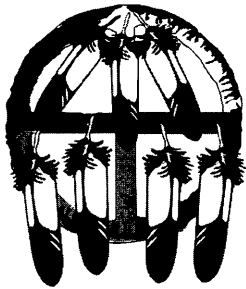
- With no further items to discuss, Chair Rev. Burnett announced the meeting to be adjourned. Commissioner Danny Bell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Craig McMillian seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2025. Location TBD.


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


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, Secretary-Treasurer
NC Commission of Indian Affairs
(Sign & Date)



N.C. COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Koury Convention Center

Meeting Room - Guilford A
3121 W Gate City Blvd, Greensboro, NC 27407

March 6, 2025

9:30 am to 1:30 pm

DRAFT AGENDA

Held in conjunction with the 50th NC Indian Unity Conference, March 06-08, 2025

Opening Session	9:30 am
Welcome and Call to Order	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Welcome - New Commission Member	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Invocation	Devane Burnett, Commission Member
Pledge of Allegiance	Page Freeman, 2025-2026 Miss Indian North Carolina
Roll Call and Adoption of the Agenda (Present and Agree)	Daphne Pinto, Administrative Assistant
Reading of Ethics Statement	Gregory Richardson, Executive Director
Presentation and Approval of December 06, 2024, Meeting Minutes	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Guest Presentation: (Please be brief-10 minutes maximum)	10:00 am
Welcoming from the Guilford Native American Association	Nora Dial-Stanley, Chairperson, Guilford Native American Association
Welcome and Introduction of New Secretary and Deputy Secretary, Secretary Gabriel Esparza and Deputy Secretary Noelle Talley	Greg Richardson, Executive Director
Special Presentation	Secretary Esparza, Deputy Secretary Tally, and Executive Director Richardson
Business Items:	11:00 am
Executive Director's Report, Briefing (Highlights Only)	Gregory Richardson, Executive Director
Staff Quarterly Program Reports (Included in meeting packet)	
Rape Crisis Center of Robeson County	Virginia Locklear, Director, Rape Crisis Center of Robeson County
Opioid Settlement	Tony Locklear, NC DHHS, Raleigh, NC
Bylaws – Executive Committee Discussion	Gary (Mark) Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice
NCCIA Committee Assignments - Discussion and Adoption	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Commission Committee Reports	11:30 am
*Committee Reports with Actions Items Only	
American Indian Culture and Religion Committee	Danny Bell, Chair

American Indian Housing -Section 8 Housing Plan, Steven Maynor, Director, Section 8 Program	Elton Ray Jacobs, Chair
Adhoc Land Trust Discussion-Consideration of New Legislation	Gary (Mark) Teague, Attorney, NC Department of Justice
American Indian Health Committee (Victim Services)	Greg Bryant, Chair
American Indian Education Committee/ American Indian Child Welfare Subcommittee	Dorothy Yates, Chair
2025 Indian Education Program Funding Update	Dr. Connie Locklear, Director, Robeson County Indian Education Program/ National Indian Education Association Board Member
Economic Development & Employment Committee /Agriculture	Craig McMillian, Chair
State and Federal Recognition Committee Update Veterans Affairs Subcommittee - Update	Larece Hunt, Chair
Mr. Carl Richards, Talent Advisor, Veterans Recruiting (Consultant)	
Legislative Committee 2025 Legislative Agenda Update	Tony Hayes, Chair
Other Business Items	12:30 pm
Flower Fund Report	Nadine Patrick, Secretary/ Treasurer, NC Commission of Indian Affairs
Items from Commission Members and Announcements	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
Closing Prayer and Blessing of the food	Rev. Ricky Burnett, Chairman
WORKING LUNCH	12:30 Noon - 1:00 pm
Adjournment	1:30 pm
Convening of the 2025 NC Indian Unity Conference Koury Convention Center (Sheraton Hotel) 3121 W Gate City Blvd, Greensboro, NC March 6-8, 2025	2:00 pm
Upcoming 2025 Commission Meetings: Meeting Sponsors Requested <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 6, 2025 – Location to be announced • September 5, 2025 – Location to be announced • December 5, 2025 – Location to be announced New Commission Website: Commission members are encouraged to review our new website at: https://www.doa.nc.gov/boards-commissions/commission-indian-affairs	