

TN COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Committee of the Whole & Quarterly Meeting
Saturday, 13 September 2008, 9am, Chattanooga
UT-Chattanooga University Center

MINUTES

9:00-10:00 am: **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**
5-year strategic planning

present (all)

James Meeks, Middle TN
Jimmie Thigpen, West TN
Jeanie Walkingstick, Knoxville
tom kunesh, Chattanooga
Bill Wells, Nashville
Alice Henry, Memphis
Val Ohle, East TN

Mark James, TDEC attorney

Ohle - Commission needs Mission Statement for Strategic Planning
gave a report of priorities heard on public conference phonecalls:
1. healthcare & insurance access
2. employment, job opportunities
3. education for employability, emphasis on job skills/training
4. housing

asked for ideas for a Mission Statement for the Commission.

kunesh - to represent the Native American community's interests in and to the State of Tennessee.

amended: to represent Native American Indian interests in and to the State of Tennessee. - approved,
unanimous.

goals - suggestions:

1. healthcare & health insurance access/coverage
2. employment, job opportunities
 JPTA, members of federally-recognized tribes only
 NAIA Barbara Bambridge?, Archie Russ
 JPTA Kathy Noyes, Nashville field office out of Little Rock, Arkansas
3. education for employability, emphasis on job skills/training
4. housing
5. publicity, awareness, tourism
6. preservation of cultural resources
7. genealogy & tribal connections
8. individuals' legal advocacy

Ohle - would like to focus on one goal, for example:
build longterm economic [healthcare] infrastructure

goals: healthcare - within the next 5 years for native people to obtain & have access to healthcare cover-
age/insurance

Ohle - proposed next Commission business conference call:

sunday, 12 october 2008 1500-1700 (2 hour phone call, @ 10¢/minute ± \$12)
approved, 5-2

QUARTERLY MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

prayer - Jimmy Yellowhorse Webster

II. INTRODUCTIONS & REPORTS

- A. 1. Commissioners, new commissioner Alice Gwin Henry from Memphis
2. parliamentarian - none [no parliamentary procedure questions this meeting]
3. TDEC attorney
Mark James - introduced letter from Ruth Knight Allen re. appointing authority for Commission representation to US Census Bureau

- B. Minutes & financial report
motion to approve minutes as corrected - unanimous

Ohle - re. donation check to Commission for \$30 received 21jun08,
but family is now on hard times.
motion: tear check up (don't use it): unanimous

treasurer's report: \$369.05 (same as in june) no expenses.
report accepted unanimously.

- C. Archaeology (kunesh)

kunesh reported on the status of and recent correspondence regarding the following Native American Indian cultural sites that have been excavated under the authority of the state, TDOT and TVA:

Fewke's site (40WM1) 1998-

Davis site (40HA301) 12mar07-

Fehn's Restaurant/DeFoor Site (40HA524) aug08-

kunesh - the Native American Indian burials and artifacts in the state are Native American Indian "cultural resources" and need the oversight of Native American Indians in the state. Records of these NAI "cultural resources" are currently being maintained only by non-NAI organizations - the state's Division of Archaeology, the state's Department of Transportation and TVA. The Commission needs to keep its own record of NAI sites in state, and provide oversight of the state's NAI cultural resources, especially in the absence of any other parties committed to doing so.

suggested the Commission draft a letter to Mr Moore, TN Div. of Archaeology, respectfully request notice under NHPA Section 106

new information: artifacts were transported across state lines, which then puts them under federal jurisdiction, ie, NHPA and NAGPRA.

Ohle - suggested support for legislation that would require immediate notice of discovery & reports be submitted to the TNCIA

TDEC attorney Ed Harris previously had suggested to all state agencies involved that it would be good for notice to be given to TNCIA whenever sites are discovered or worked on.
existing TDEC TDOA Rule 0400-9-1-04

kunesh - the state's current Historic Preservation plan, "A Future for the Past: A Comprehensive Plan for Historic Preservation in Tennessee" (2004, 80 pages, 7-year planning cycle), makes no reference to Native American Indians, or NAI cultural sites, or NAI historic preservation. Commission needs to represent NAI cultural/historic preservation concerns to all involved state agencies, including state parks.

motion: send a letter to TN Division of Archaeology (TDOA), TN Valley Authority (TVA), TN Department of Transportation (TDOT), and the state's historically affiliated tribes, notifying all parties of existing rule, TN Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Archaeology Chapter 0400-9-1, Section 04. NOTIFICATION:

Anyone carrying out work which involves the removal of Native American Indian human remains must notify the Native American members of the Archaeological Advisory Council, the Chairman of the Tennessee Commission on Indian Affairs, and the State Archaeologist. Notification of the intent to remove such remains must be in writing. Such notification shall be given at the time a petition is filed under T.C.A. 46-4-101 et. seq., "Termination of Use of Land as Cemetery", or at the time an application for a permit is filed under T.C.A. 68-3-508. // Authority: T.C.A. §§ 11-6-116(b) and 11-6-119. Administrative History: Original rule filed October 11, 1991; effective November 25, 1991 (www.tennessee.gov/sos/rules/0400/0400-09/0400-09-01.pdf) and to include notice that the Commission shall be notified; and a letter to all state offices involved with cultural/historic preservation advocating for NAI representation.

kunesh to draft, send to Ohle and James for review, done by 13 october. approved, unanimous.

D. Teleconferences (Ohle)

Ohle - hosted 6 pre-scheduled public teleconference - 3 in july, 3 in august. 5 took place.

Spent 16 hours on calls. Information available on Ohle's blog.

Next series of calls: 2nd week in october, mon, thu, fri

Reported during Committee of the Whole of the primary concerns expressed by callers:

1. healthcare & medical insurance access
2. employment, job opportunities
3. education for employability, emphasis on job skills/training
4. housing

E. Future meeting dates and places

12 October - teleconference, Committee of the Whole, Strategic Planning

13, 16, 18 October - "Roundtable" teleconference calls with Val Ohle

13 & 16: 7.30central,8.30eastern pm,

18th: 10.30am Eastern, 9.30central am

8 November - Memphis, Family Life Center, behind St Ann's Catholic Church, Bartlett

21 February - Nashville, TDOT Bldg

16 May - Knoxville

19 September - Chattanooga

F. Commissioners' Reports

1. by region

Meeks - talked with several county mayors, legislator-elect; informed them of the existence of the Commission.

kunesh - talked with several legislators: was asked about the purpose of Commission, infighting, recognition issue; concerned that the Commission no longer has a majority of members with "Indian Preference" or tribal status.

Involved in keeping current with state archaeology issues; answers phonecalls re. genealogy help, legal advocacy. Former Commissioner John Anderson doing well. protocol book;

Wells - received several calls for help. Cause of death of Marcus Redbear (Oglala Lakota) in Nashville (31 may) still unknown. Working on getting 3 kids into foster home

kunesh: No record of the Commissioners' community work (answering & making inquiries) is being kept; Commission needs to keep a log, for community review of Commission work. Ohle - the chair will start and keep this log.

Henry - concerned that Native American Indians are not included along with other minority contractors, or given the same access.

kunesh - concerned with racial definitions in local high school: White / African-American / Indian / Asian / Hispanic - all screwed up with race mixed with continental origin (no European, no African), confusion of two definitions of "Indian" - need more awareness.

Ohle - Office of Minority Business uses 6 categories,
also reviewed race categories to be used in 2010 US Census.

Thigpen - took on the job of a local house repair, \$76 balance - put into a home-repair-supply-store gift card; Randolph Bluff programming by CHickasaw Bluffs; Summerville - police chief - was wrestling for charity - severe injury - Kenny Feathers

Henry - minority business problems; multicultural event - plugging businesses; exclusionary; we do have businesses, we do have registered and unregistered indians; can find for funds or legal issues;

Ohle - 16 hours of teleconference; orgs focused on others than their members; posters from CDC-diabetes focus;

no other state commissioners

2. by issue

a. status of legislative interest/support in re-initiating rulemaking procedures re. Rule 0785-1

kunesh: legislators that he spoke with suggested that it would be a bad move given its controversial nature and the recent legislation that was poor quality, lack of information on groups, and opposition from state administration departments and anthropologists.

b. review status of resolution re. Recognition of TN Historic Tribes submitted to Brent Cox, state Historic Commission NA member

3. other state commissioners

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Statistical study of state's NA population

raw data is there; Letha & kunesh checking financial resources;
problem with server that can handle the data & analysis
summary not ready
research initiative meeting in Knoxville
CBER - state statistical program
Meeks - partner w/epodunk

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2010 Census - Commission Census 2010 Liaison [see text 1 below]

appoints Marion Orrick as TNCIA liaison
new letters from Ruth Knight Allen - appears to be governor's appointee
approve Commission's resolution, then Ohle & Meeks will work it out so there won't be any conflict. unanimous

B. Strategic planning for TCIA [report from 9am meeting]

Mission statement: to represent Native American Indian interests in and to the State of Tennessee. - approved, unanimous.

goal: healthcare - for example, within the next 5 years for native people to obtain & have access to affordable healthcare coverage/insurance

task - a goal statement on healthcare

find out: what kinds of healthcare are available to different classes of indians (fed, state, non-recong) in TN?

- what are the possible ways of acquiring healthcare? - fed gov't? TennCare?

3. education for employability, emphasis on job skills/training
add ---> education for cultural resource management & preservation (kunesh)

set conference call meeting,
sunday, 12 october 2008 1500-1700 (2 hour phone call, @ 10¢/minute ± \$12)
approved, 6-1

14.22

C. Support for Trail of Tears Commemorative Events 2008 [see text 2 below]
as amended with Moore County inserted
approved, unanimous

D. Standing Rules'

1. Agenda Protocol (Ohle & Meeks) compilation [see text 3 below]

chair moves -

kunesh/sec'y & Meeks work on refining agenda

add form, definition of "in writing"

final draft/vote at november mtg

approved, unanimous

2. Public Comments (Ohle) [see text 4 below]

twiddling their thumbs,

no opportunity for public comments

no motion.

3. Meeting Recordings (Ohle) [see text 5 below]

next physical meeting - this setup - PA system & MOU

Tammera & Ramona to work

the Commission approves placement of one microphone on the Commission table for a public address (PA)/sound amplification system and recording purposes. approved, unanimous.

4. Adding More Commission Meetings (Ohle) [see text 6 below]

approved, unanimous.

5. Disclosure of lobbying and legislative activities (Ohle) [text?]

6. Duty of the Chair (Meeks) [text?]

7. amend "Special Called Meetings" (Meeks) [text?]

9. Code of Ethics/Pledge (Ohle & Meeks) [text?]

items 5, 6, 7, 9 table to november mtg

tabled to 8 november meeting; off table if in writing - proposal & motion - at the november meeting

8. kunesch: motion to authorize chairperson to spend up to \$100/year discretionary funds specific Commission business
amend - add provided funds are available, requires receipts
can designate other Commission members to expend funds
approved, unanimous.

E. Regional Coalitions vs Standing Committees (Ohle) [see text 7 below]
table to 8 november meeting
appoints individuals to help gather public input
Tammera Hicks, East TN
Vicky Garland, Middle TN
Helen Vinson, West TN

15.56

V. A. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

B. Announcements

1. Tribal Census 2010 conference Report, Billy Jo Nuckles. (10 minute limit) (V. Ohle - Sept. 13, 2008)
15.56

found out that they were having a SE US Census NA conference
all expenses paid
trying to get every NA registered on the census
lots of distrust - chiefs saying that they wouldn't tell the US Gov't anything for fear that they would be shipped out to Oklahoma
info on US Census 2010

16.07

C. Public comments (3 mins. per person)

3 minutes

16:08:10 Tammera Hicks - thanks, Val, for the public telephone calls
announcement - on my msg board, Sheila, Cubert Bell Sr in hospital since wednesday - tired, ...
message board links - rules, block people, doesn't ugly language on a public forum
family that needs some help - as NAST needs to get in touch with help
powwow

16:11:45 Ramona Reece - nice meeting place

TNT website started in april,

sincerely, not argumentative - presented to other people:

platform of a round table, open public meeting,
everybody's impression - that they were being shut out
it's a public meeting, for the public
time called 16:15

not to say that the other commissioners don't have say or input

16:17:30 Billy Jo Nuckles - Raleigh NC

conference leader

Ruth Allen's name - marked w/ asterisk

asked Census person - was told she was no longer interested in the census job

doesn't know who made the phone call

16:19 Jimmy Thigpen - regarding Nashville NAIA powwow,

can dance, but can't compete

who's recognized to have a card in TN?

can compete at powwows in OK - why not here?

16.24 Ohle - people appointed to tasks in this community

when we don't communicate, it causes problems

getting tired of the commission getting slapped when it's not the Commission's 100% fault
if people are doing things and not communicating with the Commission, ...

16.26

16.28 Hicks started talking again

VI. CLOSE

16.29

public attending:

Ramona Reece

Glen Reece

Billy Joe Nuckles

Mrs Nuckles

Dale Henry

other member of "FarAway Cherokee"

Otter Farmer, Chattanooga

Keim Shirley, Whitwell

Tammera Hicks

Jimmy Yellowhorse Webster

Motion to adjourn: unanimous.

tom kunesh <tpkunesh@chattanooga.net>
secretary, Commission of Indian Affairs
www.tdec.net/tcia/ 423. 624.3380
box 1063 Chattanooga TN 37401

texts to review

1. Census Bureau request to TCIA for designee (Ohle)

1. WHEREAS the accounting of Tennessee's American Indian/Alaska Native population is critical to planning and implementation of programs and initiatives of the Commission of Indian Affairs, and
2. WHEREAS census data will affect funding levels and decisions of government and government agencies for years, and
3. WHEREAS the Commission's designee must have a thorough understanding of the population to be counted, the Commission, and
4. WHEREAS the Commission's designee must have expertise in unique approaches needed to fully account for Tennessee's American Indian/Alaska Native population, and
5. WHEREAS the US Census Bureau has requested that the Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs officially designate a 2010 Census Tribal Liaison its official point of contact for the census process, and
6. WHEREAS Marion E. Orrick is a professional sociologist and statistician, and
7. WHEREAS Marion E. Orrick was instrumental in leading and conducting the quantitative study of Tennessee's American Indian/Alaska Native population, and
8. WHEREAS Marion E. Orrick is knowledgeable in the history and families of Tennessee's original indigenous population, and
9. WHEREAS Marion E. Orrick has submitted a curriculum vitae attesting to her formal post-secondary education in the related fields of Sociology and Statistics, and
10. WHEREAS Marion E. Orrick is willing to serve in the capacity of the Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs official Census 2010 designee with no promise of compensation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs designates Marion E. Orrick as its official 2010 Census Tribal Liaison and point of contact with the Census Bureau for the census process, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Marion E. Orrick will submit written quarterly reports to the Chair and the Secretary of the Commission of Indian Affairs for the purpose of informing and updating the Commission and the Community by inclusion in the Commission's official minutes.

2. Resolution of Support and Commendation for Trail of Tears Commemorative Events (Ohle)

1. Whereas: the Cherokee and other American Indian nations were forcibly removed from their original homelands in what is now the State of Tennessee, and
2. Whereas: the routes taken during the process of that removal came to be known collectively as the "Trail of Tears," and
3. Whereas: the combined Water, Northern, Bell, and Benge routes passed through Tennessee's current counties including Monroe, McMinn, Polk, Bradley, Hamilton, Marion, Benton, Humphreys, Houston, Henry, Stewart, Meigs, Rhea, Bledsoe, Van Buren, Sequatchie, Grundy, Warren, Cannon, Rutherford, Davidson, Robertson, Montgomery, Franklin, +Moore, Lincoln, Giles, Lawrence, Wayne, Hardin, McNairy, Hardeman, Fayette, Shelby, Maury, Hickman, and Weakly counties, and [¿Perry?]
4. Whereas: organizations and individuals along the routes have taken on the responsibility of planning, organizing and holding annual commemorative events in remembrance of those who originally walked the Trail of Tears in Bradley, Hamilton, Marion, Giles, Lawrence, Lincoln, Robertson, and Wilson counties, and
5. Whereas: those events serve to promote awareness and education about a tragic point in the history of the State of Tennessee and the United States of America, and
6. Whereas: historically accurate and complete inclusion of Tennessee's original American Indian inhabitants and their histories in the education of Tennessee youth, residents and visitors is vital to the rich history of the State of Tennessee and the mental and cultural well-being of its current American Indian residents, and
7. Whereas: the Commission of Indian Affairs is directed to assist Indian communities in social and economic development (TCA 4.34.102.5), and
8. Whereas: the Commission of Indian Affairs is directed to promote recognition of, and the right of Indians to pursue religious and cultural traditions considered by them to be sacred and meaningful to Native Americans (TCA 4.34.102.6), and
9. Whereas: raising awareness of the history of the original American Indian inhabitants of Tennessee promotes better understanding of the spiritual and cultural significance of certain sites in Tennessee to Native Americans,
10. Therefore be it resolved: that the Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs supports and commends the efforts of the Tennessee Chapter of th Trail of Tears Association in continuing their research and documentation of the events leading up to and following the removal of Tennessee's original American Indian inhabitants, and
11. Be it further resolved: that the Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs supports and commends the efforts and continuation of the following commemorative events and sponsoring organizations or individuals:

- Trail of Tears Remembrance Motorcycle Ride (Sept. 20, 2008; 3rd Saturday of September annually; beginning in Hamilton County at Chattanooga TN and including Marion, Grundy, Franklin, Lincoln, Giles and Lawrence Counties) -- Trail of Tears Remembrance Association, Inc.
- First Nations People Gathering (Sept. 20, 2008; Lincoln County Fairgrounds at Fayetteville TN) -- Debbie Shattuck Capino First Nations People
- Where We Walked and Where We Cried (Sept. 27, 2008; annual commemorative walk and service; Wilson County at Mt. Juliet TN) -- Melba Checote Eads
- Port Royal Commemorative Trail of Tears Walk (Oct. 11, 2008; annual commemorative walk; Port Royal State Historic Site, Adams TN) -- Port Royal State Park, Friends of Port Royal
- Trail of Tears Re-enactment Walk (Last Saturday of October; annual commemorative event and walk; Lincoln County at Fayetteville TN) -- Debbie Shattuck Capino First Nations People
- Trail of Tears Re-enactment Walk (First Saturday of November; annual commemorative walk; Lawrence County at Lawrenceburg TN) -- Vicky SpitsFire Garland Lawrence County Trail of Tears Committee
- Bell and Bengé Routes Trail of Tears Motorcycle Ride and Re-enactment Walk (Second Saturday of November; annual event; Giles County at Pulaski TN) -- Giles County Tourism/Giles County Trail of Tears Memorial Interpretive Center, and

12. Be it further resolved: that the Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs supports and encourages the creation of similar events to coordinate with existing events in each county along the known routes, and
13. Be it further resolved: that the Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs encourages all city and county governments along the known routes to acknowledge and support through proclamation, cooperation with local and state wide American Indian residents, and participation in the creation and/or continuation of these Trail of Tears commemorative events.

3. FYI Regarding Agenda Item Submission (Old Business) James Everett Meeks, 6 September 2008

Agenda Item Submission Protocol

- A. During the course of a meeting, the secretary will note any items of business that are deferred to the next meeting, any items of business that require a report on follow-up, or other actions to occur before the next meeting (such as letters to be written, meetings with other entities to scheduled, etc.
- B. Prior to the close of the meeting, the secretary will read the list of items identified during the meeting to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting, and the members will be given an opportunity to correct or amend the list. Because these items will be considered old business at the next meeting, the members shall approve the standing agenda and "old business" items for the next meeting prior to adjourning the current meeting.
- C. New Business agenda items proposed by commissioners must be submitted in writing to the other members of the Commission at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting at which they are proposed for discussion. *at least twenty (20) days in advance of the meeting*
- D. Agenda suggestions and/or resolutions from the public must be submitted in writing to the chairperson and secretary of the Commission at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting at which they are proposed for discussion.
- E. The chair, with the assistance of the secretary, will prepare the draft agenda including any and all attachments for review by the other members and distribute the draft by not less than eleven (11) days prior to the next meeting *by not less than 15 days prior to the next meeting.]*
- F. Issues not on the advance agenda shall be tabled until the next meeting unless approved for inclusion in the agenda by a two-thirds (2/3) majority.
- G.
 1. Since the members cannot, per state Sunshine law, make any decisions before the meeting, all discussion, including requests to remove, amend, or otherwise alter the new business items must be made at the beginning of the next meeting
 2. A single motion to approve the agenda may be called, however any opposition to the motion should be considered justification to divide the motion in order to separate out the item(s) causing the dissent.
 3. After the motion regarding the uncontested items has been approved, the members should make motions relevant to each of the opposed items.
- H.
 1. Upon final decision and approval of the "new business" items on the agenda, the meeting should commence per the agenda.
 2. Each Commissioner should have at least an initial understanding of what is being proposed.

not seconded

4. Standing Rules on Public Comments (V. Ohle - Sept. 13, 2008)

- A. When a quorum is not present at the designated meeting start time, the commissioner(s) present will open the floor to public comments.
- B. The order of public comments shall be determined by the sign-in list provided at each meeting.
- C. Members of the public making their comments at the beginning of the meeting will do so with the understanding that they are waiving their turn to comment a second time at the end of the meeting.
- D. Public comments heard before the start of a commission meeting or at a meeting for which no quorum was obtained will be recorded in the minutes as public comments.
- E. The four-minute limit will apply to comments made before the start of a meeting.

5. Meeting Recordings (V. Ohle)

Request for ability to place microphones on commission table for purpose of making publicly accessible recordings, to include a memorandum of understanding relevant to not editing, sharing with other services (only room for one set of mics at most), no strings (favoritism - by Commission or recording entity), etc.
kunesh's concerns of some individuals' assumption of ownership of Commission's table to place microphones without prior discussion and permission of the Commission.

amended

6. Adding More Commission Meetings (V. Ohle)

Adding four additional meetings of no more than two hours, to Commission calendar to be held via public conference telephone call for the purpose of completing administrative tasks, such as but not exclusive to, standing rules, reports, minutes, and agenda decisions. Ohle will check on the legality of free-basing meetings.
approved, unanimous.

7. Dissolution of Standing Committees & Creation of Regional Coalitions

The Tennessee American Indian Research Initiative has completed the quantitative study (Phase One) of its community assessment. For the first time, the Commission will have a fairly clear picture of the State of the American Indian/Alaska Native Community in Tennessee, and will be able to not only better plan to address but also prioritize the needs of the larger community.

Since its inception, it has been the desire of the Commission to fully carry out its duties and purposes.

Unfortunately, the Commission has been hampered by a limited work force of seven commissioners, non-existent funding, and lack of physical resources. These barriers combined with the financial strain placed on both commissioners and community members to attend meetings and carry out state-wide projects have all contributed to the inability of the existing standing committees to function successfully and the ability of the Commission to expedite its duties.

This community is entering a new era. We have identified probable unmet needs. We have made headway in identifying human and other resources in our community. Sadly, we are also facing an unknown future that may or may not include our Commission. It is imperative that we work quickly to implement plans that will allow us to help ourselves in any given scenario.

I request the following resolution be considered and passed by the Commission on Indian Affairs.

1. Whereas the Tennessee Commission on Indian Affairs is bound by the State of Tennessee Open Meetings Act; and
2. Whereas the Commission receives no allocation of State budget funds or other resources; and
3. Whereas and with the exception of the Rules Committee, Tennessee American Indian Research Initiative and Legislative Review Committee, the standing committees of the Commission have had difficulty meeting regularly or at all, and have therefore been ineffective in producing desired results; and

4. Whereas the goal of the Commission is to carry out its purposes and duties in an efficient, productive, cost-effective and manner for both the present and the future well-being of the community;

Therefore be it resolved

1. that the Commission, upon passage of this resolution, shall dissolve all standing or other committees created before December 2006 and shall create in their place six Regional Coalitions as follows:
 1. The Regional Coalitions will be assembled two per Grand Division.
 2. One coalition in each Grand Division will focus on economic development and government relations.
 3. One coalition in each Grand Division will focus on health, education and wellness and community relations.
 4. Appointments to each coalition will consist of American Indian community residents of the relevant Grand Division including metro areas to include two federally recognized members, two state recognized members, and two unenrolled members.
 5. Appointments will be made by the Commission from recommendations of the community of the Grand Division, recommendations from American Indian or American Indian-related organizations in the Grand Division, and applications from interested community members, and will be sought based on current and past community activity, interest and relevant experience.
 6. Commissioners shall be appointed as ex-officio members of those Regional Coalitions relevant to their seats, shall have voting rights, and shall serve as liaisons between the coalitions and the Commission.
 7. Each coalition will work to identify and create partnerships with appropriate community organizations and professionals within the relevant Grand Division giving first preference to those individuals and organizations that are American Indian.
 8. For the purpose of ensuring continued collection of data relevant to the condition of American Indians/Alaska Natives living in Tennessee, each coalition will work cooperatively with the Tennessee American Indian Research Initiative on all projects to determine data to be collected, measurable outcomes, establish benchmarks and other relevant objectives, and to deliver the data to the Initiative.
 9. The coalitions will work cooperatively with the Tennessee American Indian Research Initiative to plan for and include website and internet-based storage for resource materials, information, and data relevant to each coalition.
 10. Each coalition will meet not less than once every two months.
 11. Compliance with Open Meetings Act shall be maintained within and limited to the geographic area of the relevant Grand Division.
2. With the exception of applications filed in the name of or in partnership with the Tennessee Commission on Indian Affairs or in those instances where funding is limited to one state-wide award, coalitions will be authorized to research and seek appropriate funding individually, in partnership with one another, or through community partnerships, but shall be required to report such applications from point of submission to point of completion to the Tennessee American Indian Research Initiative for data collection purposes and to the Commission for the purpose of public transparency and accountability including but not limited to copies of all applications, awards, and funder-required reports.

Valerie Ohle, February 9, 2008
