

NEWS RELEASE

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Catawba Nation's charitable foundation beginning work to aid economic development, education and conservation

Foundation has more than \$2 million from Catawba Two Kings Casino to fund programs and projects for tribal citizens and regional community

ROCK HILL, S.C., and KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C. (April X, 2024) – The Catawba Nation's nonprofit charitable foundation has begun work to determine its initial priorities in funding economic development, education and conservation programs and projects for tribal citizens and the regional community.

The Catawba Indian Nation Foundation Inc. was established as part of the Nation's 2021 Compact with the State of North Carolina. It is funded from proceeds generated by the nation's Catawba Two Kings Casino, which has operated in a temporary facility in Kings Mountain since July 2021. To date the foundation has received \$2 million from the casino, including the most recent annual \$1 million payment March 1.

The foundation's articles of incorporation were certified on Feb. 27 by North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall. That followed North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper's appointment of 10 members of the Foundation's 12-member board of directors in November of 2023. The other two board members are Catawba Nation Chief Brian Harris and Assistant Chief Patricia Leach.

The foundation board met for the first time on March 15 at the Catawba Nation's offices in Rock Hill (*see photo below*).

"Catawba are continuing to move forward with not only our plans for a full casino resort in Kings Mountain but also to begin using proceeds from the casino for our foundation to have a large positive impact on the quality of life for our members and the larger community," Catawba Nation Chief Brian Harris said.

"I want to thank Governor Cooper for his continued stewardship and collaboration on the vital relationship between the State of North Carolina and the Catawba Nation. We have assembled a dedicated group of people from the community and tribal members to guide this foundation and are getting to work," Harris said.

Gov. Cooper's appointees to the Catawba Indian Nation Foundation Board of Directors are:

- **Omar A. Porter** of Shelby as a member at-large. Porter is the director of community engagement at Cleveland County Community College.
- **John Searby** of Belmont as a member at-large. Searby serves as the CEO of the partnership between Catawba Riverkeeper and Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden and is the executive director of both organizations.

- **Phillip W. Glover** of Shelby as a member at-large. Glover is a retired state trooper with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol and is the owner and operator of Safe Lane Driving School LLC. Glover served for 17 years on the Cleveland County Board of Education.
- **J. Newton Craver II** of Shelby as a member at-large. Craver co-founded Legion Brewing Company in Charlotte in 2014, where he remains involved as a principal investor. Craver is also president of Shelby Loan & Mortgage Corporation, a real estate investment firm he manages in Shelby.
- **Deb Hardin** of Shelby as the county commissioner from Cleveland County. Hardin has served on the Cleveland County Commission for the last five years.
- **Nicole Braswell** of Gastonia as an enrolled citizen of the Catawba Nation. Braswell is a service parts manager for the Husqvarna Group and a board member of Catawba Corporations, the economic arm of the Catawba Nation.
- **Brooke Richey** of Waxhaw as an enrolled citizen of the Catawba Nation. Richey is a tax manager at Cherry Bekaert.
- **Lacey Edwards** of Havelock as an enrolled citizen of the Catawba Nation. Edwards is a teacher in Havelock.
- **Jennifer Beck Walker** of Concord as an enrolled citizen of the Catawba Nation. Walker is the vice president of product management at WALKER.
- **Harvey Godwin Jr.** of Pembroke is a member at-large. Godwin is a former tribal chairman for the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.

The Catawba Indian Nation Foundation's objectives as detailed in the Compact are:

- Enhance the long-term success of the casino and the development of the Catawba Indian Nation lands.
- Protect, preserve, and enhance the ancestral lands of the Catawba Indian Nation (and particularly the Catawba River) in proximity to the Catawba Indian Nation lands through the acquisition of conservation easements and other real property interests.
- Implement other conservation measures to enhance the Catawba River.
- Assist in economic development for public services, recreation, entertainment, and community economic development, and foster employment opportunities on or near Catawba Indian Nation lands.
- Educate local children and federally and State-recognized Indian tribe children in the classroom.
- Provide educational scholarships for citizens of the Catawba Indian Nation and other federally and State-recognized Indian tribes within North Carolina.
- Fund high school internships for citizens of the Catawba Indian Nation involved in the preservation of ancestral lands of the Catawba Indian Nation or the Catawba River.
- Preserve, research, study, and restore the history, tradition, culture, language, arts, crafts and heritage of the Catawba Indian Nation through programs and activities based on the Catawba Indian Nation lands.



Members of the Catawba Indian Nation Foundation Board of Directors on March 15 met at the nation's offices in Rock Hill, S.C. Picture from left to right are Nicole Braswell, Lacey Edwards, Omar A. Porter, Jennifer Beck Walker, John Searby, Brooke Richey, Phillip W. Glover, Assistant Chief Patricia Leach, Chief Brian Harris, J. Newton Craver II and Harvey Godwin Jr.