

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (2026)

WHEREAS, the Cultural Institutional Review Board (CIRB) has been assigned the task of reviewing culturally relevant research requests made to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and;

WHEREAS, the CIRB has reviewed the research request made by Trey Adcock, Tiffanie Hardbarger, and Katie Tiger, with project staff Kilyne Oocumma and Adrian Davis, to conduct a research project titled "*Cherokee Digital Storytelling & Photovoice Pilot Project*", and;

WHEREAS, the purpose of this pilot project is to engage the Eastern Band of Cherokee community in a qualitative, exploratory, community-based participatory research study examining the relationship between water, climate change, and community wellbeing through Indigenous photovoice and digital storytelling methods, and;

WHEREAS, the project is intended to center intergenerational Cherokee perspectives on DꞤ (ama/water), cultural knowledge, environmental change, and community resilience, while creating space for participants to document and share their own stories, photographs, and video narratives in ways that retain participant agency over representation and story approval, and;

WHEREAS, the project is expected to produce community-benefiting outputs including a short digital film, a Community Event and Exhibit, and an electronic and/or print booklet, all of which may help inform future programming, advocacy, environmental planning, education, and community dialogue related to water protection and climate resilience, and;

WHEREAS, the researchers acknowledge that all completed work and final project materials will be forwarded to the EBCI Cultural IRB for final review prior to publication or public dissemination in any form, and;

WHEREAS, the researchers understand that project data will be used only as outlined in the approved project application, that any future use outside the approved scope requires prior review and approval by the EBCI CIRB, and that copies of relevant final materials will be provided to the appropriate EBCI entities as required,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Council assembled at which quorum is present that Trey Adcock, Tiffanie Hardbarger, Katie Tiger, and their project team are hereby granted permission to conduct the above-named research project as described in their CIRB proposal and will follow through with all reporting as required by Tribal CIRB,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the EBCI Cultural Resources shall carry out the intent of this resolution and that this resolution become effective upon ratification of the Principal Chief.

Submitted by:

Angelina Jumper

Cultural Resources Supervisor, CIRB Chair