



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

“Respect, Harmony, and Beauty”

**AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
FOR NRCS
NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE
April 9, 2004**

Those present: Ann Perales, Pat Broyles, Harold Bryant, Ivan Dozier, Glenn Lamberg, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Crystal Leonetti, Felix Nez, Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Herb Webb (late), Larry Coburn, Ciro LoPinto, April Gansen, McKinley Posely (briefly).

President, Ann Perales called the meeting to order at 11:05 am Central time.

Registration Fee Procedure

A request was received from NRCS in Maine to have the training conference registration fee waived for 3-4 tribal speakers. NRCS in Maine is considering paying their travel expenses. It was also requested that AIANEA waive the cost of the banquet tickets. In the past, we have never asked a speaker from a tribe to pay for anything at our conference. Action was taken during the teleconference, although the original motion made by Pat Broyles was rescinded by him and a re-vote took place by email between April 23-26, 2004.

Pat Broyles made the following motion: Permit all speakers who are not federal employees to attend the training conference without paying the registration fee or the banquet fee FOR 2004 ONLY. Seconded by Larry Coburn. Motion passed unanimously.

The National Council will need to talk about future conferences at a later date and how to handle this issue.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 2004 National Council meeting were reviewed. Ciro LoPinto moved to approve the minutes as amended. Felix Nez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

April reviewed the Treasurer's Report emailed to the National Council prior to the teleconference. Ann reported that Noller Herbert will no longer be the statutory agent for the incorporation with the Arizona Corporation Commission since he is moving to Washington DC. Millie Titla has agreed to take over as the statutory agent.

Regional Reports

Midwest – Glenn reported that the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Protection & Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA) and Michigan NRCS have jointly established a signing date of April 22, 2004 for the Cultural Resource Protection MOU. The signing will be at the Saginaw Tribe of Chippewa Indians at Mt. Pleasant, MI. The ceremony will be at the Ziibiwing Center, a \$10 million facility that has been constructed to inform, educate and protect the rich history of the Anishinaabek peoples in MI. NRCS is the first federal agency in MI with an MOU with MACPRA.

The 4th Annual Protectors of the Earth Youth Camp will take place Aug. 1-6, 2004 at the Sugar Island Cultural Camp in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. It is a one-week experience for Native American, African American, and Latino students to learn more about the opportunities, careers, enjoyment and importance of natural resource studies.

A conference that will include all agencies of USDA is scheduled for May 21-22, 2004 at the Bay Mills Community College (Tribal Land Grant College) in the northeastern part of the Upper Peninsula. The purpose of the session is to bring tribal governments and staffs in contact with all USDA programs that are available to them.

Ivan initiated a discussion about FSA takeover of 106 responsibilities with CRP. FSA staff needs cultural resources training. Discussion of how this is affecting some of the Midwest states took place.

South Central – Harold reported that the order for conservation tattoos went in last week. Nationwide 640,000 tattoos were ordered, including 6000 buffalo and 5000 eagle. Arrival date is approximately April 15. The tattoos ordered for AIANEA will be delivered to Tanya. Harold will not use any these tattoos because he has plenty.

Harold got pricing for the INCA display from GSA. It is \$1800 for the hardware only and this will be a cost to INCA. It is a pop-up display. The artwork cost will be approximately \$450-500 in addition to the hardware cost, for a total of \$2200-2300. Harold will get this information to Dick Gooby.

The first Texas dedication of land into FRPP will take place on April 23, 2004. This piece of land was accepted into the program to protect cultural resources and for water quality.

Felix requested some tattoos. April has a current supply and will send Felix 200 buffalo and 200 eagle tattoos.

Northern Plains – Pat reported that he sent emails to all Northern Plains members and tribal liaisons advertising the new NRCS grants. He will send an email about the awards. He sent a power point presentation to the national Plant Material Center on 70 species of native plants of significant use to American Indians.

April announced that Famous Dave is currently in South Dakota visiting reservations.

East – Ciro reported that he is on a program work team to assist David Greene with the American Indian Program at Cornell University. David Greene is working with the Iroquois Ag Project. This project is an ongoing effort working with Iroquois white corn. Ciro requested seed packets of white corn to go with the conference registration material.

In the Fall of 2004, there will be a diversity conference for Extension Service in NY. Ciro was asked to participate. One topic will be land tenure vs. land ownership. The above mentioned program work team is also working with 4-H on the issue of using Indian terminology.

David Greene is preparing a guidebook to be developed by Fall 2004 for Extension Agents that serve on Indian land. David Greene has agreed to be on the agenda at the training conference and is seeking input for this guidebook.

West – Felix reported that technology tool training will take place in Arizona on April 26-30. There will be 2 Indian NRCS instructors. As the SEPM in AZ, Felix wants to get exposure on the Hopi reservation. Blythe attended Earth Day Celebration planning meetings. There will be an Earth Day Celebration on Hopi May 5, 2004. The community and K-12 students are invited.

Felix has been advertising the training conference in AZ, CA, and WA.

2004 Training Conference Update

Ciro reported that the next planning committee teleconference is May 12. Any of the National Council members are invited to participate. On April 28, Giro will visit Turning Stone and the area. He will meet with an Oneidea representative to look at the tour sites and to finalize. He will meet with the casino representatives to finalize meals, rooms etc.

The large conference room in which all of the general sessions will take place will also be where the Silent Auction and Poster Session will take place. The agenda is still coming together. Still waiting for some of the speakers for the Economic Success Story day to confirm.

The agenda for the cultural resource staff meeting on July 12 is final. The Cultural Resource Day, as part of our conference, on July 14 is final. Still waiting for final donations of AV equipment. We might only use screens and microphones from Turning Stone. There possibly might be a couple of NRCS vans available during the week.

Ann requested Giro to check to see if there will be a charge for a Turning Stone employee to hang the AIANEA banner. Giro reported that any assistance from Turning Stone staff is charged an hourly rate. Giro will request that all things will be in place on Sunday, July 11.

Approximately 150 bags were requested, so 150 agendas should be adequate. Ann might make 200 to be safe. Giro will discuss with Turning Stone the possibility of 6-10 rooms at the \$70 rate for Friday, July 16 for National Council members required to remain there to wrap up business.

Discussion took place regarding the Tuesday night social event and food that should be made available. Giro asked the National Council if they wanted to set an amount to spend for snacks. He will get the options and prices on 4/28 and report at the May 12 planning committee teleconference. He will also check to see if a cash bar could be made available.

Moderators are needed and should be AIANEA members preferably non-National Council members. Blythe volunteered to be a moderator. Anyone sending posters etc. ahead of time also needs to provide return postage. The shipping address for such a case is the Area Office and is shown on the website.

There is an employee of the Area Office that has offered to be of tremendous help including dropping items off at Turning Stone on Sunday. Giro asked whether we should give her a complimentary banquet ticket and also one ticket for her husband. All members agreed that we will offer her a ticket and offer her husband a ticket.

Ann reminded us that in Cloquet, arrangements were made for the Elders to be taken on a local tour by an NRCS employee. She asked whether we should arrange this in NY. All agreed that it should take place. Will need to find someone to conduct the tour and it would be a good idea for a National Council member to go along.

NHQ Update

McKinley was called out of the teleconference but wanted to report the following items.

NRCS has provided funds for placement of five 'Washington Internship for Native Students' (WINS) Interns. NRCS Outreach Division has received approval to fund 5 four-year scholarships with students at 1994 colleges. Of the WINS interns placed with NRCS this year, two are from 1994 colleges and we hope to offer scholarships to these at the end of their internship.

NRCS sent \$10,000 to the Maine State Office to get the production of the American Indian Heritage Month Poster started. The announcement request to NRCS staff of the 2nd Annual Tribal

Conservation District/Tribal Advisory Council Conference in Las Vegas has been submitted to the management for approval. This will clear the way for all NRCS American Indian Liaisons and SEPMs in the field to attend this conference.

Finished work with the Indian Nations Conservation Alliance (INCA) that revised the Mutual Agreement between NRCS and Tribes so that it is inclusive of all USDA agencies. Noller Herbert, NRCS new Tribal Relationship Coordinator will start in his new position May 3, 2004.

Miscellaneous

Ann reported that she will have surgery on April 27 and may be off work for 6 weeks. Even so, she will coordinate the May teleconference. Herb reported that a Montana Tribal Outreach Forum will take place May 4-6, 2004. He asked if AIANEA could donate 4 AIANEA hats, which would cost approximately \$40. Pat Broyles made the motion to reimburse Herb Webb up to \$45 for 4 hats to be donated for the MT Tribal Outreach Forum. Felix Nez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Crystal reported that two people applied for scholarships. In addition, award nominations are due by May 21.

Next Teleconference

The next teleconference will take place on May 14, 2004 at 12:00 Eastern Time. **Ann Perales agreed to coordinate the teleconference.**

Adjourn

The teleconference adjourned at 12:55 CST.

Respectfully Submitted by
Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Secretary