



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

“Respect, Harmony, and Beauty”

**AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
FOR NRCS
NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE
August 13, 2004**

Those present: Ann Perales, Harold Bryant, Pat Broyles, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Crystal Leonetti, Felix Nez, Larry Coburn, Noller Herbert, Ivan Dozier, Ciro LoPinto, Herb Webb, Blythe Koyiyumptewa .

President, Ann Perales called the meeting to order at 11:15 am Central time.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 2004 National Council meeting and the 2004 Business Meeting held July 13 were reviewed. Ciro Lopinto moved to approve the minutes as amended. Felix Nez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Herb discussed the Treasurer position and issues related to it. There was discussion regarding other people taking on the conference responsibilities and reporting back to the Treasurer. Harold discussed the possibility of developing an annual conference committee to carry out all responsibilities of the conference. This could relieve National Council members of much. This would give more people reason to attend the conference. The committee members responsible for the conference treasury would report to the Treasurer.

Ann reported that she is working on developing a conference guideline handbook. This would be helpful to a conference committee. The committees would report to the Conference Committee Chair. The Chair would then report to the National Council.

Crystal mentioned that we need to make sure that the AIANEA financial obligations are met and we need to support the Treasurer. Herb mentioned that the guideline handbook would help and that Harold’s suggestion is good. Noller mentioned that the Treasurer has done a lot with developing the 501(C)3 and is experienced. The expertise is needed with the required reporting.

Herb suggested having more people (2 others) involved with the treasury so that they can get experience and would be able to transition into the position becomes vacant. Larry stated that he supports the Treasurer position and asked the National Council to consider this and do the same if they concur. He also mentioned that the current Treasurer could provide written suggestions for improving the position and submit this to the National Council for consideration.

Felix Nez made a motion that we, the AIANEA support April Gansen in the position of Treasurer, and ask her to submit feedback in writing to the National Council regarding assistance that is needed in the Treasurer position. We will ask her to provide information on what the association can do to make the duties of the Treasurer position easier to bear and complete. Harold Bryant seconded the motion. Discussion continued regarding the Treasurer duties according to the Constitution. Herb reviewed the Constitution prior to the teleconference and stated that the Constitution does not include anything that would have to be revised with this change. Motion passed unanimously.

Ciro suggested April form an ad-hoc committee so there are specific people to carry out the responsibilities. Herb reminded the Council that we have a Finance and Budget Committee. We could have the Treasurer be the Chair of that committee and utilize the committee more.

Herb will discuss all of this with April and ask her for recommendations. The National Council should email Herb any further suggestions they may have. Noller reminded the Council that the AIANEA was formed to develop leadership skills. This includes making contacts to request help. This is a form of leadership development.

Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen discussed some personal costs for the conference that she would like to be reimbursed for. They are for sending Leland Debe's advance check by Express Mail since the postal service returned the original envelope and a cost to UPS the door prize books to NY. The total amount is \$46.25. Larry Coburn made a motion for Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen to be reimbursed \$46.25 and it is alright for her to issue the check. Pat Broyles seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Regional Reports

Southeast – Larry reported that the SE American Indian Work Group is continuing. David Elliott is the Chair of the 4th Annual American Indian Program Delivery Initiative and planning is going well.

South Central – Harold reported that in El Paso, work is being done with a tribe and RC&D to include brochures to distribute at a state park regarding the tribal culture and history. There is a project with the Kickapoo regarding deer herd management north of the reservation. The goal is to improve wildlife habitat on this land and they may be able to allow tribal members to deer and turkey hunt in the future. Harold still needs photos for the INCA display. It needs to be displayed at the Tribal Conservation District Conference in Las Vegas in December. **Harold should have any photos by mid-Sept. at the latest.**

Northern Plains – Pat reported that the Regional Office is just about closed. Constance Miller called Pat and thanked AIANEA for her award.

East – Ciro reported that a letter went out to the State Conservationists in the northeast states regarding the US Fish and Wildlife Service, asking to have the NRCS Tribal Liaison from their states put on a list. USFWS is developing a list for all federal agencies and then will do state agencies. They are considering developing a meeting of all of these liaisons in the region.

West – Felix reported there is a request for a Tribal SWCD regional conference at Shiprock. Felix received a request from Nes Pelen in Washington state to do a presentation on Tribal SWCD and RC&D. Nes Pelen is a new tribal SWCD in 2003. Felix will take AIANEA brochures and fliers regarding Tribal SWCD Conference to Nes Pelen. Tanya also suggested a simple flier regarding the AIANEA 2005 conference in Montana.

Larry discussed the INCA issue papers regarding new tribal SWCDs needing help to get up and running. Larry will email Dick Gooby for the most recent version and will email to the National Council.

The Tribal Conservation District Association in Arizona will meet prior to the next State Technical Committee meeting. They are very active. Millie Titla is working with this group.

NHQ Report

Noller reported that he emailed the bulletin regarding request for approval to attend the Tribal SWCD Conference. There is an Oct. 11 deadline for all State Conservationists to fax in their participants. RC&D is doing a listening session to get a tribal perspective on the program. An email will go out to all Coordinators to

see if they think a listening session is needed. The listening session would be conducted by RC&D and Rural Lands. There would be one listening session nationally.

Noller reported on the upcoming opening of the Smithsonian American Indian Museum on September 21. Annabelle Romero has worked with the Secretary to participate in events that week. NRCS was given permission to participate. A work group exists to develop an agenda. They are working on events for Monday, Sept. 20 from 5:30-7:30 pm, to include Secretary's remarks. The NRCS drum group will participate during the flag song, honor song and others. The Elders will participate in the posting and taking down of the colors. Noller is working on this full time. Approval was given to move forward.

Noller is putting together a budget for 2005 for conferences that NRCS should participate in, such as AISES. Contact Noller with any conference suggestions. Several were shared during the teleconference, such as SAIGE and the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. Email a short paragraph to Noller with what the conference is and why NRCS should be there. Harold reminded all that we need to make sure the display is scheduled for these conferences.

2004 Conference Final Report

Ciro sent thank yous to Turning Stone. Giro has 3 awards to send to Turning Stone. He used some of the photos from the CD with an article he wrote for the NY NRCS newsletter. Noller suggested sending it to NRCS This Week and to have NY post it on my.NRCS. Giro will follow up on this.

Positive comments were received from the NY staff that attended the conference. A bill went to the Area Office for Plant Material Center items. Pat is uncertain how this happened. Next year's display material needs to be billed to the sender and billed to return to them. The State Office is missing 1 flip chart. Giro gave them Turning Stone's contact information. Giro forwarded a list of the participants that got complimentary rooms to his State Office. They forwarded the list to the National Office.

2005 Conference Planning

Pat reported that he and Herb will work together. We won't be able to have SEPM training in 2005 because there is an all-SEPM training March 28-April 1, 2005 in Reno. It has been suggested to have Tribal Liaison training instead on Monday with concurrent sessions. He would like to appoint Millie Titla and Thedis Crowe to co-chair the Tribal Liaison training. They have agreed to do it.

Carol Crouch will chair the poster session. Todd Hagel will work on getting Tex Hall as a speaker. Carol Crouch is trying to get John Herrington as a speaker. Pat will contact NEDC to see if they want to provide sessions. **Thedis will host the first planning teleconference the week of Sept. 20.**

Herb emailed Noller, Millie, and Thedis regarding the conference and Tribal Liaison training. Herb drafted a letter and sent to Ann for the Montana State Conservationist to invite him and his staff and ask for his support.

Thedis emailed and said that she likes the idea of the Tribal Liaison training. She asked about partnering with the Cultural Resources staff. They will vote on the location of their conference for 2005. Thedis mentioned that there will be NEDC outreach training course available in 2005. She also said we should do capacity building with Tribal SWCDs, tribes, and tribal resource staff.

The hotel has June 27 – July 1 on their books for us. They will draft a contract. Herb will send copies to the planning committee. They emailed the costs recently. Herb will be able to find local tribal speakers on some of the topics. The tour will most likely include a field trip to the cultural center, tribal college, and the National Bison Range. The National Bison Range will include a presentation.

Next Teleconference

The next teleconference will take place on September 10, 2004 at 11:00 Central Time. **Felix Nez agreed to coordinate the teleconference.**

Adjourn

The teleconference adjourned at 1:00 pm CST.

Respectfully Submitted by

Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Secretary