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**American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS**  
*“Respect, Harmony, and Beauty”*

**AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION  
FOR NRCS  
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
Turning Stone Resort  
Verona, NY  
July 13, 2004**

**Those present:** **Midwest Region:** Ivan Dozier, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Anna Whitebird-Perales, Glenn Lamberg, David Wise, Nils “Buster” Landin, Julia Hinders, Yvette Dulle, Tony Bush. **Northern Plains Region:** Pat Broyles, April Gansen, Herb Webb, Kimberly Stine, Glen Green, Kim Brannen, Dana Vaillancourt. **West:** Crystal Leonetti, Felix Nez, Kurt Cates, Jerry Rouse, Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Lyndon Chee, Louie Dick. **Southeast Region:** Larry Coburn, John McCoy, Pat Green, David Elliot, **East Region:** Ciro LoPinto, Noller Herbert, Michele King, Shay Maria Sylvestri, Stephen Cashman, Sarah Bridges. **South Central Region:** Harold Bryant, Carol Vallee Crouch, Roylene Rides at the Door-Waln, Leota Burnett.

President, Ann Perales called the meeting to order at 8:30 pm Eastern time.

**Presentations for 2005 Training Conference**

Todd Hagel discussed **North Dakota** as a potential site for the 2005 training conference including potential areas and the tribes that exist in the state.

Mike Stirling gave a presentation about **South Dakota**. He shared that there are 9 reservations, but that none of the facilities on reservations are large enough to accommodate the conference. Rapid City, SD has facilities large enough to host us. It is 5 minutes from the airport, with shuttle service. It is 40 miles from Pine Ridge reservation. 10-15% of the Rapid City population is American Indian. Crazy Horse Memorial and other attractions are nearby. Airlines and restaurants are sufficient. There are plenty of family recreation areas.

Mike reported that dates in April and May would be best as the rates would be lower and there would be less tourists. The lodging rate is \$55.00. There could be a traditional meal at Crazy Horse possibly. Mike showed a powerpoint on Rapid City area. Partnering opportunities exist. Would be able to work with all of the Lakota tribes to plan the conference.

Herb Webb gave a presentation about **Montana**. The proposed site is on the Flathead Indian Reservation, which has its own meeting facilities. The KwaTaqNuk Resort, Best Western does not have enough lodging but there is a hotel across the highway.

The Flathead Reservation has 1.2 million acres, with 60-65% of that being owned by the tribe (Salish and Kootenai Tribes). The tribes run all their own programs. Attractions include the National Bison Range and the tribal college. The tribe is very supportive of the conference.

Flathead is 1 hour away from the Missoula and the Kallispell airports. The only week available is June 27-July1, 2005. There is a big pow wow the same week. The federal per diem rate for lodging in Polson, MT is \$83.00 during the summer. The resort did agree to honor that rate for most rooms at the conference. There might be an additional charge of \$10 for lakeside rooms. Rooms during the summer season usually run \$110 and up.

Carol Crouch added that it is a beautiful area and worth the drive from the airports. Thedis Crowe added that the tribal college has provided transportation for cultural resources training in the past. Maybe there is a possibility to partner with the cultural resources staff. Flathead is an hour and a half from Glacier National Park. IAC and INCA are both in MT.

Pat Broyles added that the regional representative historically is the Planning Committee Chair. The Northern Plains regional representative position is up for election in December, which would begin service in 2005.

### **Vote for 2005 Training Conference**

Initial vote by raising of hands showed:

Montana – 23

South Dakota – 8

Larry Coburn made a motion to have the membership vote to hold the training conference in Montana from June 27-July1, 2005. Ciro LoPinto seconded the motion. There were 27 votes in favor and 2 opposed. Motion passed.

Individuals volunteering to serve on the 2005 Planning Committee include: Herb Webb, Carol Crouch, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, April Gansen, Ann Perales, Ciro LoPinto, Larry Coburn, Glenn Lamberg, Steve Cashman, Pat Broyles, Glen Green, and Felix Nez.

### **Reorganization of NRCS and affects on AIANEA**

Pat Broyles initiated a discussion regarding the recent reorganization of NRCS regions. The organization of AIANEA regions now does not fit the NRCS regions. Pat will propose revision to the bylaws that will state that there should be 2 AIANEA regional representatives per new NRCS region. He will propose this at the August National Council teleconference. This will require a membership vote, which will take place in December with elections.

Herb reported that a questionnaire was sent out in the fall of 2003 regarding this issue. At that time, 16 of the 20 respondents wanted to leave the AIANEA regional structure as is.

### **2004 American Indian Heritage Month Poster**

Steve Cashman reported that Maine has the responsibility for the 2004 poster. A poster design has been selected, which was created by the Penobscot Tribe. Steve showed the membership an example of the poster design. The poster will come out in September 2004.

### **Miscellaneous**

Noller Herbert requested issues to be provided to him. He is looking at where we want to be in the future with consideration of the 7 generations.

Noller discussed the **upcoming Farm Bill and the importance of input** to be provided. The Agriculture Committee exists to address these issues. He suggested we develop a committee or ad hoc committee to discuss and provide input for the new Farm Bill. In January or February of 2005, USDA will begin looking at the Farm Bill.

It was suggested that a **committee be formed regarding Indian law**. It is important that we understand it. We need a resource on the association to help understand Indian law and to better provide feedback to legislators. Noller suggested the Council consider this.

Noller also discussed **retirees** and the need to determine how to utilize NRCS retirees as a valuable resource.

Harold Bryant reported that Dick Gooby requested photos for the INCA display. Please send photos to Harold for consideration. He needs photos from across the country. He needs hard copies, no digitals. Slides, prints or negatives are fine. When sending images to Harold, identify who is sending it so that he can return it when finished. Harold explained that the display is 2/3 the size of the Harmony display (5' x 7', with 6-7 photos).

Herb Webb made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Crystal Leonetti seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm Eastern time.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Secretary