



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"

**AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
FOR NRCS
NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE
June 18, 2004**

Those present: Ann Perales, Harold Bryant, Pat Broyles, Glenn Lamberg, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Crystal Leonetti, Felix Nez, Larry Coburn, April Gansen, Noller Herbert.

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

Miscellaneous Training Conference Items

Ann reported that a **student intern with the cultural resources staff** was planning on attending the training conference. NRCS will pay her travel. Sarah Bridges requested AIANEA to waive her registration fee. Discussion took place with questions whether NRCS would automatically reimburse her registration fee. Glenn stated that she at least needs to pay for breaks and the banquet at \$10/day and \$30 for the banquet. Pat also suggested she become a student member of AIANEA. Ann will ask Sarah if NRCS will reimburse the student.

Pat Broyles made a motion stating that if NRCS will not reimburse her registration fee, AIANEA will waive the registration cost if AIANEA is reimbursed \$10 per day for breaks and \$30 for the banquet. Felix Nez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ann also shared that the student will provide silent auction items.

****Please note that after the teleconference, further discussion took place with the National Council pertaining ethics and the fact that a USDA employee cannot receive a gift of value over \$20.00, thus AIANEA cannot waive the \$270.00 registration fee for the student intern.**

Alicia Bell-Sheeter, speaker from First Nations, requested AIANEA pay her lodging for July 13, 14, and 15 equaling a cost of \$210.00. First Nations is paying her travel costs and incidentals.

Larry Coburn made a motion to approve AIANEA paying lodging for Alicia Bell-Sheeter because she is a speaker. Glenn Lamberg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Pat and Harold stated that the only reason to approve this is because she is a speaker. Ann shared that we are assisting any speakers that request. Individual speakers have different assistance requests – some need airfare only, some need lodging only etc.

Ann reported that the total cost for the **buses to be used for the tours** is \$832.50. AIANEA has been asked to pay half of this amount.

Pat Broyles made a motion to approve the flat rate of \$416.25 to be paid to the Birnie Bus Company. Crystal Leonetti seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Payment is needed by June 21 to the bus company.

The Council approved that Tanya can issue the check and send it on June 18 to the bus company and that two signatures are not needed.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 2004 National Council meeting were reviewed. Pat Broyles moved to approve the minutes as amended and with a change that will be made by Tanya after the meeting regarding the date of the June teleconference. 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. April reported that she cannot guarantee financial report accuracy at this point. She is still working on getting the FedEx and UPS accounts set up. April will order the books for the door prizes.

April initiated discussion about the position of Treasurer that need to be discussed further at the August teleconference.

Further Miscellaneous

Ann asked Noller Herbert if it could be arranged for the National Council to meet with Bruce Knight during the training conference to discuss issues. The Council discussed specific issues that need to be shared with Chief Knight. Noller will request a time slot with the Chief for this meeting. We need to prepare an issue paper prior to the meeting to use during the discussion and to provide to the Chief.

Glenn offered to develop a position paper for review by the National Council. Pat, as Chair of the Employment and Career Committee offered to develop the draft for review instead. Glenn will assist. The paper needs to be positive and proactive instead of reactive. All should email your thoughts to Pat.

Regional Reports

Midwest – Glenn reported that the tribes in Michigan are pleased with the agreement that was signed in April. There will be a NEDC course, Consultation with American Indian Governments in Mt. Pleasant, MI October 26-28, 2004.

Southeast – Larry reported that the SE American Indian Work Group is continuing. The SE RC&D Association meeting will take place in Savannah, GA Sept. 11-14, 2004. Tribal success stories will be shared.

The SE AIWG is planning the 4th SE Region American Indian Program Delivery Initiative Oct. 4-8, 2004. It will take place at Poarch Band of the Creek Indians in Alabama. All federally recognized tribes will have representation. A number of state recognized tribes and American Indian COBs will be represented.

South Central – **Harold will email his report.** Continue to send images for the INCA display to Harold. There is a meeting of the Kickapoo on the Rio Grande this week.

Northern Plains – Pat reported on the website on ethnobotany plants and that it is getting good comments. He reported that the Three Sisters Garden is planted. 2005 will be better than 2004. He is interested in getting some Cherokee corn and beans from Larry. Larry reported that he has pre-European tomatoes, a Cherokee heirloom also. Glenn shared interest in this also.

Noller reported that the issue regarding the use of the word “squaw” in plant names has been taken care of and Richard Regan commended Pat and the Plant Materials Center for the action taken.

West – Felix reported the Navajo RC&D and SWCD are joining forces to deliver 5 seminars in 5 conservation districts on NRCS conservation projects and drought issues along with participation by BIA. Seminars are scheduled for June and July.

Navajo Lifestyle or Navajo Sheet has their annual conference from June 22-26. NRCS has been invited and will talk about conservation programs. This is the first invitation from NRCS. The conference will be held in Tsaile, AZ.

Consultation with American Indian Tribes – this training conference was completed in Phoenix with 15-18 NRCS staff in attendance. Two new Area Conservationists attended the training.

A grant writing workshop was completed by Risk Management Agency – a direct result of networking efforts at Southwest Indian Agriculture Association. Seven Indian tribes attended the workshop in Flagstaff, AZ. A person attended the workshop from Nevada, he drove 700 miles to request the workshop for his tribe in northern NV.

Felix also shared that Navajo has an Historic Preservation Dept. with several staff members that provides archaeological services. NRCS has an agreement with the Navajo APD. AZ NRCS has one Archaeologist on Navajo and one in the State Office. Other AZ tribes have agreements with NRCS set up to work to meet specific needs of the tribes.

NHQ Report

Noller requested that we prioritize issues for the position paper discussed earlier for the Chief. Noller has phone and voice mail now so communication is open and he welcomes contacts. He is looking at the possibility of a quarterly teleconference with all tribal liaisons or by regions. He wants consistent and open, constant communication.

Review of the Tribal Advisory Council policy is done. Tribal Conservation District conference bulletin is out. He reported that the National Civil Rights Committee will be attending the training conference, as well as the AI/AN Employee Advisory Council. It is time to start thinking about filling Noller’s position with the NCRC to fill the male AI/AN position. He has one more year left.

2004 Conference

Agenda changes were discussed. Field trips will include the cultural center, Oneida farm, and the Great Swamp Conservancy. Speaker confirmations were discussed. NCRC need a total of 2 rooms.

Noller presented a plaque to McKinley Posely in appreciation for his work. McKinley appreciated the plaque and thanks us.

Next Teleconference

The next teleconference will take place on August 13, 2004 at 11:00 Central Time. **Ann Perales agreed to coordinate the teleconference.**

Adjourn

The teleconference adjourned at 12:55 CST.

Respectfully Submitted by
Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Secretary