



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

“Respect, Harmony, and Beauty”

**AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
FOR NRCS
NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE
March 12, 2004**

Those present: Ann Perales, Pat Broyles, Harold Bryant, Ivan Dozier, Glenn Lamberg, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Crystal Leonetti, Felix Nez, Brian McGowan, Herb Webb, Larry Coburn.

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 2004 National Council meeting were reviewed. Pat Broyles moved to approve the minutes. Larry Coburn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Ann reviewed the Treasurer’s Report emailed to the National Council prior to the teleconference. Felix Nez moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Glenn Lamberg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Brochure and Alaska Training Session

Crystal reported that she had 100 AIANEA brochures printed on light yellow paper for the 1st Working Effectively with Alaska Natives training. The brochure on light yellow paper looks good.

There was a discussion about getting more brochures printed for the National Council members, Regional Representatives, and to keep with the American Indian display. It was decided that each person can make their own color copies. Crystal will email the updated brochure to everyone on the National Council.

Crystal reported that the training session went very well. She will send an AIANEA training conference announcement to each participant in the AK training session. There were good speakers and 6 Elders. The Elders spoke after each session. The training was very well received by the participants. There are 44 million acres of Alaska Native land. There were 30 students, including McKinley Posely and Rick Chavez. Crystal feels positive that there will be future training sessions in Alaska.

Regional Reports

Midwest – Glenn reported that the signing of a Cultural Resources Protection Agreement between NRCS and the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Protection & Repatriation Alliance (MACPRA) is scheduled for April 22. The 4th Annual Protectors of the Earth Youth Camp is scheduled for August 1-6 at Sugar Island Cultural Camp in Sault St. Marie, MI. This is an opportunity for Native American, African American, and Latino students to learn more about natural resources.

Indiana developed a brochure for the AI/AN Special Emphasis Program. If anyone is interested in seeing it or using it as a template to develop a brochure for their state, contact Nils “Buster” Landin in Indiana. Buster is also wondering and concerned about the status of the region wide guidance for Section 106 consultation.

In Iowa, they are having a National Civil Rights review this week. Jerry Rouse is part of the review team, so Tanya got to spend some time with him. Tanya utilized Buster's brochure template to develop an SEPM brochure for Iowa. The Sac and Fox in Iowa have recently resolved a yearlong tribal government dispute and NRCS is now able to start working with them again. NRCS plans to put a tribal conservationist back at tribal headquarters, but it is unknown who it will be or when it will take place.

In Wisconsin, Tom Cogger is working with the Bad River Tribe and the Red Cliff Tribe to develop brochures and other material about gardening.

Ann reported that Dana Jackson (speaker at conference in Cloquet) has a wild rice video available. Contact Ann for information on how to acquire. Glenn added that he would like to share success stories in the Midwest region with all of the states in the region and is thinking about getting a regional newsletter developed.

South Central – Harold reported that the 1st National Hispanic Farmer and Rancher Conference took place in San Antonio a few weeks ago. Harold organized a panel discussion on sustainable agriculture including a buffalo rancher, Ted Herrera. Mr. Herrera was also asked to provide a prayer. Another topic was the impact of Indian culture on the missions.

Harold attended the HACU conference in south Texas. He also visited with Herb about the silent auction at the training conference. It is proposed that the silent auction will end the evening of the traditional dinner and that winners would pay the next morning. Harold has concerns about the effect it could have on the entertainment that evening. He wants to make sure the silent auction does not distract from the entertainer(s). There was discussion that 15-20 minutes could be given for the ending of the auction prior to the start of the entertainment. When the auction is closed, the sheets will be picked up. We will need a good moderator to make this work right.

Harold gave Herb contact information for the Organic Trade Association (OTA) for the training conference as a potential speaker.

Crystal added that the American Indian display was used in Alaska for the training and was well received. A photo was taken of the Elders and the State Conservationist by the display.

Southeast – Larry reported that the SE American Indian Work Group still meets on a monthly basis. The SE Regional meeting to be hosted by the Poarch Creek Band in Alabama will be held October 2004. Larry has been assisting the SE RC&D Association in planning the regional RC&D conference, scheduled for September 2004. It will include tribal success stories. Larry serves as an advisor to INCA in the SE region.

Northern Plains – Pat reported that he attended the Grazing Land Conservation Initiative meeting in St. Louis. It is evident that Plant Material Centers are working closely with tribes. Pat developed a plant guide for choke cherry which includes tribal use. It is available at plants.usda.gov. He is trying to develop a wild rice plant guide.

Regarding the poster session at the conference, Pat sent the forms to Ann, Herb, and Ciro and these will go on the website. All posters will be in one large room.

West – Felix reported that the SW Indian Agricultural Association conference took place. He talked to other agencies about AIANEA and the conference. Noller Herbert was offered and accepted the National American Indian Liaison position. He is looking forward to the new position and will report on May 1.

The Civil Rights Committee in Arizona will have a discussion about the name change to Alaska Native. Felix is working with several people to brainstorm how to get more women and Indians to be interested in participating on SWCD boards.

Conservation Tattoos

Harold reported that orders are being accepted through March 19 for conservation tattoos. The price is the same as 2003 - \$17.85/1000. They can be ordered through your State Public Affairs Specialist or through 1-800-THE-SOIL or 1-888-LANDCARE. Ann suggested ordering some for AIANEA and distributing them to National Council at the training conference.

Pat Broyles moved to order 3000 tattoos and distribute them at the conference in July. Felix seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Tanya agreed to place the order.

2004 Training Conference Update

Herb reported that there will be a planning committee teleconference on March 23. The cultural resources staff have a planning committee for their national conference. They got approval for the conference to be in conjunction with ours. They will have a separate meeting on Monday, July 12 and will be providing speakers on Wednesday, July 14.

Herb is working on the Economic Sustainability day for July 15. Several speakers have agreed to speak and some need assistance with airfare. The budget will be presented to the National Council for approval soon. On Friday, July 16, the USDA AI/AN Employees Advisory Council will conduct an employee forum.

Tanya distributed the letters of invitation to the State Conservationists and Regional Conservationists. A followup email will be sent later. The official national bulletin recently came out. Poster displays will be no cost to the presenter. Speakers for the Economic Sustainability day may want to set up booths, we probably won't charge for this.

Ann emailed a map of Oneida County to all. Herb reported that the conference information will be on the website soon. Ann will talk to April this weekend about which address to use on the registration form.

Constitution

It was determined that the National Council could vote on the recent Constitution amendment. Larry Coburn moved to accept the changes to the Constitution. Felix Nez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Teleconference

The next teleconference will take place on April 9, 2004 at 12:00 Eastern Time. **Glenn Lamberg agreed to coordinate the teleconference.**

Adjourn

Crystal Leonetti moved to adjourn the meeting. Felix Nez seconded the motion. The teleconference adjourned at 12:20 CST.

Respectfully Submitted by
Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Secretary