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**American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS**

*“Respect, Harmony, and Beauty”*

**AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION  
FOR NRCS  
NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE  
September 10, 2004**

**Those present:** Ann Perales, Harold Bryant, Pat Broyles (late), Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Crystal Leonetti, Ralph Goh (for Felix Nez), Noller Herbert, Ivan Dozier, Ciro LoPinto (late), Kurt Cates, and Glenn Lamberg .

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

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the August 2004 National Council meeting were reviewed. Crystal Leonetti moved to approve the minutes as amended. Glenn Lamberg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The National Council reviewed the recommendation provided by the Treasurer regarding the Treasurer position. Larry Coburn had emailed prior to the teleconference that he approves of the recommendation. Several Council members approved it during the teleconference.

Crystal Leonetti made a motion to officially approve April Gansen’s recommendations for the future of the Treasurer position. Harold Bryant seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Council discussed that we need to seek candidates for the Treasurer position right away and discuss at the October teleconference. Tanya will send out an email to all Regional Reps. and National Council members that they should seek candidates within their regions and bring the names of those members interested to the October teleconference.

Discussion continued regarding how business will be handled in the interim. Tanya agreed to write necessary checks and deposit checks into the association checking account. It was discussed that it would be best if the current Treasurer could continue bookkeeping and balance of accounts until the position is filled.

Crystal Leonetti made the motion for Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen to accept and deposit checks and to write checks as needed until the Treasurer position is filled. The motion also states that April Gansen will be asked to continue bookkeeping and balance of accounts until a new Treasurer is appointed. Glenn Lamberg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Tanya will discuss this with April and report back to the Council. Each National Council member should provide the following information about any candidates at the October teleconference: name; position; background in financial management. The goal is to appoint a new Treasurer at or shortly after the October teleconference.

## **NHQ Report**

Noller reported that GM 410 Part 405 is now posted on the website under NRCS Directive System at [http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/scripts/lpsiis.dll/GM/GM\\_410\\_405\\_A.htm](http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/scripts/lpsiis.dll/GM/GM_410_405_A.htm). Title 410 is under Rural Development. The Tribal Scholars Program is currently being reviewed by a Tribal Scholars Committee. The goal is to award 5 scholarships by January 2005. The Outreach Division will consolidate comments and send to the committee, which will then be sent to the Tribal Colleges for additional comments.

## **AIANEA Scholarships**

Kurt Cates reported that there were 2 applicants for the 2004-05 year. Each received a \$150 scholarship. He received the acceptance letter from the colleges they attend and checks were sent to each last week. Kurt is working with Harold to look at better investment options. The Scholarship Committee may make a future recommendation to the National Council regarding this.

During the conference in NY, the Scholarship Committee met and voted to increase the scholarships from \$150 to \$200 each. Kurt made the recommendation for the National Council to vote on.

Ivan Dozier made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee and increase the AIANEA scholarships to \$200 each beginning the 2005-06 year. Glenn Lamberg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Kurt explained that the committee got the scholarship announcements out earlier this year and it seemed to work well. This will be the goal for the future. Ann reported that Indian Country Today has a special educational insert in September that includes information on tribal colleges, scholarship programs etc. She suggested we put our scholarships in this in the future. Kurt reported that the committee is looking at websites and other methods for promotion of the AIANEA scholarships. Ann will get the cost information from Indian Country Today for 2005.

Kurt also reported that the AIANEA website is not up to date with the scholarship information. Kurt will discuss this with Herb Webb.

## **Tribal Conservation District Sponsorship**

Ann received a request for AIANEA to be a sponsor for the December 2004 Tribal Conservation District Conference in Las Vegas. She read the different categories of sponsorship. Payment must be received by Oct. 6, 2004.

Pat Broyles made a motion that AIANEA sponsor the conference at \$250 for a Hospitality Sponsorship, which will promote our name at each break throughout the conference. Glenn Lamberg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion continued regarding whether there would still be a fee for having the American Indian display there. Noller suggested contacting Dick Gooby to find out. Harold will check with Dick on this. Ann will fax the form to Tanya for payment of \$250.

## **Regional Reports**

**Midwest** – Glenn reported that Michigan has more contracts with tribes in Farm Bill programs than in the past. He is looking forward to visiting the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC. A NEDC Consultation with American Indian Governments class will take place in Michigan in October. Clyde Goodman is back in charge.

Glenn asked what the status of the American Indian Heritage Month poster is. Noller reported that he is waiting to hear from Steve Cashman on this. When he gets details, he will inform us.

Glenn confirmed that he will assist in photo taking for NRCS public relations at the grand opening of the National Museum of the American Indian.

**South Central** – Harold reported there is activity with 3 federally recognized tribes in Texas. The Kickapoo want to be set up with a ranch that they can use to cut cedar lodge poles for ceremonies. The Boy Scout Ranch may allow some hand thinning on their land. The Kickapoo continue to work on privately owned land regarding deer management. Their goal is to increase quantity and quality of deer.

The Tigua Tribe in El Paso is working on a brush demonstration project using NRCS outreach funding. This takes place on Hueco Tanks Projects land. The Alabama – Coushatta of Texas are acquiring new lands in east TX. They acquired some land that has a conference center, dorms and recreational areas. This will be used for conferences for tribal functions etc. after renovation. NRCS is working to develop a recreational plan with them.

There have been questions in the past about who can ride in a government vehicle. Harold reviewed guidance and got it to include tribal members and tribal council members. Harold again requested photos for the INCA display. He has received a few and needs more right away. He can't use digital photos, only hard copies or slides.

In Texas, there have been 9 American Indian EQIP contracts approved out 16 applied for. One of these is a female and the rest are male. There will be a vacancy for the PAS position in Arkansas in the future.

The Alabama – Coushatta of Texas and one tribe in Oklahoma have entered into a long term contract with EPA for air monitoring.

**Northern Plains** – Pat reported that the Kickapoo in Kansas will ask the Plant Materials Center for assistance with culturally appropriate plants. In the past, David Bergdorf started a tribal project requiring MOAs with tribes to provide assistance. Pat has revised this to require an MOA between State Conservationists and tribes before Plant Material Center assistance can be given. The revision also includes a Task Agreement for individual assistance. Pat will send this to Noller.

**East** – Ciro reported that the thank you plaques were sent to Oneida. He sent information from Dick Gooby to Oneida Nation regarding Tribal Conservation Districts. Noller requested Ciro to be on the TSP Task Force. Joe Delvecchio approved.

**West** – Ralph Goh reported on the Asaayi Lake Watershed dedication ceremony to take place September 15. This will include the Navajo and Arizona NRCS. The tribe is working to install conservation practices and recreational practices.

## **2005 Elections**

Discussion took place about the timeframe for elections. Three Regional Rep. positions will be open for election, they are: Northern Plains; East; and South Central. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President is also up for election.

**Nominations are due Oct. 7, 2004. The election ballots will be mailed out the week of Oct. 11. The ballots will be due to Ann by Nov. 8 and will be finalized on the Nov. 12 teleconference. The new officers will be included in the December teleconference.**

Pat had made a suggestion regarding reorganization of the Regional Reps. in light of the reorganization of NRCS regions. Pat will draft his recommended amendment to the Constitution to the National Council for review and discussion at the October teleconference.

The mailing will include: President's letter; election ballot; membership form; scholarship donation form; and possibly an amendment to the Constitution for a membership vote. Harold suggested Pat draw out his recommended regional boundaries on a blank United States map.

### **2005 Conference Planning**

Pat reported that he and Herb are working together. The first teleconference will be scheduled some time the last week of September. Pat will send out information. Thedis Crowe and Millie Titla will co-chair the Tribal Liaison portion of the conference. Herb is working on the physical arrangements. The committee is accepting recommendations for speakers.

The contract issues have been discussed by email since the August teleconference. Issues seem to be worked out. Ann signed the contract and sent it to the hotel. Ann will send Tanya a copy of the signed contract for records. Tanya will send the hotel a check for \$3000 as soon as she gets the signed contract.

Glenn volunteered to do the AV work and to take photos for the conference. Harold will do the Silent Auction. Tanya will take care of registration.

### **Miscellaneous**

Ciro and Crystal offered to send in Who's Who nomination forms for anyone that doesn't want to nominate themselves yet today.

Noller discussed an EQIP meeting October 4-7. Noller will email information about this. Anyone attending should represent tribal interests.

Display requests:

AISES Conference - Nov. 11

WEWAN in Alaska – Nov. 15-19

Tribal Conservation District Conference – Dec. 5-10, 2004

IAC – Nov. 1-5

SAIGE – Oct. 7-9

National Congress of the American Indian – Oct. 10-15

SE Region American Indian Program Delivery Initiative – Oct. 3-6

### **Next Teleconference**

The next teleconference will take place on October 8, 2004 at 11:00 Central Time. **Crystal Leonetti agreed to coordinate the teleconference.**

### **Adjourn**

The teleconference adjourned at 1:00 pm CST.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Secretary