



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

“Respect, Harmony, and Beauty”

**AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
FOR NRCS
NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE
February 11, 2005**

Those present: Ivan Dozier, David Elliott, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Ciro LoPinto, Larry Coburn, Herb Webb (late), Leota Burnett, Pat Broyles, Glenn Lamberg (late), Noller Herbert, Julia Hinders.

President, Ivan Dozier called the meeting to order at 11:15 am CST. He welcomed all. Tanya conducted the roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 2005 National Council teleconference were reviewed. Pat Broyles moved to approve the minutes. David Elliott seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Tanya will email the January minutes to Yvette Dulle to be posted on the website.

Treasury

Julia reported that she received the treasury documents. She reported that she was advised to send the documents to the President unopened to have an external audit conducted. Ivan Dozier approved the boxes to be sent to him. David Elliott and Ivan will discuss the possibility of an external audit after records are reviewed. Pat reported that an external audit can cost anywhere from \$500 to several thousand dollars. The audit for 2003 was conducted and approved so an audit for 2004 only is needed. Whether it is an external or internal audit will be determined later.

Julia is waiting to open a post office box. She has agreed to be the Treasurer for one year only due to other commitments (only through 2005).

She did some research on other national banks and recommends Bank One, but considers the National Council may want to stay with Wells Fargo for now. Pat suggested utilizing two banks for the remainder of this year. Bank One is a nationally known bank. It was agreed that Julia will establish an account with Bank One.

Wells Fargo signature for Julia to be authorized on account will take place after an appointment is set. The appointment will be set with Wells Fargo after records are reviewed and an internal or external audit is conducted.

Tanya will set up the Wells Fargo account to go to her address. There was a question as to the amount currently in the scholarship CD. Tanya is unsure, Kurt Cates will need to be contacted for information. Tanya explained that there are two CDs currently. One is for the conference (think around \$5000) and the other for scholarships (possibly around \$10,000). The CD for \$5000 is set up as a business CD instead of a consumer CD so Tanya could not make any changes to it in January when she visited Wells Fargo. Tanya will make an appointment for sometime between Feb. 20-27 to change this CD over to a consumer CD and get the correct name on it. The CD is up for renewal on Feb. 20.

Tanya explained that changing the credit card information is on hold until Julia is authorized to use the account. Pat recommended that Tanya cancel the credit card account that exists in addition to hers and get a new credit card number when that is possible. Tanya will take care of this during her appointment with Wells Fargo. Tanya also reported that she got hard copies of the 2004 statements and mailed them to Julia. It cost the AIANEA \$60.

NHQ Update

Noller reported that USET (United Southeastern Tribes) held a meeting in Washington DC this week. Noller made a presentation on Monday.

Leota mentioned that Jerry Rouse wanted to know if the Elders would be attending the SEPM training as part of the drum group. Larry reported that the national office is expecting the states to pay the costs for this. Several of the drum group members have not been contacted to attend. There has not been an official request for the drum group. Noller reported it most likely will not happen.

Ivan will follow up with Jerry Rouse and communicate the outcome with the Elders.

Approval of Special Purchase Policy

Herb had emailed a draft that was revised and a final draft with comments emailed later. David Elliott moved that we make the final draft of the special purchase policy an approved policy. Leota Burnett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Updates

Ivan got reports from committees. He will compile them regarding Chairs and members and whether they are active or inactive. By the March 11 teleconference, Ivan will have a summarized report. Chairs planning to not be active suggested replacement. National Council will develop a recommendation in March.

AIANEA Pins

Tanya provided the information that Ann had emailed from the 1997 order. We had not received updated cost information. Ivan will follow up with Ann for this information.

Regional Reports

Southeast – Larry reported he is working with INCA on opportunities for tribal soil and water conservation districts and has gotten a positive response from 70% of the federally recognized tribes. The SE AIWG is meeting monthly and is working effectively. They are planning the SE Planning Initiative with the Poarch Creek Band for May 8-11, 2005. David Elliott reported that the invitations are going out.

Larry reported that Georgia has a new STC, James Tillman. Larry will meet with him soon to discuss tribes. Regarding the AI Month poster, the AIWG asked for nominations and got responses from GA and TN. The AIWG nominated GA to do the poster. Tillman is reviewing the details and the AIWG may get a response possibly next week. There may be a concern regarding funding for the poster. Noller still has not gotten an answer on national funding. The artist is not yet selected. They do have a tribe and artist in mind but no confirmation.

South Central – Leota is talking to local tribal colleges about scholarships. She is getting ready to work on a women in ag project and hopes to get tribal participation.

Northern Plains – Pat reported that Montana NRCS along with FSA and IAC did outreach meetings on each of the 7 reservations in MT. They occurred the last week of Jan. and first week of Feb. NRCS discussed conservation programs and Indian earmark funding opportunities.

The CSP in Kansas covers the Delaware watershed. This will cover parts of the Pottawatomie reservation in Jackson County and most of the Kickapoo reservation in Brown County. Pat will be taking training on CSP

next week in Omaha, NE. After the CSP sign-up begins, he will be detailed to work on CSP Monday – Thursday for 60 days. He will still be allowed to work on other matters on Fridays.

East – Ciro reported that NY wants to have a Consultation course in the state. Ciro is working with NEDC on this. Cornell University is looking for a student to hire at \$10/hour to do research. You can get more information by contacting Ciro and do contact him if you know of someone interested. Ciro discussed that Indian lands are eligible for CSP and that we should start working with tribes as soon as possible on CSP.

2005 Conference

Noller reported that the national bulletin was hand delivered in December and he hasn't heard anything. He will hand deliver it again this afternoon to Dwight Holman's office. A letter to the Chief and Holman was sent from Ann Perales while she was President. Ivan should send a follow up letter of invitation. Ivan will do this.

Pat reported that the planning committee had a teleconference on Feb. 8. April 1 was set for the next teleconference. Pat sent attachments this morning to the National Council. One attachment was the registration form. Registrations will go to Tanya at the post office box recently acquired. On the back of the registration form, there is hotel and transportation information.

Pat suggested posting the current registration form on the website. There was discussion on whether that should wait until the national bulletin is approved. There were also several errors found on the registration form to be corrected.

It was suggested to put all of the information on the website shown clearly as in "draft" form and a blurb stating that we are awaiting a national bulletin. Herb mentioned that people can make their hotel reservations anytime and have until 24-48 hours prior to the conference to cancel. Herb will get the information to Yvette to post on the website. Draft agenda – typos will be corrected and put on website.

It was reported that the Bayview Inn will allow 10 rooms at a time to be blocked for reservation but need the AIANEA credit card to reserve the rooms. As participants reserve rooms there, it will transfer to their individual credit card. The National Council was asked whether they are open to giving the credit card number to the hotel. It was asked how many weeks prior to the training conference the unreserved rooms need to be cancelled.

Herb reported that 4 hotels have room blocks including the Bayview Inn and discussed their locations in reference to the resort. The Bayview Inn software requires this procedure for blocks of rooms. It is no burden on Herb to approve additional blocks of 10 rooms and cancel unreserved rooms.

Ciro LoPinto moved to approve use of the AIANEA credit card to hold rooms and to have this updated by Herb as more rooms are needed. The motion includes that Herb wait until one week prior to the conference to cancel any unreserved rooms. David Elliott seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Tanya will get credit card information to Herb.

Registration policy – Herb drafted this policy and it has been emailed to the National Council. Pat provided summary. Pat had suggested also having the policy say that Elders do not pay registration fees so that it is clear for the future. National Council will vote once a final draft is provided.

Giveaway – there will be a teleconference at 1:30 pm today with the Elders to get more information on the traditional dinner and giveaway.

Pat is preparing a list of speakers and will have it completed by next month, with times and rooms confirmed. Pat found a source for metal name tags at a cost of \$7 each. Or we could consider disposable ones at a much lower cost. Pat emailed a photo of a possibility for a registration bag. They are left over from the tribal SWCD conference and would cost AIANEA \$7.50 each. There are 150 available. The bags have writing on

one side for the SWCD conference. We would need to have the other side printed with info for the AIANEA conference. The National Council discussed that maybe they needed to make a decision whether they wanted the name tags or the bags.

Larry suggested that maybe we could use a binder instead of a bag, maybe one that zips. Ciro suggested using a plastic bag from MT or the hotel. Larry will get information on the cost of a zippered binder and email to National Council.

It was reported that the conference dates are shown on my.NRCS website under NRCS events column.

Regarding the name tags, the deadline for getting a participant's name printed on it would be 2 weeks prior to the conference. We would need to order 150 at a time. This decision was tabled until Larry provides information and Pat will look for other name tag sources.

Other Items

Glenn joined the teleconference so provided the Midwest report. Michigan tribes hosted the Annual Indigenous Farming Conference in Jan. It was well attended and received. The PMC was present with new gardening information. The conference will be located on the Oneida reservation in WI in 2006. There is a series of information sheets on extended growing seasons from PMC available. Contact Glenn if interested. Glenn will send to Leota.

Noller reported that the Tribal Scholars Program has been delayed and the new date is not yet known. Glenn asked Noller about recruitment at AISES conference. Noller reported that recruitment is done at a national level if budget allows. National Office accepts contributions from states. Glenn suggested inviting AISES students to the conference at a cost to AISES.

Ivan will contact Tanya regarding action items.

Next Teleconference

The next teleconference will take place on March 11, 2005 at 11:00 Central Time. The call-in number and passcode will be the same.

Adjourn

Glenn Lamberg moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 pm. Larry Coburn seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Secretary