

AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Minutes of AIANEA Teleconference
July 8, 2005

Participants: Ivan Dozier, Crystal Leonetti, David Elliott, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Julia Hinders, Felix Nez, Leota Burnett, Patrick Broyles, Larry Coburn, Ciro Lo Pinto, Yvette Dulle, Noller Herbert, Glenn Lamberg.

Approval of June Minutes: Minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Treasurers Report: Tanya gave her report as mailed out to the Council. She will have more information as the bills for the conference come in. Felix moved to accept the Treasurers report. Glenn seconded. Motion carried.

Tribal Liaison Report: Noller encouraged Tribal leaders to participate in the Farm Bill listening sessions. Tyonek (sp?) in Alaska are pursuing a conservation district. It would be the first conservation district in Alaska. Noller stated that he will be leaving the National Tribal Liaison position to become National Engineering Software Coordinator. **Ciro recommended that a letter be sent to the Chief requesting that the Tribal Liaison position be maintained. Action will need to be taken by July 22.** Leota asked if the Tribal Liaison position would be filled by the end of the year. Noller thinks it would. **Ciro suggested that INCA could be contacted for a letter of support. Crystal said that she would work with Herb.** Ciro suggested a session for next year's conference on what to expect when one goes to National Headquarters.

Regional Reports:

West: Regarding the 2007 conference, Felix asked how closely we can work with the hotel. Pat said that you may not accept money or services. Ciro suggested getting the State Conservationist's approval first and learn how to credit time. Felix suggested having all USDA agency information available to the Tribes.

Midwest: Glenn thanked the Photo Committee. He stated that the Tribes are having talks with USDA on tribal agriculture and setting up projects with partners and Tribal Colleges.

South Central: Leota stated that she enjoyed the meeting and thanked everyone for their help. A meeting on Women in Agriculture was held in Oklahoma. Women, Land and Legacy: Building Your Future in Agriculture will be held in Iowa on August 4.

East: Ciro said that the Oneida put up a bond to halt foreclosure resulting from the court case. Will be holding training in New York in April. Position will be posted for Tuscarora at a GS-9. The soil survey is near completion on Tuscarora land.

There was discussion on the availability of a Tribal Resource Conservationist and Tribal Liaison position description. Roylene has the description that Jack Bricker wrote. Noller said that it will be up to the States to set a GS level for the position.

Northern Plains: Pat reported that some CSP watersheds have all Tribal lands. He hopes to help with NEDC courses if his state conservationist will allow.

Membership: Yvette said that we are up to 102 members. Ten new members signed up at the conference. There was a brief discussion about the possibility of payroll deduction for dues. She asked that photos be sent to her for the website.

Elders Committee: Felix suggested that if there is a vacancy on the Elders Council that the membership could recommend candidates. Ciro stated that some feel that the north east is not represented.

2006 Conference: The Chief has encouraged AIANEA to meet in conjunction with other employee groups. Discussions are being held with AA/PI and SAIGE. It was mentioned that NEDC training at the conference may be a conflict of interests for officers. **Possible conference partners will be sought and presented to the National Council in the next two-three months.**

Crystal said that she has reserved 100 sleeping rooms at the government rate for August 28 – September 1, 2006. Probably not enough rooms but she said she would find out the hotel's deadline for booking. Crystal said that the Alaska State Conservationist is supporting her.

Noller stated that the ethics people may not be aware of Tribal structure - that there are two hosts for the conference. Ivan will call Caryl Butcher to clarify ethical issue on perceived benefit to officers receiving training.

Pat stated that Leisa Young put Thedis Crowe in charge of mentorship for Tribal Scholars.

The group recommended that Crystal call folks in New York, Iowa and Arizona for guidance in setting up the conference.

Next meeting is August 12, 2005.

Ivan entertained a motion to adjourn. Felix so moved. Leota seconded. Motion carried Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Hinders
AIANEA Secretary