



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

“Respect, Harmony, and Beauty”

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

Those present: Ivan Dozier, David Elliott, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Ciro LoPinto, Herb Webb, Leota Burnett, Pat Broyles, Julia Hinders, Yvette Dulle, Ann Perales, Felix Nez.

President, Ivan Dozier called the meeting to order at 11:05 am CST. He welcomed all. Tanya conducted the roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 2005 National Council teleconference were reviewed. Ciro LoPinto moved to approve the minutes. Leota Burnett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. **Tanya will email the January and February minutes to Yvette Dulle to be posted on the website.**

Treasurer’s Report and Issues

Ivan reported that he received the boxes of treasury items from Julia and has been looking the documents over. He is comparing to previous audits and feels everything seems to be there and in good order. The postal meter is included as well as tattoos and other supplies, including labeled folders.

Discussion took place regarding Julia’s 3/7/05 email regarding treasury options. **Julia will forward the email to David as he did not receive it.** There was a brief discussion regarding Wells Fargo and the Council decided that since Tanya has things settled currently with Wells Fargo that we should stay with them this year.

Tanya provided a brief Treasurer’s Report from the February statement she received. She also reported on current activity she has taken with Wells Fargo. All WF correspondence will now go to Tanya. She ordered and has received checks with the correct address. All credit card activity is completed and updates on one CD are complete.

Per the Council’s request, Tanya rolled over the 2 current CDs to 3 month terms on March 4. The interest rate has increased from the past. Ciro had requested Tanya check to see if electronic fund transfers are possible. Transfers from checking to savings and vice versa are possible electronically, but not from checking to money market account. It was discussed that it is unsure whether the silent auction money from 2004 was deposited into the scholarship CD. This will be determined in an audit and Tanya will take action accordingly.

The Council discussed an option in Julia’s email suggesting Tanya become the AIANEA Treasurer and Julia become the Secretary. Julia stated that as Secretary, she would be able to serve beyond 2005. Tanya shared reservations regarding working on the AZ and IRS reports and Julia offered her assistance as she has experience with both types of reports.

The Council discussed the possibility of a lifetime member who is a former NRCS employee taking the position of Treasurer and had some concerns. Ivan would like the Council to consider involving this person in

the audit. Julia suggested having this person also be involved with certain bookkeeping activities. The Council approved and Ivan will discuss this with the individual.

Felix Nez made a motion to appoint Julia Hinders as Secretary of AIANEA and Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen as Treasurer of AIANEA. David Elliott seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Julia will begin minute-taking duties during the April 2005 teleconference.

Tanya initiated a discussion about investments and the options Wells Fargo presented during the week of March 1. Pat shared that he leans toward opening a money market account rather than a savings account. Ciro mentioned that the scholarship CD cannot be increased without discussion and a vote. After the audit, we will know the financial outcome of the 2004 conference.

With the possibility of the 2006 conference being in Arizona, Felix shared that Wells Fargo does exist there. Ciro discussed that the only options the Council can vote on today are whether to open a savings account and/or money market account. Activity on the CDs will need to wait until after the audit. Felix suggested that we should make longer term decisions after the audit and for now, should keep as much liquid as possible. Several options were discussed:

Felix – Keep \$5000 in checking and put the balance in savings and money market account.

Ciro - \$15,000 in savings, \$5000 in checking, \$14,000 in money market account.

Herb – reminder that we can use the credit card to access money then pay through checking or money market.

David - \$10,000 in money market, \$10,000 in checking, rest in 3-6 month CDs. We can create new CDs although we cannot alter the two existing ones.

Felix Nez made a motion to keep \$10,000 in the checking account with the balance (\$24,000) to be put into a money market account. Pat Broyles seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Tanya will work with Wells Fargo on this in the next two weeks.

Audit

David asked what the deadline for the audit is. Unofficially, it is December 31. Herb shared that this deadline usually has not been met. The Constitution just says an annual audit is required but does not specify a deadline date. Tanya shared that it would be difficult to accomplish an audit by December 31 or even prior to January or February as December activity would not be known completely.

Awards

Reminder to promote and get award nominations through the Regional Representatives. **Crystal will be back halftime in April. Ivan will check to see if she will be receiving the award nominations this year. The Council agreed to use the proposed items for awards. Herb will make the arrangements.** Ethics were discussed. There is an ethics form to be filled out by the awards committee for each award recipient. With this new procedure, award values can go up to \$200 as long as the form is used. **Pat will send the form to Crystal with an explanation.**

Regional Reports

South Central – Leota reported that OTAC (Oklahoma Tribal Advisory Council) is having a meeting March 30-31. She has been conversing with Norman Lopez about the traditional giveaway. He has feathers to use and has suggested a book title.

The Miami Tribe has an EQIP project. She also is working with Pat Broyles on a project with the Shawnee Tribe for native grasses and a wetland around a building.

West – Felix reported that the National Civil Rights Committee visited Arizona. They are waiting for the report. Arizona has a new State Conservationist, David McKay, and he has been visiting Indian Country. He seems receptive to tribes and their needs. Arizona is working on a proposal for the AIANEA to host the 2006 conference and will submit this to the National Council.

Northern Plains – Pat reported that he attended CSP training in Omaha. Tribes were mentioned several times but that there are no regulations regarding tribes. State Conservationists will need to make decisions in their states. Pat is helping Leota with the Shawnee in Oklahoma.

Felix further discussed CSP. It seems it almost excludes much of Indian Country. Pat explained that in Kansas, even though many tribes do not have conservation plans, there will be forms to fill out to show the plan followed although there is no written plan prior. This will allow tribes to enter at Tier 1 and should make a lot of the rangeland eligible. Cropland might be more difficult.

2005 Conference

Pat discussed a proposed change in the registration fee for those that want to come for 1-2 days only. **Pat proposes a registration fee of \$85 per day for those attending only 1-2 days. Council agreed and the planning committee will proceed with this.**

It was agreed that we should provide plaques for dignitaries and significant contributors as in the past. Herb will follow through. The website was updated this week with conference information. It looks good. **All Council members should review it and let Herb and Yvette know if additions needed.**

Herb is working on the traditional giveaway arrangements – cooking facilities, eating facilities etc. The People's Center could hire staff to ride on each bus going to the pow wow to tell participants about the area. He emailed an updated budget yesterday. The costs are less than originally estimated.

Herb is getting questions since the National bulletin came out. He emailed a registration to Tanya. A few reservations have been made at the hotel. There is a giveaway teleconference at 1:30 CST today. Herb and Pat feel the giveaway should be on Wed. of the conference. Ivan has a letter ready for the Chief and Noller will possibly hand deliver it. Tanya suggested the agenda be attached.

The hotel rooms are paid for. Around June 1, we will need to pay for breaks and advance funds to the Elders. **Herb will set up the room reservations for the Elders.** Ann is working on the Elders budget and room requirements. Evans Spino is not available for the conference.

Pat discussed options for briefcases/bags for participants. There is a briefcase similar to what was used for the Albuquerque conference with a colored logo for \$8/each. There is a canvas bag similar to what was used for the Cloquet, MN conference for \$2/each. The logo for this one would not be in color. **The Council agreed with moving forward with the \$8 briefcase.** It was determined that the name tags that will be used will be inexpensive and non-permanent.

Leota Burnett offered to Chair the Silent Auction and has worked with Harold Bryant on it each year. The Council agreed to have Leota do this. Carol Crouch had also offered to Chair the auction, so will be asked to assist Leota.

Regarding the giveaway, Louie Dick may request all that attend to bring a giveaway item. More information will be provided later. Tanya asked if the National bulletin has gone out in the states represented by the Council. Out of 9 states, only 3 have distributed the National bulletin.

AIANEA Pins

Ann reported that through Oneida, pins are available at the following costs for a 1 ¼ inch lapel pin with imitation hard enamel on brass:

250 pins \$4.90/ea. \$1225 total

500 pins	\$2.43/ea.	\$1215 total
setup fee		\$50
shipping		additional

Herb reported that he researched 3-4 companies and the prices Ann quoted are very comparable. All agreed it would be a good idea to have the pins at the conference and to get to new members. Yvette reported that currently 25 members do not have pins.

Felix Nez made a motion to purchase 500 pins. Leota Burnett seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, although Ciro LoPinto had to leave the teleconference early – so no current quorum. During the later afternoon traditional giveaway planning teleconference, Ciro voted in favor of the motion. **Motion then passed unanimously.**

Membership Report

Yvette reported that in 2004 there were 108 members and currently we have 53 members. **It was agreed that a membership dues reminder needs to be mailed with conference information within the next 3-4 weeks, definitely prior to the April teleconference. Ivan and Julia will work on this. Yvette will email the labels of current and past members to Julia.**

Other Items

April teleconference agenda item – half memberships offering at the conference (David). Silent Auction information is on the website including Herb's address for donators to send their items to prior to the conference.

Next Teleconference

The next teleconference will take place on April 8, 2005 at 11:00 Central Time. The call-in number and passcode will be the same.

Adjourn

David Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 pm. Felix Nez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Secretary