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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  
July 14, 2006**

**Those present:** Crystal Leonetti, David Elliott, Pat Broyles, Millie Titla, Felix Nez, Carol Crouch, Ciro LoPinto, and Leota Burnett. Joining conference late; Pat Green.

**Invited Guests:** Steve Cashman and SAIGE president, Cheryl

**Welcome and Roll Call**

President, Crystal Leonetti and called the meeting to order at 11:37 am CST. She welcomed all and conducted the roll call. **Action items are noted in red. Motions are in blue.**

**2007 Conference**

The AINEA National Council Board had open discussion among the voting members and SAIGE President to outline the final options for a join conference in 2007. **Crystal will contact SAIGE President and discuss the location and dates for the 2007 conference; as well as potential future joint conferences.**

**MOTION 07142006-1:** Motion was made for AIANEA to hold the 2007 Conference at the Radisson Hotel in Arizona the second week of June, 2007.

Motion made by: Felix Nez  
Motion seconded: David Elliott  
Motion passed: Unanimously

**MOTION 07142006-2:** Motion was made for AIANEA (2007) planning committee to continue work with the Radisson Hotel, in Phoenix Arizona, to coordinate our conference with the NRCS Leadership team to be held the second week of June, 2007.

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto  
Motion seconded: Felix Nez  
Motion passed: Unanimously

**Approval of Minutes**

The June minutes were reviewed and approved with amendments by Council members.

**MOTION 07142006-3:** Motion was made to accept the minutes of the June meeting.

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto  
Motion seconded: Davis Elliott  
Motion passed: Unanimously

## **Treasurer's Report**

Crystal reviewed the Treasurer's Report that was emailed prior to the teleconference.

**MOTION 07142006-4:** Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report as delivered and reviewed.

Motion made by: David Elliott

Motion seconded: Ciro LoPinto

Motion passed: Unanimously

## **Secretary's Report (By-Law changes and 2008 and Beyond Proposal comments)**

Carol had provided the National Council members with a list of the comments that were received from the membership mailing of 106 members in May 2006. Carol reported that she had made all the grammar and spelling corrections to the. No comments were submitted to indicate changes to the proposed By-law changes.

## **Region Reports**

**Southeast Region** – Pat Green reported the following;

- Since our last teleconference on June 9<sup>th</sup>, I have sent out several e-mail messages to the Southeast membership on several subjects including:
  - Encourage joining AIANEA
  - Suggested AIANEA By-Law Changes
  - NEDS training opportunities before and after the National Conference in Alaska.
  - Soliciting nominations for awards to be given out in Alaska.
  - Encourage the donation of items for the silent and vocal auction in Anchorage.
- News from the SE states
- Alabama – NRCS in Alabama has approved a \$779,000 EWP contract with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and the work is already under way. Also NRCS is working daily with the Tribe on getting their practices installed on their 2003 and 2006 EQIP contracts.
- Georgia – Hired their first Native American student as a WAE and they began work on July 1, 2006.
- Mississippi – The Choctaw Tribe is constructing a new Adventure Ropes Course called "The Choctaw Challenge Course". The course accompanies their existing EQIP funded nature trail. The course cost approximately \$49,000 and provides tribal youth with a memorable learning opportunity for both individuals and groups. Team building is emphasized.
- At the present time the Southeast Region has ten AIANEA members of which six of those have been approved to attend the National AIANEA meeting in Anchorage in August.

**Northern Plains Region** – Pat Broyles reported the following;

- Pat Broyles reported that he sent out some e-mails to Northern Plains AIANEA members. One e-mail informed members about the proposed by-law changes and encouraged people to put in for awards.
- Another e-mail recommended those going to Alaska communicate directly with the hotel when making reservations.
- Pat said he was also on a teleconference pm July 6 with SAIGE concerning meeting with them next year in Arizona.

- Pat was on another teleconference with Planning Committee on the Alaska meeting next month. Pat said everything was going well and the agenda was full.

#### **East Region** – Ciro LoPinto report the following;

- Sent announcement to all East Region members regarding awards deadline, conference registration and silent auction. Also requested any news items to be reported at next National Council teleconference.
- Met with NYNASS State Director, Stephen Ropel and NASS National Tribal Liaison, Michele Radice regarding 2007 Ag Census and American Indian agriculture. Set up appointments with Oneida Nation, NRCS Principal Staff, and Cornell's American Indian Program managers. Meetings were very successful. NRCS assigned me the task of "breaking the ice" with all NY Indian Nations and NASS. The Cornell Program manager offered the assistance of one of their Grad students. So far, I've met with the Mohawk Nation's Environmental Directors and will be scheduling the Seneca Nation next.
- I've been asked to take part in a Native Water Use Conference regarding the Great Lakes. The Conference will take place in the Fall of 2007
- I was informed that NY needs to resubmit its request for the NEDC "Consultation with American Indian Governments" course.
- Invited National Civil Rights Committee American Indian Male member to our teleconference.

#### **West Region** – Felix Nez reported the following;

##### 2007 Conference

- I have been busy corresponding with the National Council on the 2007 meeting location; I have provided information regarding meeting location to NC members.

##### Tribal Meetings

- The Arizona Tribal Advisory Council meeting is Friday, July 21, 2007 and will be held at Cliff Castle, Camp Verde, AZ. The Southwest Indian Agriculture Association will be holding their planning meeting on July 22, 2006, which is a Saturday also at Cliff Castle.

##### Arizona Civil Rights Committee

- There have been some changes to the Arizona Civil Rights Committee, Assistant State Conservationist have been included on the committee, the addition of three voluntary committees members from Area 1, Area 2 and Area 3, plus one person to "assist" the committee with minutes and such.

##### 2006 AACD Summer Meetings

- The Arizona Association of Conservation Districts has scheduled their summer meeting for August 2 & 23, 2006 at Hondah Resort and Conference Center. Hondah is located on the White Mountain Apache Tribe's reservation. It is interesting, we; Roylene Rides at the Door and other Native American employees had to coax and market the Hondah Resort to AACD back in 1999, now Hondah and AACD have cooperated for several meetings since 1999.
- If you ever have a chance to visit Hondah or the White Mountain Apache Tribe's Reservation; especially in the summer versus Phoenix in the summer; great choice -AACD.

##### 2006 Arizona NRCS Employees to Alaska

- Five (5) Arizona NRCS employees have been approved to attend the 2006 AIANEA Training Conference in Alaska.

##### Arizona and New Mexico Plant Materials Center

- I have been working with the PMC's from both states to complete several EQIP contracts on farms and our cooperators have been reluctant to planting trees, so we looked at shrubs, then grasses; "giant Sacaton" as a wind barrier. New Mexico PMC has donated 200 seedlings to the Bodaway Gap EQIP cooperators. The Little Colorado River SWCD will purchase the balance of the seedlings needed for the EQIP contracts. Thomas Tso will be working with local youth to plant the seedlings.

#### **Midwest Region** – Buster Landin was not on the teleconference. however. submitted the following report:

- I sent out numerous emails to American Indian and Alaska native contact list concerning NRCS employment opportunities, program changes, scholarships, and other information.
- I also worked on a poster for the AIANEA conference of the soil survey NRCS cooperated with the Tuscorara Nation in New York to produce. On the soil survey they came up with 3 new soil series that were named using traditional Tuscorora words.
- This is the first of its kind survey that used traditional languages to describe soils, included traditional knowledge of land use in the manuscript and labeled places on the maps with Tuscarora words for place names on the maps.
- The poster will highlight the cooperation between the Tribe and NRCS as well as give guidance to tribes for similar "non- traditional" NRCS soil surveys.

**South Central Region** – Leota Burnett reported the following;

**AIANEA**

National Council South Central Regional  
July 13, 2006



- Worked on Silent Auction forms and emailed APIO representative. Sent it to Yvette and she posted it on the web.
- Worked the Award forms for Johnny and had Yvette post them to the website.
- Emailed the Regional Rep's a couple of times and had them email members in their regions about sending in nominations and the Silent Auction.
- Continued correspondence with the Awards Committee and Crystal on items needed for Awards such as the plaques.
- Emailed the tribes in our area about a Financial Record Keeping Workshop held the last part of June.
- Posted flyers for the Financial Workshop in Quapaw at the Dairy Queen, at the Eastern Shawnee travel center, the Oogahpaw Convenience Center, Shawnee Tribal Complex, and the Quapaw Tribal Complex.
- Obtained representation at the Intertribal Ag Council meeting
- (8 Tribal Chiefs/Chairpersons) for the Manhattan Plant Materials Center (PMC) in Kansas representative and the NRCS D.C. in Miami to talk about their programs.
- Completed pond for the Shawnee Tribe. Currently working with the PMC and the Shawnee on plants that will surround the pond and planned walking trails.

- Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council is attending the three day conference; Heifer International USA Conference. The conference is being held in Oklahoma for American Indian farmers that received heifers through the international programs. Individual tribal members that received these heifers were; Navajo, Pueblo, Zuni, other tribes from Mexico, New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, 5 Eastern Oklahoma, and 17 different tribal members from the Southwest tribes of Oklahoma. This is an excellent program for the beginning Native farmer to get their start once they receive and complete their training.
- Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council has submitted their poster presentation application for the conference in Alaska. OTCAC will hold there monthly meeting July 21.

### **NHQ/Tribal Liaison – Edith Morigeau**

Crystal had reached Edith Morigeau, NRCS National Tribal Liaison, and she will be attending the 2006 Conference and has been added to the conference agenda.

### **Letter from Louie Dick**

Crystal reported that there will be a meeting on Monday evening, August 14, 2006, for the Elders Council. Crystal has requested that the National Council members try to attend the Elder's Council meeting on August 14, 2006.

Crystal opened discussion to how the requests made by Louie Dick in his letter should be addressed. It was recommended that the National Council members meet with the Elders Council to discuss how the Elders would like to handle the requests made in Louie Dick's letter and future requests. Regarding the keepers of "sacred AIANEA items/gifts;" the council proposed that one solution may be to develop and adopt a policy that would outline the "roles and responsibilities" of the "keepers" of sacred items/gifts that have been given to AIANEA as "gifts" to the Association. A policy may provide a clear understanding for all members, Elders, and National Council on ensuring that the scare items are at the Annual conference, the transfer of the item if a "keeper" should retire or no longer be a member of the AIANEA.

### **Carol Crouch will provide an example of a "Sacred Gift Handling and Care Policy" to the AIANEA Council members at the Alaska conference.**

Louie Dick has also requested that AIANEA members learn the three songs that the drum group has learned and prepared for our AIANEA conferences.

### **Leota Burnett will contact Norman to make sure that it is okay to make copies of the three songs that are sang at the AIANEA conference for AIANEA members. If Leota receives approval from Norman; Leota will mail a copy of the songs to Crystal; Crystal will make enough copies for the AIANEA members.**

Louie Dick also requested that the Elders be more involved with the planning of the AIANEA annual conference and that questions be solicited from the AIANEA members and presented to the Elders prior to the Annual conference. National Council agreed to discuss these requests with Louie and the Elders at the meeting in Alaska on August 14, 2006.

### **SEPM/Association Ethics Conflict**

Crystal followed up on the guidance policy and is waiting to receive future guidance. Once guidance/information, regarding the SEPM/Association Ethics Conflict, is received from National Civil Rights Committee. Crystal will provide an update to the National council.

## By-laws Changes

### MOTION 07142006-5:

February  
Council.

Motion made by: Pat Broyles  
Motion seconded: David Elliott  
Motion passed: Unanimously

Motion was made to change the last sentence of Bylaws Article XI – Standing Committees **F: Audit Committee** to read as follows; The committee shall audit the books of the Association annually by 15<sup>th</sup> of the new year and report the findings to the National

### MOTION 07142006-6:

Motion made by: Pat Broyles  
Motion seconded: David Elliott  
Motion passed: Unanimously

Motion was made to remove the Budget and Finance Committee from the Bylaws Article XI – Standing Committees; **H: Ways and Means Committee** portion of the constitution and bylaws.

### MOTION 07142006-7:

Motion made by: David Elliott  
Motion seconded: Leota Burnett  
Motion passed: Unanimously

Motion was made to remove the Ways and Means Committee from the Bylaws Article XI – Standing Committees, **I: Budget and Finance Committee** portion of the constitution and bylaws.

### MOTION 07142006-8:

Motion made by: Leota Burnett  
Motion seconded: David Elliott  
Motion passed: Unanimously

Motion was made to add **Item 6** to Bylaws Article XI – Standing Committees constitution and bylaws; **B: Communication Committee. Item 6** was approved to be added as follows; A photography committee, subcommittee of the communication committee, shall be established as deemed necessary to capture pictures from the Association annual conferences and distribute the photography to its members and guests. The Chair of the communication committee will serve as a member of the photography subcommittee.

### MOTION 07142006-9:

Motion made by: Leota Burnett  
Motion seconded: Pat Green  
Motion passed: Unanimously

Motion was made to add **Item 11** to Bylaws Article XI – Standing Committees constitution and bylaws; **M: Scholarship Committee. Item 11** was approved to read as follows; An auction committee shall be established as deemed necessary to coordinate the donations of items and the format for holding an auction(s), live and or silent, at the annual conferences. The Chair of the scholarship committee will serve as a member of the auction subcommittee.

**MOTION 07142006-10:**

Motion was made to add to Bylaws Article XI – Standing Committees constitution and bylaws a standing committee; **Q: Awards Committee.** Awards Committee purpose and responsibilities to be added as follow;

1. The purpose of this committee is to coordinate and recognize contributions by nominated AIANEA member(s) through out the year. The committee will have a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary. The primary duties are:
  - a. Receive annual nominations in each available category from AIANEA members.
  - b. Review nominations and select the award winners, which will be presented at the annual conferences.
  - c. Choose appropriate recognition items and submit to the national council for approval.
  - d. Ensure that the award items are on hand at the annual conferences.

Motion made by: Leota Burnett  
Motion seconded: David Elliott  
Motion passed: Unanimously

**MOTION 07142006-11:**

Motion was made to change the wording of number **1**; **O:** **American Indian Heritage Poster Committee** of the Bylaws Article XI – Standing Committees. Number 1; **O:** American Indian Heritage Poster Committee was approved to read as follows; The chairperson will work with the NRCS National Tribal Relations Coordinator and the AIANEA Regional Representative, from which region the State is selected, to develop the American Indian poster, obtain funding and provide any assistance needed to get the posters mailed by October 1. Chairperson is to ensure so States have sufficient time to get the poster to the field offices and Tribes by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Representative,  
develop the American  
any assistance needed  
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so States have sufficient  
and Tribes by  
Motion made by: David Elliott  
Motion seconded: Pat Green  
Motion passed: Unanimously

**MOTION 07142006-12:**

approval

Motion was made to add a position, AIANEA Historian, with the of the **AIANEA Historian Amendment, H: Historian** to AIANEA Bylaws. AIANEA Historian amendment was approved as Historian is an appointed position, which has neither voting nor the right to make nor second motions as a National Council member. Major duties of the Historian shall be to:

1. Record and maintain the history of the Association.
2. Duties for AIANEA Historian will be outlined by the AIANEA National Council.

follows; The  
privileges

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto  
Motion seconded: Leota Burnett  
Motion passed: Unanimously

### **2006 Conference update – Crystal, Pat, Tanya**

Pat recommended that the National Council review the newest revision to the agenda. Crystal reported that regional conservationist are putting together an opportunity to network with others during the conference. Crystal shared with the National Council that there will be some type of presentation for AIANEA members to receive information on mentoring opportunities. Crystal updated the National Council of the support that the NRCS Alaska state office has provided for the AIANEA conference.

**MOTION 07142006-13:** Motion was made that the AIANEA President to purchase a plaque for the State Conservationist and a gift for the State Office Employees for all their work and contribution to the 2006 AIANEA conference.

Motion made by: Pat Broyles  
Motion seconded: Ciro LoPinto  
Motion passed: Unanimously.

### **Other business**

**Crystal will get final approval for the evaluation to be used at the 2006 Conference.**

### **Review of Action items**

Omitted due to time.

### **Adjourn and Next Meeting**

The next meeting is on August at the 2006 Conference.

**MOTION 07142006-14:**

Motion was made that the July AIANEAs meeting be adjourned at 2:07 CST.

Motion made by: David Elliott  
Motion seconded: Ciro LoPinto  
Motion passed: Unanimously.

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Respectfully Submitted by  
Carol Vallee Crouch, Secretary