



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

“Respect, Harmony, and Beauty”

**AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
FOR NRCS
NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE
June 9, 2006**

Those present: Crystal Leonetti, David Elliott, Pat Broyles, Pat Green, Millie Titla, Felix Nez, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Carol Crouch, Buster Landin, Ciro LoPinto and Leota Burnett.

President, Crystal Leonetti called the meeting to order at 11:39 am CST. She welcomed all and conducted the roll call. **Action items are noted in red. Motions are in blue.**

Approval of Minutes

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

MOTION 06092006-1: Motion was made to accept the minutes of the May meeting

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto

Motion seconded: Pat Broyles

Motion passed: Unanimously

Treasurer’s Report

Tanya reviewed the Treasurer’s Report that was emailed prior to the teleconference. She reported that she has received 22 registrations for the 2006 conference. She reported that she had made payments of; \$1025.00 for registration fees received by APIO, mailing cost for members (\$69.07), and \$650.00 on the association portion of the conference bags. She explained that AIANEA is paying a fee of approximately \$4.00 for every credit transaction that AIANEA is processing on APIO on registrations paid with credit card. The Council advised the treasurer to inform APIO that the fees for their credit card processing fees will be assessed and invoiced to APIO at the end of the conference. **Tanya will contact the APIO treasurer and advise the treasurer that the credit card processing fee for APIO registration will be invoiced to APIO at the end of the conference.**

MOTION 06092006-2: Motion was made to accept the Treasurer’s Report.

Motion made by: Pat Broyles

Motion seconded: Fleix Nez

Motion passed: Unanimously

Region Reports

Southeast Region – Pat Green reported the following;

1. In Mississippi, the NRCS Liaison, Tim Oaks, has been working with the Choctaw Tribe in trying to eliminate an invasive species of grass known locally as blood grass, cogon grass and even the grass from hell. The grass is almost impossible to kill and will eventually choke out the good forages. The reservation has launched an intensive media campaign to eradicate the grass on tribal grounds.
2. In Tennessee, each administrative area is sponsoring a diversity day and a statewide NRCS diversity website for the state of Tennessee has been constructed.
3. In South Carolina NRCS liaison working close with their new partner the Catawba Indian Nation on their several EQIP contracts.
4. In Georgia, NRCS is assisting the Creek Tribe with drainage improvements on their tribal grounds. Also in Georgia, the NRCS Plant Materials Center has donated some of the very rare “Trial of Tears” seed corn to the Georgia State Educational System.
5. Virginia – NRCS there is creating a statewide map for use by NRCS employees and other state and federal agencies that show the location of current and past Virginia recognized tribes and a contact for each tribe.
6. Kentucky AI SEPM received final approval to attend Alaska AIANEA meeting.

Northern Plains Region – Pat Broyles reported the following;

1. I sent out an e-mail to all Northern Plains members yesterday telling them they should receive some data about by-law changes in the mail and to contact me if they had any questions.
2. I also requested they check out our web site and plan on the August training session.

2006 TRIBAL OUTREACH ACTIVITIES – Dana R. Vaillancourt

Listed below are a few of the outreach efforts NRCS conducted in 2006:

- SD NRCS continues to employ 5 Tribal Liaisons who provide full-time technical assistance to 6 tribes in South Dakota; another Tribal Liaison who is a ND NRCS employee that provides full-time technical assistance to one tribe whose reservation lies in both North and South Dakota; a state outreach coordinator who assists with all facets of program outreach; and, and a State Tribal Liaison who assists in State wide tribal outreach coordination and information dissemination
- EQIP and CSP listening/program sessions throughout SD
- NRCS program outreach to Limited Resource and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers
- 7th Annual Unity in 2006 – Helping Hands Tribal Agriculture Meeting, Spearfish, SD
- 27th Annual Ranchers Workshop, Mission, SD
- Women in Sciences Conference (Aberdeen, Watertown, Pierre, Sioux Falls & Hot Springs, SD)
- Women in Blue Jeans Conference, Mitchell, SD
- Recruitment information sent to Tribal Colleges in US.
- Program and career information at Lake Traverse Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribal Fair (Pow Wow), Sisseton, SD
- Tiospa Zina High School Career Day, Sisseton, SD
- Todd County School District Annual Career Fair, Mission, SD
- Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Area High School Career Day, Fort Yates, ND
- Multi-state Tribal Youth Leadership Conference, Rapid City, SD

- Fond du Lac College Job Fair, Cloquet, MN
- Wakpala High School NRCS Career Day, Wakpala, SD
- NRCS Range inventory training for Cheyenne River BIA Land Operations and Tribal Employees
- 2006 South Dakota Tribal Activities Poster for the American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for the NRCS
- Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) councils and staff provide technical assistance for community development and resource issues to people of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Yankton Sioux Tribe and Rosebud Sioux Tribe.
- North Central RC&D and NRCS working with Lower Brule Sioux Tribe on a Carbon Sequestration/Tribal Capacity Project
- North Central RC&D assisted with the organization of the Dakota Plains Weed Management Area which includes both Lower Brule and Crow Creek Sioux Tribes
- SD & ND State Conservationists meeting with new Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman and Standing Rock Tribal Conservation District to discussing NRCS programs, services, partnerships and consultation.
- Successful recruitment of Native American employees under Career Intern program and with the National Range Inventory (NRI).
- Continue the development of consultation protocols for cultural resource concerns with Tribal governments
- Employee development includes cultural awareness training such as in-state "Harmony" workshops which utilize NRCS cadre and local tribal members and cultural resources training that discusses the importance of traditional cultural properties and archeological sites.

SD NRCS EQIP EARMARK FUNDS to AMERICAN INDIAN CUSTOMERS & OTHERS WITHIN RESERVATION BOUNDARIES

FY	Allocated (Total)	Actual
v 1998	\$439,000 (12.5%)	\$512,129
v 1999	\$450,000 (13.2%)	\$453,813
v 2000	\$460,000 (13%)	\$464,162
v 2001	\$410,000 (10.8)	\$499,425
v 2002	\$1,207,123 (15.1)	\$1,476,368
v 2003	\$1,702,890 (17%)*	\$1,639,593
v 2004	\$2,510,033 (17%)*	\$4,639,773+
v 2005	\$2,659,162 (17%)*	\$2,581,936 (All eligible Earmark applications funded)
v 2006	\$2,839,872 (17%)	\$2,856,121 (All eligible Earmark applications funded)

*The Tribal Advisory Committee recommended the earmark to include all land and operators within reservation boundaries in 2003-2005 (17%). +In 2004, additional EQIP funds beyond the Earmark were allocated to projects in target locations.

East Region – Ciro LoPinto report the following;

1. Spoke with Michele Radice, National Tribal Liaison for National Ag Statistics Service (NASS). She officially requested NRCS assistance in NY regarding the 2007 Census of Agriculture. The NYSTCO and NYNASS Director will meet to discuss how we can help. I will meet with NYNASS Director, NASS Nat'l Tribal Liaison and members of NYNRCS Principal Staff to discuss my role introducing NASS to my contacts with NY Indian Nations. I sent the NASS request to all Regional Reps.
2. No further news regarding the scheduling of the NEDC course "Consultation with American Indian Governments" in NY.
3. NY is beginning to work with the Onondaga Nation regarding a formal Cultural Resources Consultation Agreement.

West Region – Felix Nez and Millie reported the following;

1. 2007 AIANEA Conference; there has not been any more progress, except SAIGE is currently negotiating with the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and conference center. SAIGE is looking at June 24, 2007.
 - NOPHSE – Arizona has decided not to pursue co – sponsorship with the AIANEA 2007 Conference in PHX.
 - National Leadership Team is looking at PHX in 2007.
 - Blythe will accompany our elder; Joe Joaquin and are making arrangements to travel to Alaska.
 - I noticed Arizona's registration fees have not been received by Tanya, I forwarded this info to Blythe K. and she indicated their registrations were forwarded to the Regional Conservationist.

The Council asked Millie to contact SAIGE to let them know that we are interested in working together on holding the conference in June at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort. However, the Council must have additional information regarding what SAIGE has negotiated with the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort; room rates, number of rooms blocked, and etc. The Council is requesting that SAIGE gather the finalized information by June 30, 2006. The Council would be available for a mini-teleconference with SAIGE to review the proposal received from Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort. Millie was asked to set-up the mini-teleconference proposed date and stress to SAIGE that AIANEA must review the proposal in order to make a decision to partner with SAIGE at the next AIANEA meeting in July.

Midwest Region – Buster Landin reported he had completed the AIANEA membership letter and had forwarded to Crystal Leonetti, for final review, prior to being sent to Carol Crouch, Secretary, for membership mailing.

South Central Region – Leota Burnett reported the following;

1. A mailing list of American Indian landowners, in Oklahoma, is being assembled as an outreach effort to reach this population with an invitation to the State Women in Agriculture Conference being held August, in Oklahoma City.
2. Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (OTCAC) will be sending two members to the conference in Alaska; PJ Workman and Art Muller.
3. Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (OTCAC) will be presenting a poster at the conference.
4. NRCS is working with the Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma on a pond.

5. A workshop is being held in Northeast Oklahoma for tribes called "Financial Record Keeping Workshop"
6. Leota reported that she had completed the joint "auction forms" for conference.
Leota Burnett will email the "auction forms" to the National Council for review. After the review has been completed, the forms will be posted on the web site.

NHQ/Tribal Liaison – Crystal had reached Edith Morigeau, NRCS National Tribal Liaison, and had extended the invitation for her to join the teleconference today and in the future.

SEPM/Association Ethics Conflict

The AIANEA Council members had an informal discussion regarding the recent SEPM/Association Ethics Conflict. The discussion was tabled until further information is gathered regarding the issue.

Raffle/prizes guidance

The AIANEA Council members discussed the NRCS policies/guidelines regarding raffle and prizes. The Council agreed to the posting of signs for raffles/prizes in the exhibit hall, an "open to the public" area. **Sign(s) stating "Open to the Public" will be developed by Leota Burnett and Carol Crouch.**

Charter/lifetime member Jackets

The AIANEA Council members had informal discussion regarding the charter/lifetime member jackets. The Council census was to discuss the charter/lifetime member jackets in Alaska and have the jackets available to present at the 2007 Conference.

Membership Drive

Crystal reported that following steps had been completed regarding the membership drive letter;

1. Crystal Leonetti set up a Yahoo mail box for AIAENA.
2. Buster Landin and Johnny McCoy completed the membership drive letter.
3. Carol Crouch completed the email box of 287 recipients who were to receive the membership letter.
4. Crystal Leonetti cut and pasted the names in the AIAEAN mailbox and sent the membership drive letter to all recipients.
5. Crystal Leonetti reported that she did receive some failed email addresses.

Crystal Leonetti will email a copy of the failed email address to Carol Crouch. Carol Crouch will try to secure a correct email address for those names that failed. Carol Crouch will forward correct email addresses to Crystal Leonetti for a second email attempt.

USDA Recognition

1. Crystal reported that Tanya has completed AIANEA Declaration and had forwarded her to complete the process for USDA recognition.

Crystal will complete the AIANEA President's portion of the USDA Recognition application. She will attach a copy of AIAEA by-laws and AIANEA Declaration; then submit the application for approval by USDA by June 21, 2006.

Other Business

Letter from Louie Dick was read. Crystal told the Council that they would be getting a copy of the letter and advised that each member should read the letter. **Crystal will schedule discussion of the letter at a later date.**

Adjourn and Next Meeting

The next meeting is on July 14 at 8:30 am Alaska time. Same call in number.

MOTION 06092006-4:

Motion was made that the June AIANEA meeting be adjourned.

Motion made by: Felix Nez

Motion seconded: Ciro LoPinto

Motion passed: Unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by
Carol Vallee Crouch, Secretary