



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

“Respect, Harmony, and Beauty”

**AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
FOR NRCS
NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE
March 10, 2006**

Those present: Crystal Leonetti, David Elliott, Leota Burnett, Pat Broyles, Pat Green, Millie Titla, Nils Landin (Buster), Felix Nez, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Carol Crouch, and Herb Webb (briefly).

President, Crystal Leonetti called the meeting to order at 11:10 am CST. She welcomed all and conducted the roll call. **Action items are noted in red.**

Approval of Minutes

January minutes had been reviewed prior by Council members. **Pat Green reported that an addition to the Jan. minutes is needed – the name of Cliff Eaddy to be added to the Southeast Region Report.** David Elliott made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Pat Green seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

David Elliott made a motion to approve the February minutes as presented. Leota Burnett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Tanya reviewed the Treasurer’s Report that was emailed prior to the teleconference. She reported that we are awaiting reimbursement from one more tribal scholar recipient. She reported that due to her recent move, she has not been receiving bank statements or money market account statements. She is currently resolving this with the bank.

Per an action item assigned to Tanya during the February teleconference, she reported on findings from several CPAs in her local area. The cost for a professional audit is costly. Suggestions were made to look into assistance from colleges. David Elliott raised the issue that AIANEA does have an audit committee that is in place to conduct the audit. David believes that the 501(C)3 rules require a professional audit once every 5 years. David suggested that Tanya prepare a list of transactions and provide to the audit committee for them to review and prepare audit report. **The members of the audit committee were reviewed and needed adjustments noted, including removing Julia Hinders’ name and adding Leota Burnett and Pat Broyles.**

David noted that the scholarship CD expires on March 30 and the Council needs to provide direction for action to Tanya.

David Elliott made the motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Pat Broyles seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Leota Burnett made a motion that the **audit committee will conduct the audit for 2005 and subsequent years with the Treasurer providing a list of transactions for the audit. Also, the Treasurer will check into the current rules of auditing 501(C)3’s to see if a CPA audit is necessary and how often. AIANEA will follow the current rules.** Pat Green seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

David Elliott made a motion for **Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen to renew the scholarship CD on March 30 for 6 months.** Felix Nez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Tanya will review other banks for services and charges and report back.

Region Reports

West Region – (Felix Nez) Blythe Koyiyumptewa, an engineer and a lifetime member has been working with the Hopi Tribe's radio station to include NRCS information and other announcements as "public announcements" program. The Little Colorado River SWCD has sponsored "Conservation Awareness Day" and a "Livestock Recordkeeping and Livestock Marketing" workshop for ranchers and farmers in the district. The events were announced by the Hopi Tribe's radio station and attendance exceeded expectations.

The Hopi Tribe's radio station serves the Hopi reservation and reaches the southwest and central part of the Navajo reservation. The announcements are given in the Hopi and English languages. This duty is not assigned to Ms. Koyiyumptewa, but she took on this outreach effort. Outreach to under served minorities is a goal of NRCS and outreach to American Indians a focus of AIANEA. I would like to thank Ms. Koyiyumptewa for her outreach efforts.

Navajo Nation NRCS field offices and NN SWCD's are ready to sponsor three "Conservation Awareness Days" in each of the 5 SWCD's. This education and outreach effort is a partnership between the districts, Navajo RC&D, Navajo Nation Chapters, and NRCS field offices. These meetings are very helpful in identifying resource concerns, developing priorities and providing outreach to Navajo people.

The Little Colorado River sponsored a "Livestock Recordkeeping and Livestock Marketing" workshop with the assistance of the University of Arizona Extension Service and Navajo Nation Extension Program. This program was conducted with computers using web service available at NN Chapters. The computer program and web site are geared toward making recordkeeping simpler, which could be used for FSA and NRCS programs.

Southeast Region – (Pat Green) As per request from National Council members during the February teleconference, Pat contacted the family of David Howe about presenting a 2006 scholarship in David's name. His family is very humble and appreciative at such a nice gesture. Pat told them the appropriate person at the appropriate time would send them a letter informing them who the recipient will be.

As the Southeast Representative, Pat set up a list serve for contacting all American Indian SEPM's and liaisons in the southeast to remind them each month to share anything that might be of interest to the National Council for reporting at the teleconferences. Pat took a brief poll of some of the membership in the SE on their potential attendance to the conference in Alaska. At this time, potential attendance looks good.

Pat will contact Kurt Cates regarding the David Howe scholarship to inform him of the Council's intent to begin this scholarship in 2006.

Midwest Region – (Buster Landin) Buster planned and set up a presentation by a hearing impaired person for the Indiana Civil Rights Committee and the state office employees called "Working with the Hearing Impaired". Theresa Niccum, Soil Conservationist, IN NRCS.

Buster is assisting Glenn Lamberg, MI NRCS, with a website design for MI and the Midwest about American Indians / Alaska Natives.

Northern Plains Region – (Pat Broyles) Pat has been contacted by some of the NP members about going to the conference in Alaska. Pat is letting them know that the National Bulletin should come out soon and he will email it to them when it does. Pat emailed the NP members on February 13 requesting they inform him of

any interest in the Secretary position and referring them to the website for a job description. No one responded.

Herb Webb, Montana, is doing a pilot for EQIP ranking and allocation on the Flathead Reservation. In Montana, they have been allocating 10% of program funds (EQIP, WHIP, WRP, GRP) each year for projects on tribal lands on the reservations. They have been calling this IEM or Indian Ear Mark. In the past, all tribal projects were in one big pool for funding and used the same ranking criteria. On the Flathead Reservation, Herb has developed a ranking criteria based on their local concerns and they only compete against other applications there. So far, it has been working well. The whole state of Montana is using a new ranking tool in protracts. So far, that is working without problems.

Since Yvette sent Pat a copy of the NP memberships, he will email those who used to be members and ask them to renew their memberships. All of the ladies on the National Council received a power point valentine from Pat. Pat also made a power point and poster for marketing the training conference in Alaska. He thought he would get the Council recommendations on it before he sent it out to the general membership.

South Central Region – (Leota Burnett) The Shawnee Tribe is going on their pond site and Leota has been giving assistance to the contractor on design needs. CSP covers the Spring River watershed in Ottawa County and there are three tribes (Modoc, Peoria, and Quapaw) that have lands in the area. Meetings are being held at the Quapaw Tribal Center and they are trying to encourage more participation. OTCAC is hosting a meeting in Shawnee, OK. Carol Crouch is the lead person and has asked Leota to assist.

Carol Crouch reported that there was an AISES Leadership Conference in Albuquerque in February. Tribal colleges were represented. Many students were asking how they can access the NRCS tribal scholarship. There will be a high school Science Fair March 23-25 in Albuquerque. NRCS has provided 400 pins and other items for this. There are 133 national projects. Some NRCS employees will judge at the event.

There was discussion on whether the NRCS Tribal Scholarships are available in 2006. **Carol will find out how to access the scholarships (if they will exist in 2006) and inform the Council.**

****Millie asked if Felix and Buster could add their bios to the website by sending them to Yvette.** Buster did send his bio to David, so they will make sure it gets to Yvette.

Poster Proposal

David completed this and the next topic of Committees Proposal this morning and will get it to Millie and the appropriate committees next week. This topic is tabled until the April teleconference.

Committees Proposal

See above. This topic is tabled until the April teleconference.

Regarding committees, David suggested there are several potential items for the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to add to the Bylaws. One such item is the practice that the National Council has followed sometimes to conduct email voting as an official vote. **The past minutes will be reviewed by all National Council members for other official actions taken by the National Council that need to be added to the Bylaws.**

The official procedure for Bylaw amendments is that requested recommendations are made by the Council for amendments. After amendments are made, the Constitution and Bylaws are posted on the website for 30 days for membership review before being officially adopted.

2006 Conference

Crystal reported that Virginia Lewis delivered the National Bulletin to Dwight Holman mid-February. Dwight plans to sign it in the next week.

Marketing strategies – Pat Broyles developed a power point to market the conference and provided it to the Council prior to the teleconference. The National Leadership Team meeting will take place in Portland, OR the first week of April. Bob Jones will present the power point at that meeting. AK conservation photos will be added and possibly other changes.

The AIANEA drum group will perform at the NLT meeting also. Gina Kerzman has been organizing this for the drummers from the NW to participate. Gina will emcee the NLT meeting. The drummers will be Norman Lopez, Gerald Allison, Martin Bales, Levi Montoya, Herb Webb and possibly others.

Crystal and Felix will add a slide at the end of the power point presentation to promote the 2007 conference in Arizona. The SEPM training will not have a slide but will be mentioned. A slide will be added regarding the NEDC training.

NEDC may possibly have a training session on Monday, Aug. 14 (Instructor's Training??) for 30-40 people and then a followup to that on Friday, Aug. 18 if it does not conflict with the conservation tours.

There is a AIANEA/APIO planning teleconference scheduled for March 29.

Carol reported that a decision was made on the bag to provide registrants and ordered today. It is the vertical brief. Carol will handle the logo portion. The bag is from an Asian company in CA and purchased through an American Indian specialty company contractor in OK.

Secretary Position

Carol Crouch was nominated to fill the Secretary position. This is fully supported by the National Council. **Tanya will provide today's minutes to Carol and mentor her.**

Leota Burnett made a motion to officially name Carol Crouch as the Secretary of AIANEA. Buster Landin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Crystal will contact Julia Hinders to have her provide archives and past minutes to Carol. Crystal will also contact Julia to attain the minutes from the 2005 business meeting in MT.

Other Business

David raised the issue of considering AIANEA paying the expense of the monthly teleconference and to have that company bill Tanya directly. **Tanya will check into the cost of the teleconference and report at the April teleconference.**

Adjourn and Next Meeting

Felix Nez made a motion to adjourn at 12:55 pm CST. Pat Green seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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

”

Respectfully Submitted by
Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Treasurer