



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

“Respect, Harmony, and Beauty”

NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE MINUTES October 13, 2006

Those present: Steve Myers, Crystal Leonetti, Pat Green, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Buster Landin, Leota Burnett, Ciro LoPinto and Millie Titla.

AIANEA Secretary not present: Felix Nez volunteered to write the minutes for this meeting.

Not Present: David Elliot, Carol Crouch and Herb Webb

Welcome and Roll Call

President, Crystal Leonetti and called the meeting to order at 11:40 am CST. She welcomed all and conducted the roll call. Roll Call: Ciro, Leota, Pat, Buster, Steve, Felix Nez, Tanya, Millie and Crystal

Action items are noted in red. Motions are in blue.

Approval of Minutes

The September 9, 2006, minutes were reviewed and approved with amendments by Council members.

MOTION 10132006-1: Motion was made to accept the minutes of the September 9, 2006 meeting minutes.

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto

Motion seconded: Steve Myers

Motion passed: Unanimously

Treasurer's Report

Tanya reviewed the Treasurer's Report that was emailed prior to the teleconference. Tanya updated the National Council members on the conference Tanya reported that the APIO can't process credit card payments; hence, APIO will pay 100% of processing fee. She reported that Silent Auction checks have been processed, scholarship CD expires 10/19/2006; what should we do with the CD?

MOTION 10132006-2: Motion was made to transfer \$13.00 from checking account to the scholarship CD, so a scholarship CD of \$2,000.00 will be opened for 6 months.

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto

Motion seconded: Steve Myers

Motion passed: Unanimously

Tanya reported the following; she is going over invoices to develop a final bill, the Wells Fargo fees are outlined in the treasurer's report; she will get the credit card fee percentage; registration and membership dues, she is in the process of reviewing over all expenses of the conference to get finish a final report to the members regarding the AIANEA conference in Alaska.

MOTION 10132006-3: Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto

Motion seconded: Pat Green

Motion passed: Unanimously

Region Reports

Southeast Region – Pat Green reported the following;

- According to calls I received in the last couple of days the 2006 Indian Poster is arriving daily at all NRCS designated drop offices.
- In Georgia NRCS has finalized a new guidance document to help increase Native American participation in Georgia Small Scale/Limited Resource Farmers Initiative.
- In South Carolina, Chief Gilbert Blue of the Catawba Indian Nation, attended NRCS's State Annual Cultural Awareness Day and gave the NRCS employees a presentation on the insight into the life of American Indians in today's modern society.
- The State Leadership Team in South Carolina is holding their Management Team Conference in November on the Catawba Indian Tribal Grounds to review their partnership and look at the various practices installed.
- Here in Kentucky, the panel closed yesterday for the new State Conservationist. We really hope our new leader will show as much support for SEPM and outreach as has been shown by David Sawyer, State Conservationist, who is stepping down for medical reasons.
- I attended the Trail of Tears Indian Weekend in Western Kentucky. Largest Indian event in Kentucky.
- In the process of preparing news articles, displays, etc.... for November.
- Kentucky will be hosting the October Teleconference for the American Indian Southeast Work Group.
- I appreciate the honor of being nominated for the position of Second Vice-President of AIANEA and the support from those who have nominated me and members who have called to wish me well. But at this time due to several reasons, I feel that this is not the time to accept the nomination. I am just now finishing my first year as SE Regional Representative on the National Council and I would feel more comfortable after completing my second year before considering another office.

Northern Plains Region – Steve Myers had no report.

East Region – Ciro LoPinto report the following;

- Working with the planning committee for the "Transboundary Indigenous Waters Program". It's billed as "Native Water Law and Public Policy: Critical Issues in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Watersheds". The program is co-sponsored by the NY Water Resources Institute, the American Indian Program at Cornell University, and the Cornell Law School. The program is free of charge and some travel reimbursement is available. The dates are November 17 and 18, 2006. The webpage is at www.aip.cornell.edu/tiwip
- Consultation with American Indian Governments NEDC training is still being requested by NY. Maine and Rhode Island are requesting some seats in the training.
- Cultural Resource consultation agreement is still in draft phase with the Onondaga Nation and NRCSNY

West Region – Felix Nez report the following;

- I sent out the AIANEA Agenda and teleconference and asked for reports.
- Blythe K., reported a new American Indian Female (Elouise Baldwin) was hired as an Administrative Assistant to Arizona NRCS Administrative Area II was hired. This new hire doubled the number of American Indian Females in AZ, from 1 to 2.
- Martin Bales sent in a question pertaining to EQIP. I'll post the question in my report.
I would like you to ask the National Council if there is anything we can do as Tribal Liaisons to get something done about the beginning farmers to be able to get them into EQIP. If a beginning farmer doesn't have a \$1000 worth of sales in a year then they don't qualify for EQIP, but if they are brand new then they don't have a chance to earn that income. Also if a beginning farmer just purchased a ranch that hasn't been used for several years, and the land doesn't have any resource concerns, so they don't qualify for EQIP. The ranchers want to keep from getting resource concerns so they want to stop it before it starts, but they don't have the extra money to enhance these practices. How can we help these new ranchers? Martin Bales works in Washington State and please forward any responses to his address. I have also forwarded his question to INCA Executive Director; Dick Gooby.
- Arizona SC held his second meeting with the Navajo Nation Departments (Water Resources and Agriculture). Previous meeting was held in Tuba City in July.
- Arizona Tribal Liaison and EQIP Program manager attended Hopi NRCD meeting in Tuba City.
- Navajo RC & D working with Little Colorado River SWCD on their "Annual Plan of Work" and "Business Plan".
- INCA/IAC Conference: "Native Americans Coming Together for Mother Earth" at Las Vegas, NV on December 4-8, 2006. See attachment.
- SWIAA Conference: "From All Four Directions, Nations Working Together To Balance Tradition and Technology In Indian Agriculture" at Laughlin, NV on January 23 – 25, 2007.

Midwest Region – Buster Landin submitted the following report;

- Went recruiting at the Purdue Agricultural Career Fair over all spoke with about 40 students.
- Also spoke with Dr. George Parker Purdue Forestry Department has submitted a grant to the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation that would fund 20 - 30 American Indian graduate students. The idea is to actively recruit American Indian students into the sciences and engineering at Purdue. He felt his proposal would be funded and should know for sure around the end of the year.

South Central Region – Leota Burnett reported the following;

- Working with Norman to get information for Roylene for Louie's hide.
- Performed the Lord's Prayer with my sister for approximately 100 people at a Medical Technology meeting in Tulsa, OK (Cultural Awareness for the group)
- Attended the Bread Dance (final dance of the season) of the Shawnee Tribe at White Oak, OK
- Spoke with H. Bryant about the proposal he wants to put together to host the AIANEA Conference for 2008 or 2009 for the Kickapoo Tribe in Texas.
- September 19, 2006 – OTCAC set up a booth at the Women In Agriculture Conference in Muskogee (Muskogee, Wagoner, Okmulgee Counties)
- OTCAC will have a booth at the INCA/IAC conference and will be sharing the booth with NRCS Oklahoma.
- OTCAC did provide funding to AISES for three (3) scholarships for American Indian students for the sum of \$1000.00 each. Scholarships will be presented at the 28th Annual Conference in November, 2006.

[Special Message to all AIANEA representatives:](#)

Please pass the word to all your contacts that there are going to be travel scholarships offered to attend the Indian Nations Conservation Alliance (INCA), Inter-tribal Ag Council (IAC), and Alaska Village Initiatives (AVI) National Conference December 4th through the 9th in Las Vegas.

NHO/Tribal Liaison- Edith Morigeau

Edith Morigeau, NRCS National Tribal Liaison, was not able to join the teleconference.

Action item: Crystal will follow up with Edith and extend an invitation for her to join our teleconference next month.

AISES GRC Meeting Report: Noller not present.

Carol Crouch did receive a full report from the AISES staff and Roylene Rides at Door that indicated that meeting was a huge success for both AISES and other government agencies.

Request Sequoyah Fellowship donation of \$1,000. See report from Carol Crouch.

Crystal reviewed the proposal submitted by Carol Crouch on how the AIANEA could support AISES in delivering their mission to provide educational and career opportunities for American Indian students across the Nation. The proposed solution was to support AISES by making a donation through the AISES Sequoyah Fellowship. AIANEA would make the contribution to AISES through the Sequoyah Fellowship but name an honorary member of the association to receive the Sequoyah Fellowship membership as an award for the commitment to education and expanded knowledge through American Indian communities and students.

MOTION 10132006-4:

Motion was made to accept the AISES Sequoyah Fellowship proposal and the \$1000.00 for the AISES Sequoyah Fellowship w taken out of the AIANEA general fund.

Motion made by: Leota Burnett

Motion seconded: Steve Myers

Motion passed: Motion passed with a vote of 5-2

Crystal opened discussion on who would receive the AISES Sequoyah Fellowship.

MOTION 10132006-5:

Motion was made to present the AISES Sequoyah Fellowship honors to Louie Dick.

Motion made by: Felix Nez

Motion seconded: Leota Burnett

Motion passed: Unanimously

Action item: Crystal will contact Carol Crouch to advise her of the National Council's decision regarding the AISES Sequoyah Fellowship honoring Louie Dick and have her work with Tanya to complete the AISES Sequoyah Fellowship to honor Louie Dick, AIANEA elder. Tanya will handle the contribution process of \$1000.00 from the general fund.

2008 Conference

- Location – Proposal Deadline October 15, 2006. (Buster has one proposal) (SAIGE has one proposal.)

- Planning committee 2008 Planning: Millie, David, Tanya, Crystal/alternate for location chosen, Ciro.

Action Item: Crystal will contact SAIGE for next planning teleconference.

Visioning Process Chair and Committee

Ciro LoPinto reported that the planning group has not met. Ciro reported that he and Tanya have purchased the book, "Deep Change: Discovering the Leader Within." Buster reported that the Vision Quest power point is available and has been sent to the National Council for review. Ciro reported that NRCS, New York, has agreed to host the first teleconference for "Visioning".

Standing Committee Chairs – David Elliott not present

Crystal recommended that standing committee discussed be tabled.

2007 Elections – Northern Plains, East, and South Central Regional Reps and 2nd Vice President

Crystal reported to the National Council that the 2nd Vice President, Northern Plains, East and South Central regional representative nominations had been received.

Action item: Crystal will email a list of the nominations received.

Bylaw Review of Voting for AIANEA Vacancies

Crystal opened discussion on clarification of who would be allowed to vote on the AIANEA elections. It was pointed out that bylaws were not clear; Crystal read Article 10 Elections, Item F. A primary motion was made to remove "all members may vote for Regional Reps" in the Bylaws. Article 10 Elections, Item F. Motion was tabled until investigate further. Discussion was opened to a scenario; If Regional Rep is elected as 2nd VP. See the by-laws for clarification. AIANEA NC will hold another election for replacement.

Action: Clarification needed regarding conflicts statements in the bylaws.

Voting Ballots:

Crystal opened discussion on voting ballots; to be sent email or paper ballots? Sending the voting ballots as an email has better responses.

Action Item: AIANEA will use email for 2006 voting ballots .

Other business

Crystal opened discussion regarding AIANEA making a contribution of \$250.00 to the INCA/IAC conference, being held in Vegas, the first week in December, 2006, for a break.

MOTION 10132006-6: Motion was made to make a contribution of \$250.00 to the INCA/IAC conference for a break .

Motion made by: Leota Burnett

Motion seconded: Felix Nez

Motion passed: Unanimously

Steve Myers presented a request from Pat Broyles as follows; Wood or Marble Plaque for individual AIANEA officers for years of service. Crystal, maybe this is a job for the historian. Any nominations for the Historian?

Crystal opened discussion regarding the AIANEA elders being NRCS "Earth Team Volunteer"

ACTION ITEM: Discussion on Earth Team Volunteer for Elders: A letter from AIANEA President to the State Conservationist from which the elder resides. Both president and elder representative sign the document requesting elder be designated as an "Earth Team Volunteer" from their respective state.

Review of Action items

Done

Adjourn and Next Meeting

The next meeting is on November 13, 2006. Same call in number.

MOTION 09082006-7: Motion was made that the October AIANEA meeting be adjourned.

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto

Motion seconded: Leota Burnett

Motion passed: Unanimously.