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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  
February 9, 2007**

**Those present:** David Elliott, David Wise, Levi Montoya, Pat Green, Millie Titla, Felix Nez, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Buster Landin, Ciro LoPinto, Leota Burnett, Yvette Dulle and Carol Crouch.

President, David Elliott called the meeting to order at approximately 11:38 am CST. He welcomed all and conducted the roll call. **Action items are noted in red. Motions are in blue.**

**Approval of Minutes**

The revised January minutes were reviewed and approved by Council members.

**MOTION 02092007-1:** Motion was made to accept the minutes of the January 2007 meeting.

Motion made by: Leota Burnett

Motion seconded: Levi Montoya

Motion passed: Unanimously

**Treasurer’s Report**

Tanya reviewed the Treasurer’s Report that was emailed prior to the teleconference. Tanya also provided a final income/expense report from the 2006 Training Conference. Tanya reported that she is currently gathering the income and expense information to provide to the audit committee for their completion of the 2006 audit report.

**MOTION 02092007-2:** Motion was made to accept the AIANEA monthly Treasurer’s Report.

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto

Motion seconded: Felix Nez

Motion passed: Unanimously

**MOTION 02092007-3:** Motion made to move \$4,000 from the Money Market to open a new Conference CD. \$1000 from the previous Conference CD plus interest will be left in the Money Market Account to cover the negative from the 2006 Annual Conference.

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto

Motion seconded: Leota Burnett

Motion passed: Unanimously

**NHQ National Tribal Relations Coordinator Report**

Edie Morigeau was not on the teleconference for a monthly report.

**Region Reports**

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

- EQIP seems to be the buzz word around the NRCS offices in the Southeast. Lots of participation; field offices are short handed and have upcoming deadlines.
- In Georgia our A.I. SEPM is working on visiting with A.I. clients around the state developing success stories dealing with EQIP and CSP for a statewide conservation newsletter.
- In Kentucky we celebrated a Native American weekend sponsored by our Kentucky State Park System. The event was held the last weekend of January at selected state parks across the state. Traditional Buffalo Dinner, vendors, etc.....
- In Mississippi NRCS is working on Land of the Mississippi Choctaw along with Mississippi State University on various new varieties of River Cane.
- SE AI Workgroup is actively working with our Regional Conservation through our work group advisor to have a work group program delivery meeting in SE in 2007 – Budget Driven.
- Our NRCS SEPM in North Carolina is working with Western Carolina University on American Indian Career Day.

**Northern Plains Region** – Levi Montoya reported the following:

- I contacted all states within the Northern Plains region to update the Tribal Liaison. I got some response back and I will continue to update the records.

**Montana** – Flathead Indian Reservation –

- Herb Webb – nothing to report

**Colorado** – Southern Ute

- Most of January has been spent on EQIP signups and administration. I have 5 EQIP applications on Southern Ute Tribal Lands; contracts are with individual tribal members. Total cost share funds requested are a little over \$160,000. Projects planned include a livestock pond, fencing, sideroll sprinkler, center pivot sprinklers, and pasture and hayland planting. We are also in the planning stages with the Tribe's Wildlife Division, developing a conservation plan and WHIP application on tribal lands within the Stollsteimer Watershed area. Technical assistance has also been provided to the Tribe's Environmental Programs (EP) Division concerning administration and conservation plan development on water quality projects funded through the EP division. – Sterling Moss

**Colorado** – Ute Mountain Ute –

- Nothing to report. – Steve Myers

**South Dakota** –

- SD409.0 - General - Amendment SD9 Guidance on which entity may best meet the definition of a Conservation District when signing conservation plans in Indian Country.
- Standing Rock Tribal Conservation District/NRCS Meeting Standing Rock Tribal Conservation District personnel, the Tribal Chairman, NRCS SD & ND State Conservationists and NRCS local staff, met to discuss conservation issues and a potential contribution agreement. - Dana R. Vaillancourt, State Cultural Resources Specialist, State Tribal Liaison

**East Region** – Ciro LoPinto reported the following:

- Still working with Cornell's American Indian Program, specifically their Trans-boundary Indigenous Water program.
- NY may hold the consultation class this FY, we have enough people to fill the class
- Massachusetts SEPM spoke to me of two EQIP contract that he has with Indian Nations
- NY has two, one with the Nation and one with an Indian Community.
- Sent out blanket e-mail to all east SEPMs, received two replies.

**West Region** – Felix Nez reported the following:

**Martin Bales: Washington State Report:**

- All 2007 EQIP applications by the tribe have been funded.
- Where are we going to get the people power to implement the conservation plans with the cooperator?
- The Tribal Conservation District is working with INCA to host a state wide Conservation District Conference either in 2007 or 2008.
- Producers planting "canola" for Bio-Diesel" experimental plots.
- One producer planted a 30foot X 100foot plot and got 40 gallons of diesel.
- Changes in Washington State EQIP due to tribal request:
  1. Change of fencing specs for top wire to be at 48 inches instead of 45 inches. This change was positive for horse owners in the area.
  2. In the past, there wasn't cost share on "re-commissioning old wells", now Washington State EQIP cost-share on this practice. This change benefits probate issues.

**Arizona AI SEPM Report: Submitted by Blythe Koyiyumptewa**

- In January, I received summary reports from five of nine NRCS employees who attended the INCA-IAC meeting held in Las Vegas, NV on December 4-8, 2006.
- There were 13 employees approved to attend the SWIAA meeting held in Laughlin, NV on January 23-25, 2007. I have received two conference summary reports as of today. I don't expect that everyone will submit a report, but I've made the request.
- Both sets of reports from the program delivery conferences will be included as accomplishments and training received for the AI/AN program. Arizona's next civil rights meeting is scheduled for next week (February 13, 2007), where these reports will be presented.

**Smith Cloyce, Utah AIAN SEPM**

- On March 7th in Window Rock, AZ there is going to be a signing with Arizona NRCS, Utah NRCS and the President of the Navajo Nations to put an office in Aneth, UT to better serve the Utah Strip of the Navajo Nation. For right now it will be a term position and where it goes from there, will probably be determined by money. They will be advertising that position sometime after the signing.
- We (NRCS) are almost finished with the McCracken Mesa Range Inventory and also working on a McCracken Mesa Pilot Salinity Project.

- For 2007 EQIP we had 10 signups from the Navajo's on the Utah strip. They have been turned over to Kayenta (2) and Ship Rock (8) for ranking and then Utah will do the planning and Arizona will fund those that get ranked.

**Midwest Region – Buster Landin reported;  
Wisconsin Tribal EQIP Projects:**

- In the FY07 EQIP signup, 7 of Wisconsin's 11 tribes applied and were funded for conservation projects totaling \$200,000. The projects, all on tribal lands, include stream crossings, access roads, tree establishment, critical area planting, well decommissioning, stream restoration, brush management, and sediment basins. The Oneida will be installing a number of erosion and water control practices on their dairy operation.

**Julie Malvitz DC for Vilas, Forest, Florence, and Ondaeda Counties Wisconsin for the update.**

- The Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians in 2007 will be doing 450 acres of Forest Stand Improvement, 7.0 acres of Critical Area Planting and 6.0 acres of Heavy Brush Management.
- The Forest County Potawatomi will be doing a restoration project in 2007 that will amount involving EQIP and WHIP funds.

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



- Participated on Elders Teleconference and the Planning Committee Teleconference.
- Contacted Norman Lopez and discussed items brought up in the teleconference and how Norman feels about it. Mailed Norman the questions from the AIANEA meeting, the conference location and dates and questions that came from the Elder's Committee teleconference.
- Mailed out Scholarship information to 6 colleges and our local tribes. Carol sent hers to all the Oklahoma liaisons and.....
- Have started working on the Silent Auction forms and contacted Yvette as she will be assisting me also this year. Spoke with Harold about it and he has volunteered to have items sent to his residence. We are working on cut off dates and other information for the forms so Yvette can get it posted.
- Emailed the South Central members to try to get information of activities in their areas. Herb Bourque of Louisiana said he has some stuff going on and will send it to me later. They are also working on the MOU and Cooperative Agreements for two Tribes in the state.
- We have a young woman (a cousin of mine in Claremore, Oklahoma), Echo King that was recently accepted into the international "People to People Student Amba

**Carol Crouch reporting for OTCAC**

- The Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council was a major sponsor in the planning and delivery of an outreach meeting entitled; "Farm Survival with Alternative Crops and

Tillage” in Ponca City, Oklahoma on February 6, 2007. The meeting had approximately 157 attendees.

- OTCAC held a board meeting on January 29, 2007 and officially seated Darrel Dominick to the OTCAC Board of Directors. Additional seating of the OTCAC Board of directors will be announced in February. OTCAC is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the new State Conservationist, Ron Hilliard, in March.

### **2007 Annual Conference**

David Elliott reported that AIANEA signed the contract with the Omni Hotel and the planning committee is working towards getting an agenda together. AIANEA decided on 129 total rooms for the conference. David reported that a letter went out to all NRCS State Conservationist, special letter the State Conservationist of Texas and NRCS Regional Conservationist regarding the 2007 Annual AIANEA conference. Ciro will work on getting some

### **2008 Conference**

David Elliott reported on that the AIANEA has agreed to the proposed contract with SAIGE regarding the 2008 conference.

### **Standing Committees**

David reported to the National Council that he is working on the standing committee for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary for the AIANEA committees for each year. David asked the National Council to approve the following AIANEA Committee Chairs;

- Communications Committee - Yvette Dulle
- American Indian Special Emphasis Program Manager (SEPM) Committee - Pat Green
- Audit Committee - David Wise
- Constitution and Bylaws Committee - David Wise
- Scholarship Committee - Kurt Cates
- American Indian Heritage Month Poster Committee - Carol Crouch
- Elder Committee - Tanya Meyer Dideriksen
- Awards Committee - Crystal Leonetti
- 2007 Conference Planning Committee - Crystal Leonetti
- Membership Committee - Yvette Dulle
- Silent Auction Committee - Leota Burnett
- Photography Committee - Carol Crouch

**MOTION 02092007-4:** Motion was made to accept the AIANEA Committee Chairs as outlined in David Elliott’s recommendation.

Motion made by: Leota Burnett

Motion seconded: Felix Nez

Motion passed: Unanimously

### **American Indian Heritage Poster**

David Elliott reported that Gerald Rouse would be the point of contact for Carol and Leona to receive direction on the 2007 NRCS American Indian Heritage poster. It needs to be determined that there will be funding for poster in 2007.

### **Other Business**

Ciro provided an update in the standing visioning committee. David Elliott recommended that Ciro put together a recommendation and budget for propose method of delivery for the “visioning” portion to be offered at the 2007 Annual conference. President, David, Elliott, suggested that a special teleconference may be called to address the “visioning” proposal; if necessary.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ciro will put together a proposal and budget for the “visioning” portion of agenda proposed to be presented at the 2007 Annual AIANEA conference.

## **Adjourn and Next Meeting**

The next meeting is on March 9, 2007 at 11:30 am CST. Call in information will be provided.

**MOTION 02092007-:** Motion was made that the February 2007 AIANEA meeting be adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Motion made by: Leota Burnett

Motion seconded: Dave Wise

Motion passed: Unanimously.

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Respectfully Submitted by Carol Vallee Crouch, Secretary