



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"

**AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
FOR NRCS NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE
June 8, 2007**

Welcome and Roll call: David Elliott, AIANEA, President

Those present: David Elliott, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Harold Bryant for Crystal Leonetti, Ciro LoPinto, Phillip Dixon for Pat Green, Felix Nez, Buster Landin, David Wise, Ryan Mills, Edith Morigeau and Millie Titla

Not Present: Levi Montoya, Crystal Leonetti, Pat Green and Carol Crouch

President, David Elliott called the meeting to order at approximately **11:40 am CST.**

NHQ National Tribal Relations Coordinator Report

Edie gave us a brief update of things going on in Washington. She has an intern helper this year and is looking forward to working with him on several projects. Ryan Mills (intern) will be working with her until July 27th, 2007 which gives them 8 weeks to accomplish many of her goals. From National level, the E-directive for Title 410, Part 405 has been updated. Edie suggested that we all take a look at them as they have the latest policies that we are now working under

The MOU agreement with National Agricultural Statistical Services (NASS) and NRCS is for sharing information across the board. NASS currently does not have a strong relationship with Native Americans. They are hoping this agreement will help them to get introduced and will help in letting Native Americans in Indian country know how important the census and their participation is.

Not in directive yet but are trying to get it in the directives Title 180 part 412 will be under National Bulletin 120.20.7.24 There has been some stumbling blocks with definitions in Indian Country. They now have a clean, consistent definition for what an Indian tribe is. We need to go to and use the new and current definition. It makes a difference on how the language reads. They are looking for all the definitions to clean them up and make them consistent across the board. The National Civil Rights Committee approached Edie and wants a pre-forum to discuss national issues. The National Civil Rights pre-forum is going to be June 25, 2007 from 9-5 in Arizona. You are encouraged to attend if you are able to. Monday will be a travel day for the SAIGE Conference.

Ryan Mills will be helping to use the National Webpage ideas that have been collected so he can give it a fresh new look. Ryan will also be helping to define other projects. He is going to refine a

booklet about developing Tribal Conservation Districts as well. Edie is going to be introducing Ryan to the program directors and agency heads in Washington so he can learn about the inner workings. They want tribal folks to work for the government and will be encouraging Ryan to continue on once his internship is up.

Edie was impressed with the INCA conference. She was also impressed with the speakers and the quality of the conference at this conference as well. NRCS employees being able to visit and talk about common interest. INCA/IAC is not sure if they can have a conference this fall due to the tight budget.

Action Item: Edith will send the link on the National bulletin 120.20.7.24 and the MOU with NASS/NRCS.

Action Item: Edith will send the link on web site to e-directive GM system for Title 410, Rural Development and Part 405, American Indians and Alaska Natives.

2007 Annual Conference Update

Harold sat in for Crystal Leonetti and Mark Donet and gave the following report. He has been in constant contact with Tanya and Leota regarding conference agenda progress, funding and money. Everything is on track right now. He and Mark Donet are working on the funding agreements and funding support that the Texas State Office is committed to providing.

Felix has developed the poster presentations, exhibitors and vendors forms. He wants to encourage all the Regional Representatives to make contact with people in their regions and have them look for anyone who may be interested in setting up an exhibitor's booth. The cost of a booth is only a \$100.00 which is minimal. They would of course, pay for their own trip to the meeting and registration.

Harold said he has been hearing comments about day rate for students and knows this item has been discussed but he feels he needed to bring it back up to the committee. Harold said most students can't take off a whole week of school so the cost of attending at the student weekly rate of \$150.00 might be a little steep for them. He has been hearing that maybe one or two days is what some of the students could work into their schedules and maybe we could have a day rate for a student that is commensurate with their registration fee.

David Wise is the unofficial person to contact for information on gulf coast fishing so anyone who wants to know more should contact him. Ciro asked Harold which airport we were to fly into. Harold said we will fly into Corpus Christi as it is free shuttle service. Corpus Christi is an international airport and the contact information is shown on the registration form.

Tanya wanted to let people know that she has gotten several registrations already and it is looking good. She is feeling like things are going to be a lot more positive than we previously thought. Leota asked Harold about the local speaker he found to talk about the cultural value of plants in Texas. This is quite a savings for the AIANEA. Harold said he has already sent the letter to the person who is going to speak and is waiting for the reply.

Mark Donet is handling the speaker confirmation part of the meeting, speaker aids needed, and other items that may be needed. David Elliott said the hotel is happy with the reservations they have received already. The whole community has come together for this conference.

Approval of Minutes

The May minutes were reviewed and approved by the National Council members.

MOTION 06082007-1: Motion was made to accept the minutes of the May 2007 meeting.

Motion made by: Buster Landin

Motion seconded: Ciro LoPinto

Motion passed: Unanimously

Treasurer's Report

We had 6 membership dues come in of which two of them were lifetime. Tanya reviewed the Treasurer's Report for May, which was previously emailed to National Council members. Edie asked Tanya about the scholarship fund. Tanya stated that we give 2 scholarships and they are for \$300.00 each for one year, with the intent to increase. We have 2 recipients for this year. Leota explained that a list of Tribal Colleges was prepared by the Scholarship Committee and these colleges are sent the scholarship information. The Regional Representatives also send the information out to their regions and contacts to be distributed to everyone that may be interested. Preference is given to Native Americans attending Tribal Colleges but anyone can apply. Recipients are selected by the criteria set forth on the Scholarship application. The application is posted on the AIANEA website at www.aianea.com. Tanya also told Edie that the National Council has worked on ways to increase funding for the Scholarship funds so we can increase the amount of the scholarships given. We now have a direct deposit method available on our site so members can donate to the scholarship fund directly from their checks. Tanya reported as the closing of the Treasurer's Report that the authorized signatories on the bank account are being updated and will soon be final.

David reported on an item from a previous teleconference in which the question was asked, "Can corporations and/or tribes make a one time contribution to the scholarship fund?" A donation form does exist, although the scholarship committee is working to update it, it will be on the web site soon.

MOTION 06082007-2: Motion was made to accept the AIANEA May Treasurer's Report for the June 8, 2007 AIANEA monthly conference is approved as presented.

Motion made by: Felix Nez

Motion seconded: David Wise

Motion passed: Unanimously

Region Reports

Herb Webb made suggestion that we send our reports to Carol and the National Council for review prior to the conference. This may save us some time if we can preview them so our questions will be ready. David asked if we felt this would be a good way to work with the regional reports.

Ciro said he knows we are all adults here but it would be nice if someone would send us reminder to get our reports in before the teleconference. David said he will send an email on the Wednesday before the teleconference reminding us to email our reports to Carol and to the other National Council members for review so we can be prepared to ask questions.

Action Item: David is going to send an email on the Wednesday before the teleconference reminding us to email our reports to Carol and to the other National Council members.

Southeast Region – Phillip Dixon for Pat Green reported the following:

East Region – Ciro LoPinto reported;

- News from NY - NY State Conservationist, Ron Alvarado, offered to start official Consultation/Gov to Gov relations with the Confederated Nations of the Haudenosaunee. He offered to start a series of orientation meetings as the first step. He offered to meet with each Nation in their home grounds and have them visit the State Office. Oren Lyons, a representative of the Onondaga explained some of the pitfalls regarding working with our more conventional clientele and their apparent dislike and ignorance of Indian Nations and their needs, desires and sovereign rights.
- Ciro is meeting with the local NRCS to start conservation planning efforts for the Cayuga Nation. The PMC is also providing sweet grass planting for the Nation.
- NRCS met with the newly formed Black Ash environmental center formed to try and preserve/encourage the stands of black ash throughout NY. The black ash is the primary basket making material of Eastern Indian Nations. The center is made of government agencies, universities, NGOs, and Indian Nations in US and Canada.
- NY is finalizing the wording on the Cultural Resources Agreement with the Onondaga Nation.
- News from Mass. - The big news from my region is the new federal recognition of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe in February. This gives Mass. Two recognized Tribes now. Other than that, I am plugging away with EQIP shellfish aquaculture with the Aquinnah Tribe and WHIP with Mashpee.
- News from Vermont - I just wanted to tell you that our State Office is hosting a "Diversity Day" tomorrow. One of our speakers is going to be Howard Lyons, Haudenosaunee, and Mohawk. He will be sharing a cultural presentation of the Haudenosaunee and Mohawk culture. He will also be performing traditional music as well. This is the first Diversity Day that is being hosted and includes guest speakers who are touching on various subject areas of diversity. I am proud that my office is hosting something like this to bring cultural

awareness to the forefront. I am also looking forward to having Howard join us. It is through understanding and sharing, that we learn from each other to see through our differences and recognize our similarities.

Northern Plains Region – Levi Montoya reported the following information for March, April and May:

March 2007 Report

Montana

- FSA and NRCS are working on developing a Tribal Outreach Forum which is scheduled for September 2007. I have attached a document explaining a little about the forum. I am not directly involved with the development of the forum, but can put you in contact with those individuals if you need additional information.
- Just so you are aware, Thedis Crowe is no longer the Tribal Liason for Montana. Robert Moler is the new public affairs specialist located in Bozeman, MT. He will be taking over some of the responsibilities that Thedis had. Montana has 5 Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, located in the 5 area offices. They have the responsibility for the direct contact with the Tribes in their respective areas.

007 Tribal Outreach Forum

Background

- In 2004 a Tribal Outreach Forum was held to provide cross-training between Tribes and USDA agencies. More than 200 registered participants attended the two and one-half day session. A minimal registration fee of \$20 was set to cover the cost of coffee and breaks. The meeting rooms, speaker travel expenses, food and scholarships were funded by the USDA agencies, Montana Tribes and IAC.
- The agenda for the first day focused on Tribal training for USDA agencies. Topics included an overview and reports from 7 Montana Tribes focusing on culture, history, land, demographics, economics, and current issues. The afternoon session broke into concurrent sessions with topics on working with Tribal Governments; jurisdictional issues that affect program delivery, and land ownership. The second day of the agenda focused on USDA training to Tribes with reports from agencies on programs available. The third day was a half-day session on capacity building.

2007 Forum

- The idea of hosting a Tribal Outreach Forum in 2007 was discussed with the Tribal Conservation Issues Sub-committee of the State Technical Committee. Those in attendance at the meeting agreed it would be of benefit to host another forum to discuss current issues affecting Tribes and USDA agencies as well as discuss programs available under the 2007 Farm Bill. The idea of the Forum was taken to the State Food and Agriculture Council (SFAC) meeting and the agencies agreed to host a Forum in 2007.

Planning Committee Members

- It was moved and seconded at the SFAC meeting for Heidi Brewer, FSA Public Affairs Specialist/Outreach Coordinator to chair the committee. Heidi contacted members who

had served on the 2004 planning committee to poll their interest in being involved with the 2007 Forum. Those serving on the planning 2007 committee are: Heidi Brewer, FSA; Tasha Gibby, NRCS; Terry Tatsey, INCA; Vicki LeBeaux and Ross Racine, IAC; Peggy Doney; Fort Belknap Tribe; Bob Parsley, RD; Peggy Stringer and Carmen Pennington, MASS; and Verna Billideaux, Blackfeet Extension Agent.

Where We Go From Here

- The planning committee held their first teleconference on January 26, 2007. Dates of September 25-27, 2007 were selected at the Gran Tree in Bozeman, MT. Topics for the agenda were discussed. Minutes of the teleconference will be provided to all planning committee members. The planning committee will meet by teleconference on a monthly basis to develop an agenda and secure speakers.

Stacy Denny Eneboe - Conrad, MT 59425

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- **Montana** – Flathead Reservation - We're working on getting EQIP contracts together for review and approval. I think we have about 10 or 11 applications for tribal lands here on the Flathead for FY 07 program. Mostly grazing related. A couple of CIG apps were submitted as well.

Herb Webb – Pablo, MT

Kansas

- The NRCS and FSA are going to close 11 Service Centers in Kansas. This will probably occur this summer, public meetings are being held this month in those counties affected. None of the counties with Indian reservations are planned to be shut down. The NRCS and FSA State Offices are saying no Federal employees will lose their job over these closings but no one has said where these people will go either.

Pat Broyles, - Emporia, KS

Kansas

- Santee Tribe and Winnebago Tribe - Article in the February 1, 2007, NRCS This Week, features the AiKiRuti Healing Garden. The healing garden is a project involving the Winnebago Tribe in Nebraska. I have been working with Nebraska NRCS and the plant materials center to provide plant materials for this project. Additional plant materials will be provided this spring.
- Working with the plant materials center to provide the Santee Tribe with sweetgrass. Sweetgrass is significant to many American Indian Tribes.

Mark Janzen - Salina, Kansas

South Dakota

- Lower Brule Sioux Tribe 3/14-15/2007 8th Annual Unity in 2007 (Helping Hands) Tribal Agriculture Meeting Sponsored by the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, SD Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), SD Farm Service Agency (FSA), and the SD National

Agricultural Statistics Service NASS. The meeting offered an opportunity for interested Tribal agricultural partners to hear, discuss, and share with South Dakota (SD) United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) representatives and others. Decision-makers from the South Dakota USDA's FSA, NRCS, Rural Development, and NASS were present to discuss current and potential future programs, successful partnerships, and future opportunities for agricultural issues in SD.

Dana R. Vaillancourt - Huron, SD 57350-2475

South Dakota

- Thanks for assembling the reports for conservation in Indian Country. It would be very helpful if you could send the compiled report back to each state Outreach coordinator/state Tribal Liaison. May give us some ideas for things to try out here. Also to gauge if similar activities are being done in other states, and to what degree of success.

Karen M. (Kim) Brannen

April Report

Colorado – Southern Ute Tribe –

- Completed development on 3 new EQIP contracts with Southern Ute tribal members, contracts now ready for practice installation to begin.
- Assisted Southern Ute Wildlife Division with developing a 2007 WHIP application, part of Stollsteimer Creek Watershed plan. Streambank stabilization work is planned. Application now waiting for funding.
- Published article in Southern Ute Drum concerning windbreak and wildlife tree and shrub plantings.
- Assisted Southern Ute Environmental Programs Division with irrigation system planning and design on 7 irrigation projects funded through the EP division.

Sterling Moss - Ignacio, CO

Montana

- Flathead Reservation - We are looking at about 6 new EQIP projects with the tribes here on the Flathead. Weed control and Forestry are the big things.

Herb Webb – Pablo, MT

Kansas

- I have nothing new to report for Kansas.

Mark Janzen - Salina, Kansas

Kansas

- The NRCS in Kansas has decided to close 9 Field Offices throughout the state this summer. The FSA in Kansas will close 11 offices. This means there will be 2 counties in KS that have an NRCS Field Office but no FSA representation. None of the office closures are in counties where there is ongoing work with a Tribe.

Pat Broyles, - Emporia, KS

Montana

- Fort Belknap in Montana just finished up with the EQIP 07 plans and contracts. We ranked 15 applications for an amount of \$787,528 in Nov. We completed 12 plans and contracts in the amount of \$634,163 on 35,5239 acres. The practices we contracted ranged from fences in the range units to fences on private trust lands. We also have livestock water developments in the form of wells, pipelines and tanks or tanks on existing wells. There are 2 people who are doing tree thinning practices. There are also a pasture planting and some pest management. We have 1 land leveling project on irrigated land. One person wants to try the heavy use protection area practice where a fabricated shelter will be cost shared to protect his livestock in winter. Most of the livestock tanks are frost free for winter use. Over the past 5 years there has been over 250 miles of fence contracted on the reservation and we have installed 130 miles to date.

Terry Buck – Fort Belnap, MT

Colorado

- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe - Steve Myers, Tribal Liaison to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe reports that he assisted the Tribal Environmental Department to submit a proposal for EQIP noxious weed control funds. The Tribe has been notified that their proposal was approved and funded for approximately \$50,000. This will enable the Tribe to implement their IPM program.
- Steve Myers is continuing to work on the noxious weed inventory for the Tribe and expects to complete the inventory this FY.
- Steve Myers reports that based on the data from his range inventory of the reservation that the Tribe made the decision to move over fifty percent of the cattle off of the reservation and graze them on a leased ranch in central New Mexico. If the drought continues, the cattle will continue to be grazed off of the reservation. Many of the perennial plants have died off due to the severity of the prolonged drought.
- Steve Myers reports that the Tribe is currently looking in to the feasibility of having a private contractor come onto the reservation and gather feral horses. The horses would then be removed from the reservation in a further effort to reduce grazing pressure on the vegetation. Currently, it is estimated that there are 700 feral horses on the reservation.
- Steve Myers reports that he is currently completing grazing utilization studies on twenty-four key grazing areas on the reservation. Due to the drought there are only minor amounts of vegetation to sample.

Stephen Myers – Ignacio, CO

May Report

Colorado – Southern Ute Tribe

- One new EQIP contract was signed with a Southern Ute tribal member, contract now ready for practice installation to begin.
- Funding was awarded to the Southern Ute Wildlife Division for their 2007 WHIP application, part of Stollsteimer Creek Watershed plan. Survey and design work is planned for this summer.
- A NRCS booth was set up at the Southern Ute Tribe's Career Day, catering to Ignacio high school students.
- Soil conservation presentation was made to 120 Ignacio Intermediate School students, part of Project Wild Day.
- Technical assistance was provided to approximately 12 tribal members and 6 divisions of tribal government.

Sterling Moss - Ignacio, CO

Colorado

- Ute Mountain Ute - I can only mention that I participated in the National CR compliance review. You probably will be talking about that anyway. Did I report last month that the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe received a \$59,700 grant for noxious weed control through EQIP? This week we signed another EQIP contract with the Tribal Farm and Ranch Enterprise. How does \$275,000 in cost-share sound?

Stephen Myers - Ignacio, CO

Montana Blackfeet Tribe - This is just an FYI in case you hadn't heard.

- The Blackfeet tribe in Montana started scoping meetings this week to develop an Agricultural Resource Management Plan (ARMP). NRCS is providing facilitators to help at the public scoping meetings. There will be two different public meetings located in 5 different communities. The first round of meetings will be done by the end of May. The second round of meetings will be conducted in June.
- I am one of the facilitators helping with this process. If you need further information please feel free to contact me.

Stacy Denny Eneboe - Conrad, MT 59425

Kansas Included are a couple of items that maybe of interest. Worked with the Manhattan Plant Materials Center to propagate sweet grass for the **Ponca Tribe** in Northern Nebraska. Also delivered plant materials to the **Ho Chunk Tribe** in Winnebago, Nebraska that included Prairie cordgrass and dogwood. Future plant materials are planned for both of these Tribes for 2008.

Mark Janzen - Salina, KS

Montana

- Salish Kootenai Tribe - So here on the Flathead IR, Salish Kootenai College did their first annual career fair on May 1st. NRCS (yours truly and my supervisor) had a booth and talked to students. We didn't do any hiring on the spot but passed out a lot of info on NRCS and the USAJOBS website for all the students not just the ones in resource fields. SKC plans on making this an annual event so I'm sure if folks from other states want to attend I can send the info. Or if folks have jobs to announce I could take them with me and make them available to students. Also two of our NRCS Tribal Scholars (Deb and Misty) will be graduating this quarter. They will both begin their NRCS careers this summer. Deb is going to Colorado and Misty will start in a FO here in MT. Other than that we've gone from contract writing to implementing which is good cause the weather is too nice to be inside all day.

Herb Webb – Pablo, MT

South Dakota -

- APRIL 2007: NRCS Cultural Resource Specialist/State Tribal Liaison met on-site with the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and cultural consultant to determine if two planned projects may have the potential to affect sacred areas.
- MAY 2007: **Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Conservation District** recently approved a contribution agreement with South and North Dakota NRCS. NRCS will provide some funding for conservation district staff to assist with EQIP and relevant programs or activities. Contact Dwight Teske in ND if you have additional questions in this regard.
- Hiring 2 Tribal students on the Student Temporary Experience Program (STEP) as Soil Conservation Aides.
 - Tribal Advisory Subcommittee meeting with representatives from **Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribe** (Pine Ridge) and BIA at Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and Great Plains Regional Office.
 - NRCS staff was present at the Standing Rock Sioux Tribes land committee meeting for the purpose of coordinating efforts through various programs that work together regarding land and conservation issues.

Dana R. Vaillancourt - Huron, SD

Kansas: Just have a couple of items:

- Worked with the Manhattan Plant Materials Center to propagate and provide sweetgrass to the Ponca Tribe in Nebraska.
- With the plant center we are continuing to work with Robert Stark and CeCe Earth, Winnebago Tribe in Nebraska. This spring we provided them with prairie cordgrass and redosier dogwood for planting in their Healing Garden.

Mark Janzen - Salina, KS

Montana

- Fort Belknap had 26 applications for EQIP for the June 1 deadline. I have created a deadline of Aug. 1 to have the ownership in the office since there are people working on BIA leases and some needed to make arrangements to get their Title Status Reports, etc. from BIA. Most of the applications are for fencing and livestock water development. The office mostly worked on the Arrears and Current lists for the existing contracts. Reminder letters about scheduled practices were sent to all existing contract holders. There are 70 existing contracts at Fort Belknap.

Terry Buck – Fort Belknap, MT

Kansas

- On the web site: <http://trailboss49.photosite.com/> in addition to the Alaska meeting photos I have put up several dozen Montana meeting photos.

Pat Broyles, - Emporia, KS

West Region – Felix Nez reported the following:

FORMS:

- Finished forms for the Poster Session, Vendor Form and Display for agencies and or private businesses. Sent to the National Council, no request for changes. The Vendor form and \$ 25.00 will be sent to AIANEA Treasurer, (Tanya) and the Display form and \$ 100.00 will be sent to Tanya also. Tanya will fax a copy to me and I'll a record of the transactions.
- The Poster Session will be faxed to me, and I'll keep a record of poster to be displayed at the Training Conference.
- Display form was sent to GLC Coordinator, Kimberly Stine. She has mailed her \$ 100.00 to Tanya and I have received a faxed copy.

Conference Agenda:

- I have assisted Mark Donet with Success Stories and Outreach for the Agenda, so far Utah, Montana and Arizona have submitted synopsis to Mark for consideration.

AIANEA Newsletter:

- Sent two (2) articles to Buster. It'll be interesting to see if the newsletter will be used the membership. I liked getting an emailed copy of the newsletter. Could there be an "email" list developed to the quarterly newsletter, instead of over looking and forgetting about the newsletter after each quarter.
- Crystal Leonetti was also featured in the newsletter on a well deserved award.

Midwest Region – Buster landin reported;

- Buster Landin spoke at a local Indianapolis public school about NRCS careers and soils. He also worked on the AIANEA prototype newsletter.
- Attended an American Indian Center of Indianapolis AICI board meeting.
 - They have a new executive director.

- AICI offers comprehensive workforce development services to American Indians in Indiana. Our objective is to integrate employment and training services that prepare job seekers for careers, through collaboration with businesses, educational institutions and other key community organizations. The American Indian Center of Indiana Inc. aspires to promote a sense of unification among the American Indian people in Indiana to achieve personal, economic, social and cultural development.

Iowa

- Tanya reported that Iowa is working on a seeding with the Sac and Fox Tribe regarding their buffalo herd (EQIP).

South Central Region – Leota Burnett reported the following:

- The Kiowa Economic Development Board in Anadarko, Ok signed a cooperative agreement with HARG & Associate's and HDR Engineering of Omaha, Nebraska to develop a large-scale wind farm on tribal jurisdictional area. Both company's are impressed with the tribe's foresight and hope the positive move toward renewable energy can help reverse the effects of global warming.
- Carol and I have hand delivered the guidelines and flyer to various tribes across the state and have emailed SEPM's, D.C.'s, Tribal liaisons, and Tribes with the information in the South Central Region.
- Carol and I have been working on the Heritage Month poster and we are now backing on track with the timeline. We have had numerous calls regarding the poster and have several artists committed to sending in artwork.
- I have been working with my D.C. in getting speakers and wetland site locations set up for 2 afternoon tours in July for the Shawnee Tribe's Wetland workshop.
- Carol and I have submitted our travel requests for the AIANEA meeting in Corpus but will not know if we have been approved until after the June 21st deadline date on the bulletin.
- Harold has been in contact with me to keep me posted on his progress with the 2007 meeting needs.
- Emailed scholarship opportunity out to our local tribes and SC regional SEPM's to pass on to their contacts.
- The Choctaw liaison put an article in the Bethink and Durant Daily Democrat about the poster contest. She also put flyers out at the Choctaw Nation and at the Choctaw Museum in Tuscarora. She has had a couple of people come in to pick up the information.
- Emailed information Ann P. sent out on the Bill being presented in California on Eagle Feathers and Native Americans to our local tribes and on another scholarship available for a Native American student in Veterinary field of study.

2009 Annual Conference Location letter:

David has already compiled the 2009 annual conference letter and has sent it to the National Council for review. Yvette has posted it on the web. We are open to any other region that wants to prepare a proposal to be presented at 2007 business meeting in Corpus for the location of the 2009 annual conference.

National CRAC Letter: 2008 Joint Association Meeting

The National Civil Rights Committee wants to set up a Diversity Conference with all of the Employee Associations. This idea was supported by a letter from Dana York. The AIANEA would like clarification and more details on what this means. Carlos Suarez is going to visit with Dana York and Joyce Swartzendruber to clear this up. Both the Chief and Dana York will be at our meeting in Corpus Christi and will be having a face to face meeting with the Presidents from all of the Employee Associations

Action Item: David is going to send the letter from National Civil Rights Committee to the National Council.

Employee Association Presidents Teleconference:

David let us know that he had started the process of setting this up and is trying to coordinate the joint teleconference. Carlos Suarez, President of the Hispanic Organization, set this first teleconference up. They plan to continue having quarterly teleconferences in the future. It was a very good teleconference. All of the other Association Presidents were on the teleconference. All of the association presidents have committed to coming to our conference with the exception of the APIO. Pooh is pretty sure he will be able to attend but does not have confirmation yet. Carlos is going to send out the minutes from that conference to the National Council Presidents.

The All Association Past Presidents Teleconference participants came up with a plan to have the Association President's entire meet with the Chief while in Corpus Christi. Carlos Suarez is going to be the lead spokesman for all of our associations at the meeting with the Chief. They will discuss the issues talked about regarding the suggested joint meeting of all organizations.

Ciro LoPinto brought up the structure of the rotation of our presidents and suggested, since we rotate yearly, that the first Vice President sit in on these meetings so they are kept informed of what is going on. Millie said she is willing to do that, so that after she becomes President in January so that she will be informed of what is going on. Ciro also said he feels the Vice President should be able to sit in on the face to face meeting with the Chief at Corpus Christi.

Action Item: David is going send the minutes from the Employee Presidents teleconference to the National Council members.

Eddie left at 12:25 pm

AIANEA Newsletter: *The Four Winds*

Yvette sent recommendation that the National Council accept this newsletter and give its approval. Buster is the coordinator of the newsletter and has volunteered to keep it going. The Communications Committee has agreed to take up any slack that may come about should Buster not be able to. Buster has developed more areas in the newsletter, like a President's corner, AIANEA Committees, etc. Ciro asked if it is going to be reviewed so the content is not sensitive or offensive. Tanya asked for a little section for the Elders, so information from them or Tanya as the Chair of the Elders' Committee can be included. Buster thought that was a good idea. David suggested having a comment button on the web so members can comment on the newsletter and

its content. Different tribes look at things differently and we don't want to be offensive. Leota suggested putting a statement saying the content of the letter is to learn about other tribal cultures and is not meant to offend anyone. It was felt that since we are only one of two USDA recognized employee associations that we should have the USDA EEO statement on the newsletter.

[MOTION 06082007-3:](#)

Motion was made to accept the present format and the title Four Winds Newsletter as a quarterly newsletter to be managed by the Communications Committee and to add the USDA EEO statement.

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto

Motion seconded: David Wise

Motion passed: Unanimously

AIANEA Drum:

There was some discussion on getting an AIANEA owned drum. Gerald Allison and David Elliott talked about the drum and let Gerald know how much the AIANEA appreciates his being the keeper of the drum. David let him know that we want him to continue to do that and that we are looking at purchasing a drum so we don't have to use his. The AIANEA also wants to get a drum stand and travel case so it is protected. Gerald wants to try to bring in some younger members and try to teach them about the drum responsibilities so they can carry on the tradition in the future. He likes the idea of a drum case as he packs his in a cardboard box. Gerald looked up the drum sites and there are several that he liked. Gerald thought it would be better if another member would make the drum instead of buying one. Buster reminded us what Herb had talked about at one of our meetings. Herb had said that he would like to make the drum and having members send items to him so he could build it. Gerald will be attending the meeting in Corpus this year so the drum will be there.

[MOTION 06082007-4:](#)

Motion was made that the AIANEA own its own drum, stand, travel case and drum sticks.

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto

Motion seconded: Felix Nez

Motion passed: Unanimously

Action Item: Buster will contact Herb to see if he will make a drum for the AIANEA and if he would build it will fit in a standard case and the stand and all will fit in the case and if he can do it in two years.

2008 Visioning:

David has sent the letter to Nile Rhine heart regarding the 2008 conference. David will be appointing a Visioning committee chair person in the next two or three of weeks. That chair person will work on the visioning criteria. There is a December 1st deadline to inform Nile of our decisions. Tanya asked if the December 1st deadline would include all of the decisions pertaining to the visioning process. Ciro is concerned the visioning committee will not have enough guidelines to go on. The new chair will be given a direction to start the process. David doesn't want to start over but will continue on with the process that was already started. He explained that the committee chair starts the process, the committee chooses the process that will be used, and they will make contacts for different ones for proposals, and bring the proposals to the National Council for

approval. Ciro felt economics seemed to be a stumbling block but if that wasn't the case then he doesn't know what the problem was in not doing it this year. Ciro said he is still on the committee but he is just not the chair. Ciro asked why we are waiting until December to start reaching out to people. David selected December 1st so the new chair will have time to put the plan together and get the Visioning Committee put together. He wanted to get the 2007 conference behind us before we re-opened the visioning process needs as everyone is working on it and their regular workload. Tanya asked what "in place" meant – does it mean the timing of the process to actually take place, does it mean the criteria to be used, what visioning process we will use, whether we will utilize a professional facilitator or someone from our association. Will it include all the decisions necessary so the committee can actually get started? David said the criteria could be a business process that can be used by the association. It might be interviews with memberships.

Tanya summarized her understanding of what is needed by the December 1st deadline. She said she thinks it means that we will know when we are having the visioning process (it may or may not be at the 2008), what visioning process we are going to use (it may or may not be the appreciative inquiry), if we are utilizing a professional facilitator or not.

David said he thought that is what it meant and that the December 1st deadline is a date but it can be done sooner. The committee itself is charged with doing it earlier or later. It is up to them. It needs to be done by them.

It was agreed that as the vision committee moves forward that they will stay in contact with the 2008 conference planning committee mainly since we are partnering with SIAGE and they will need to be kept informed so we can work it into the whole scheme of the 2008 conference.

Other Business

Review of Action items: **Action items highlighted in red were reviewed**

Adjourn and Next Meeting

The next meeting is on **Friday, July 13, 2007 at 11:30 am CST**. Call in information will be provided.

MOTION 06082007-4

Motion made that the May 2007 AIANEA meeting be adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Motion made by: Felix Nez
Motion seconded: Buster Landin
Motion passed: Unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Leota Burnett for Carol Vallee Crouch, Secretary