



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"

AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION FOR NRCS NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE

January 17, 2008

Those present: Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Millie Titla, Dave Wise, Gina Kerzman, Levi Montoya, Carol Crouch, Ciro LoPinto and Phillip Dixon

Not Present: Leota Burnett, Buster Landin and Edie Morigeau.

President, Millie Titla called the meeting to order at approximately **1:05 am CST**.

Approval of Minutes

The December 2007 minutes were reviewed and approved by the National Council members.

MOTION: 01-17-2008-1:

Motion was made to accept the December minutes.

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto

Motion seconded: Dave Wise

Motion passed: Unanimously

Treasurer's Report

Tanya reviewed the Treasurer's Report for December.

MOTION: 01-17-2008-2:

Motion was made to approve, as presented, the AIANEA December Treasurer's Report for January 2008 AIANEA monthly teleconference.

Motion made by: David Wise

Motion seconded: Ciro LoPinto

Motion passed: Unanimously

Tanya and Millie opened discussion on replacing Tanya as AIANEA Treasurer since she has been elected AIANEA 2nd Vice Chair. Tanya recommended that her position be filled. Ciro recommended that the AIANEA National Council seek a volunteer.

Action Item: Tanya will develop an outline of the roles and responsibilities for the Treasurer position. Millie will develop a cover letter to solicit for an AIANEA member who would be willing to serve in the appointed AIANEA Treasurer position. Millie will develop a simple questionnaire for the applicant to complete that would provide enough information from the applicant in order make a decision.

Tanya also asked for recommendation regarding the renewal of the AIANEA post office box. The fee to renew the post office box is \$13.00 for 6 months.

MOTION: 01-17-2008-3: Motion was made to approve renewal of the post office box for the AIANEA for 6 months.

Motion made by: David Wise
Motion seconded: Levi Montoya
Motion passed: Unanimously

Action Item: Tanya will renew the existing AIANEA post office box for a 6 month period.

Gina posed discussion regarding a check and balance system should be in place for the AIANEA regarding the monitoring of the AIANEA checking account. Ciro made a recommendation to send a second copy of the bank statement be sent to AIANEA 1st Vice President. The purpose of the second copy is for checks and balance purposes and to support the AIANEA and Treasurer.

MOTION: 01-17-2008-4: Motion was made to have a the bank send a copy of the AIANEA bank statement be sent to AIANEA 1st Vice President in addition to the Treasurer.

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto
Motion seconded: Gina Kerzman
Motion passed: Unanimously

Action Item: Tanya will request that the bank send a second statement to AIANEA 1st Vice President as a measure of checks and balance.

Tanya made recommendation that she be replaced as the Chair of the Audit committee during the time that she is still the Treasurer. Millie, President of AIANEA, appointed Dave Wise as Chair of the Audit committee until a new Treasurer is appointed by AIANEA President.

NHQ/Tribal Liaison: Edith Morigeau –
Edith Morigeau was not available for the teleconference.

Region Reports

East Region – Ciro LoPinto reported the following;
Northern Plains Region – Levi Montoya reported the following;
Southeast Region – Pat Green reported the following;
West Region – Felix Nez reported the following;
Midwest Region – Buster Landin reported the following;

South Central Region – Carol Crouch reported the following;

USDA-NRCS Partner with Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma to Develop Kiowa Tribal Conservation District

Tribal Conservation districts are being established across the United States to focus on working with USDA agencies and other local partners to care for Mother Earth, strengthen agriculture, encourage youth 4-H and FFA, work to increase the number of Tribal farmers and ranchers and to help protect and strengthen the amount of culturally

significant plants and animals. These Tribal Conservation districts are established by the Tribe or Tribal entity and they enter into a working agreement with USDA agencies to assist in the delivery of conservation to all populations; which helps the agencies mission to achieve parity in the delivery and implementation of USDA conservation programs to all populations.

The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma signed their Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Conservation District/USDA mutual agreement during the *Native Americans Coming Together Caring for Mother Earth*, Indian Agriculture Symposium that was hosted by Indian Nations Conservation Alliance & Intertribal Agriculture Council in Las Vegas, Nevada, December 13, 2007.

Representing Oklahoma at the Indian Agriculture Symposium and the signing ceremonies for Oklahoma was State Conservationist Ron Hilliard and District Conservationist, Carol Crouch, Billy Evans Horse, Kiowa Tribal Chairman and Kiowa conservation district members. Gary Mast, Deputy Under Secretary, Conservation, USDA represented USDA in the official signing of the working agreement between the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma and USDA.



Gary Mast, Deputy Under Secretary, Conservation, USDA, and Billy Evans Horse, Kiowa Tribal Chairman, Kiowa Tribe Oklahoma, are shaking hands and the conservation district directors are looking on.

Importance of Regional Reports

Millie opened discussion regarding the importance of the regional reports and their importance to continue monthly reporting.

Action Item: Carol will send an email to remind representatives to send their reports one week before the scheduled teleconference.

AIANEA National Council Alternates for Teleconference

AIANEA National Council Representatives will find an alternate for the scheduled teleconference from their region, in good membership standing, to replace themselves if they can not attend a scheduled teleconference.

2008 Conference

Millie opened this up for discussion pertaining to proposals from Ivan Dozier, Illinois and other Employee Organization Association's, including NOPHNRCSSE - July 7-11, 2008 in Madison Wisconsin and APIO - August 11-15, 2008 in Spokane, Washington, and meeting with INCA in December 2008 as a partner.

Proposal 1

A proposal was made by the Asian Pacific Islander Organization to partner in the 2008 Annual Conference, August 11 – 15, 2008, in Spokane, Washington.

MOTION: 01-17-2008-5:

Motion was made to accept the proposal to partner with the Asian Pacific Islander Organization August 11 through 15, 2008.

Motion made by: Carol Crouch

Motion seconded: Levi Montoya

Motion passed: Unanimously

Proposal 2

Proposal was received from Ivan Dozier to go to Illinois was tabled due to no hotel confirmation. No motion was made to accept the proposal from Ivan Dozier to hold the 2008 AIANEA conference in Illinois.

Proposal 3

Proposal was received from the NOPHNRCSSE to partner with them during July 7-11, 2008 in Madison Wisconsin. No motion was made to accept the NOPHNRCSSE proposal to partner with them in 2008.

Proposal 4

Partnership with INCA in December 2008. National Council members agreed to table the proposal due to the time frame and not having enough information regarding how the meeting would be completed. No motion was made to accept the INCA proposal to partner with them for the December 2008.

AIANEA 2009 Partnership

Millie will have a teleconference to discuss "Pros and Cons" regarding all the employee associations holding a joint teleconference and requested input from National Council members. Teleconference is scheduled for January 31, 2007.

Action item: Millie will email the list to the National Council with a request to add any "Pros or Cons" to list .

AIANEA Scholarship Committee

Millie advised the AIANEA National Council that the scholarship committee has requested the National Council to support their recommendation to increase the current scholarship to \$500.00 per scholarship for the 2008 scholarship awardees.

MOTION: 01-17-2008-6:

Motion was made to raise current AIANEA Scholarship for 2008 to \$500.00 for each awardee's.

Motion made by: Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen

Motion seconded: Gina Kerzman???

Motion passed: Unanimously

AIANEA Newsletter

Millie updated the National Council that the newsletter will be out soon. Buster has been waiting on a letter from her as the new president of AIANEA.

Action item: Millie will get the letter to Buster for the AIANEA Newsletter this week.

Committee Chairs

Millie opened discussion regarding the AIANEA Committee Chairs. Millie recommended that all current AIANEA Committee Chairs be notified to solicit their desire to continue in their current Chair position. She requested that Dave Wise contact all current Committee Chairs to make sure that they want to continue in their current positions.

Action item: Millie will email a template letter for Dave Wise to use in contacting the current AIANEA committee chairs.

Action Item: Dave will send a letter out to all current committee chairs and make sure that the current committee chairs want to continue in their current positions as chairs and members.

Action Item: Carol Crouch will email Dave Wise and Millie the current AIANEA Committee member and Chair list.

Other Business - None

Review of Action items

Items marked in red.

Next meeting – February 14, 2008

The next meeting is on **Thursday, February 14, 2008 at 12:00 am MST**. Call in information will be provided.

Adjourn and Next Meeting

MOTION: 01-17-2008-7:

Motion was made that the January 2008 AIANEA meeting be adjourned at 3:15 PM

Motion made by: Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen

Motion seconded: Gina Kerzman

Motion passed: Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted by Carol Vallee Crouch, Secretary