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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  
September 10, 2008**

**Those present:** Millie Tittle, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Gina Kerzman, Leota Burnett, Ciro LoPinto, Dave Wise, Edie Morigeau

**Not Present:** Midwest Representative (vacant), Secretary (vacant), Harold Bryant, Phillip Dixon

President, Millie Tittle called the meeting to order at approximately 2:05 **pm CST.**

**Approval of May Minutes**

The July 2008 minutes were reviewed and approved by the National Council members.

**MOTION: #:** Motion was made to accept the July minutes.

Motion made by: Leota

Motion seconded: Levi

Motion passed: Unanimously

**Approval Treasurer's Report**

Millie provided an oral report for Harold. Harold said there is enough money to cover expenses and not to worry. All cash and checks from the conference were deposited right after the conference before he left Spokane. Harold has credited all items to the silent auction and there was one item waiting to be claimed and he will send a note to that individual. A division still needs to be made on the breakdown of expenses. He received a bill on the ribbons for the nametags and will take care of the bill. \$28,000 was paid to the Hotel at the end of the conference.

**MOTION: #:** No motion was made to accept the July treasurer report since there is not a written report. It will be tabled until next month.

Motion made by:

Motion seconded:

Motion passed: Unanimously

**NO National Tribal Relations Coordinator Report**

Edie Morigeau complimented the Associations and the Planning Committee on the success of the conference. She discussed the Forest Service Outreach Notice for Tribal Relations Specialists in Region 1, 5, and 9. Edie mentioned the issues collected at the conference were put into an Action Register, will be provided to NHQ and discussed during the next National Tribal Network

Committee teleconference, and will add AK and PI to the Tribal Workgroup brochure because they were left off.

**ACTION ITEM:** Millie will contact Yvette to put Reps from the National Tribal Network Committee on to the AIANEA website with the dates and teleconference call-in information. Edie will put the same information on the NRCS tribal webpage (AIANEA is linked).

### OLD BUSINESS

- a. National Training Conference – Millie said she received lots of compliments regarding the National Conference. She will schedule a teleconference for the joint planning committee regarding closing/follow-ups concerns and issues. She is working on uploading photos to the website. There was a discussion on whether to include meeting notes on the Council meeting with the Chief to the Conference report. Millie said there will be Visioning Committee teleconferences scheduled to complete the Visioning process. There was a discussion regarding conference travel cost breakdown for the Elders due to travel miscommunication regarding credit card issue. There was recommendation for a travel policy to be established for the Elders Council.

**ACTION ITEM:** Millie will add notes on meeting with the Chief and Tanya will add her notes on meeting with Dana to the Summary Report. Millie will take the lead on scheduling a joint committee teleconference. Millie will download conference photos and will contact Yvette on linking the photo website to AIANEA website. Tanya will develop a AIANEA travel policy for the Elders Council.

- b. Constitution and Bylaws Committee report (proposed amendment) – Tanya gave a brief report regarding the following by-law change regarding- **Article XI – Standing Committees tem IV. M. Elders and Elders' Committee** was updated and posted to the website for 30 days and sent to the members. She received one comment and will make that change. There was also the lack of clarification of the terms of the Treasurer and Secretary position, and will wait to discuss the other amendments with the Committee.

### MOTION:

Motion made by:  
Motion seconded:  
Motion passed:

**ACTION ITEM:** Tanya will put the Elder item amendment on the agenda next month for Council approval, and the new proposed amendments to consider.

- c. Midwest Region Representative – Millie gave a report that she had sent out an email regarding Buster Landin's open position and two members submitted their interest. Council recommended including Midwest Region Representative ballot to the regular election ballot for 2009. Millie asked if Dave would contact the interested individuals regarding the election and see if they would still be interested.

**ACTION ITEM:** Dave will contact the interested individuals regarding the election.

- d. Secretary Position - Millie informed the Council that there is only one individual interested in the position.

DECISION: Millie requested for a roll call for a vote. The vote was unanimous to select Blythe as the Secretary.

MOTION:

Motion made by:  
Motion seconded:  
Motion passed:

**Action Item: Millie will send a letter of congratulations to Blythe.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Task Force Leadership Development – Gina would like to ask for input from the membership regarding the career mentoring program and options in developing leadership skills and provide ways for them to move up in their careers. She would like to have consensus to establish an Ad Hoc Task Force Committee.

DECISION: The Council agreed unanimous for the Ad Hoc Task Force Committee and Millie appointed Gina as the Chair.

- b. 2009 Conference – Millie discuss the decision by the membership to go to Oneida. She received a copy of the Radisson contract. Council recommended that Dave be a co-signer on the hotel contract. Council also agreed to have the Regional Representative from the region that the conference is being held in be the Chair of the Conference Planning Committee.

**Action Item: Millie will forward a copy of the hotel contract to Dave. Tanya will contact Julie regarding the Council decision to have the Regional Representative as the Chair of the Planning Committee. Dave will send the list of the volunteers for the Planning committee to Jerry and Julie. Dave will follow up with Jerry Thompson regarding signing the contract.**

- c. 2010 Conference – Millie discuss the decision by the membership to go to South Dakota. She made two attempts to contact Ramkota Sales Rep. She will contact Best Western again. The Council recommended for the President and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (President in 2010) sign the hotel contract. Levi Montoya will chair the 2010 planning committee.

**Action Item: Millie will contact Best Western again and will forward a copy of the hotel booking contract to Dave and Tanya.**

- d. Scholarship for Conference Attendance – Gina would like for the Association to seek other funding options and to generate funds through opportunities in the RC & D, and would like to include the Ways and Means Committee in this process.

**Action Item: Gina will look into the ethics on scholarship and funding opportunities with the RC&D, and how to include the Ways and Means committee in this process.**

- e. Monthly Agenda Items – Millie would like to know if the Council would like to include the National AIAN SEPMS to the monthly teleconferences. The Council agreed to include a report if there is a specific item Carol would like to present and she can request through the President to be added to the agenda.

**Action Item: Tanya will contact Carol Crouch on the decision to include the National AIAN SEPM to the monthly agenda.**

- f. Other

**Review of Action items**

**Next meeting** –The next meeting is October 14, 2008. Call in information will be provided.  
12:00 noon, Arizona time.

**MOTION 07-09-2008-5:** Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at **approximately 4 Pm Central time.**

Motion made by:

Motion seconded:

Motion passed: Unanimously