



---

**American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS**

*"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"*

**NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE**

**February 19, 2009**

**Welcome and Roll Call**

Dave Wise, Levi Montoya, Sharron Santure, Nels Liljedahl, Crystal Leonetti, Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Debi Clairmont (for Gina Kerzman), Carol Crouch (for Leota Burnett), Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Ciro LoPinto

Not present: Phillip Dixon, Harold Bryant

Meeting began at 12:07 PM MST.

**Approval of January Minutes**

There was no discussion of the minutes.

**MOTION: 02-19-2009-1:** Motion was made to accept the January minutes.

Motion made by: Carol Crouch

Motion seconded: Sharron Santure

Motion passed: Unanimously

**NHQ/Tribal Liaison Report**

Edie Morigeau was not on teleconference.

**SEPM National Report**

Carol Crouch will be in Washington D.C. during the week of March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting with National SEPM's, Carol will be holding a special teleconference for new SEPM's, Alaska will host the 2009 AIHM poster, will announce that Oregon will be the alternate host of the poster for 2010. The responsibility of the poster will stay in the West Region for 2009-2010.

**Carol will send out the poster schedule by region.**

**2009 National Training Conference**

**a. Letter to the Chief – Dave**

The AIANEA President's Letter has been sent to the Chief of NRCS.

**b. WTCAC Partnership – Dave**

Since this year's conference will be co-sponsored, the working title of the conference is:

"American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

2009 Annual Training Conference

Co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council

Hosted by The Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin"

**Dave will run the proposed title of the conference by Loretta Metoxen for the correct name and wording for the Oneida Tribe.**

The following are the proposed themes for the conference:

1. Visions, We Look in All Directions
2. Expanding Our Vision for the Future
3. All Voice, All Ideas: Called to the AIANEA Future - Together

Crystal is going to present the Visioning Plan to leadership, move this agenda item to beginning of the conference agenda on Tuesday.

**Dave will invite the Intertribal Bison Cooperative (ITBC) to attend the 2009 AIANEA Conference.**

Sharron - How do we handle groups that contribute to the conference?

Tanya – Normally we don't have groups that contribute. In the past, the OTCAC has contributed to the scholarship fund.

Ciro commented that we need to do a better job in recognizing USDA providing sponsorship to the conferences.

**Dave will speak to Noller Herbert, Leadership and State Conservationist's (as applicable) to get ideas about possible national NRCS sponsorship for the conferences.**

Dave commented that we need to solidify the partnership between WTCAC, will continue working with Julie Malvitz.

**c. Working Effectively with American Indians and Alaska Natives Training –**  
Nels has held conversations with Richard Vigil. There is a possibility that there will be less State Conservationists in attendance due to schedule conflicts, etc. Richard will speak to Roylene, Pat Leavenworth and others as follow-up. Still need to incorporate Elders into the session and find out more about WTCAC's presentation and who their instructors will be for the local portion. The plan is to intersperse topics that aren't covered during the 2-day Harmony session, to present throughout the rest of the conference for Tribal Liaisons. Tanya is a contact point with Richard for the Liaison training. **Tanya will contact Richard to ask what topics are planned to be presented during the 2-day Harmony session and what the Elder involvement will be during the session.**

**d. Conference Attendance Criteria**

Tanya revised the conference criteria for those asking for approval to attend. Some revisions included for SEPM's, Liaisons, National Council Members, etc. Carol may be presenting this during the National SEPM meeting in March.

**Visioning Update, Visioning Final Document**

Crystal presented the Vision Plan to the National Council. There are three visions for the next 7 Generations w/ corresponding action plans for each vision over the next 4-5 years. The document was emailed to NC before teleconference, but this version is not quite completely edited and formatted. The content is complete. A summary of the document and each vision was read by Crystal, refer to draft document for details.

Ciro made note that this version of the document does not include the final provocative proposition statement by the Leadership, Growth and Mentorship subcommittee. This is in the process of being edited, but will be finalized by the subcommittee prior to the final visioning document being sent out.

(Carol Crouch left the teleconference since a quorum is achieved within the NC.)

Subcommittee Team Leads: Ciro LoPinto (Relationships Between AIANEA, NRCS and Tribes), Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen (Elder Involvement and Knowledge Sharing), Millie Titla (Leadership, Growth and Mentorship). Thank you for all your hard work.

Tanya asked if we can approve the document as-is, even though that still needs revisions.

Some of the action items are scheduled to be implemented in the next few months, as well as into the next few years. Some items have been scheduled into the upcoming 2009 conference. Visions and action plans are just about complete. The Visioning Committee would like to have feedback from the National Council on the proposed plan, is the intent of the plan something that we can move positively forward with to final completion?

Crystal commented that she would like to hear if the National Council is okay with the document, so that the subcommittees can move ahead with action items and have a document to present at the upcoming conference.

**MOTION: 02-19-2009-2:** Motion to have the National Council stand completely behind the spirit, intent and direction of the document as it stands today, and forge ahead with having the unified and complete, electronic document completed by the May teleconference.

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto  
Motion seconded: Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen  
Motion passed: Unanimously

(Crystal left the teleconference.)

**MOTION: 02-19-2009-3:** Motion to extend the AIANEA's gratitude to Nila Rinehart for her assistance in the Visioning Process. Propose to give her an AIANEA Lifetime Membership and artwork provided by Debi Clairmont.

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto  
Motion seconded: Dave Wise  
Motion passed: Unanimously

**Dave will contact Crystal, Harold or Yvette for Nila's contact information to send the award.**

### **Kurt Cates Scholarship Fund**

Levi has not been able to follow-up with Kurt's family yet, and would like to request for more details on the scholarship to present to Kurt's wife.

Tanya recommended to Levi to suggest renaming the scholarship after Kurt and ask for Rayma Cate's permission to do this in his honor.

**Levi will get in contact with Rayma Cates and present this to her.**

### **Drum**

Two elk hides have been located so the drum is set, but Nels has also located a moose hide that someone is willing to donate to the AIANEA. The moose hide still has the hair on it, so he's unsure how long the process will be to take the hair off. One of the initial intents was to have both an elk and moose hide for the AIANEA drum, but we're not sure how it stands to this point.

**Levi will contact Herb for follow-up on the status of what type of hides can be used on the drum and what timeframe is needed to get the drum completed.**

#### **AIANEA Logo**

Herb sent out an email with the revised logo to the National Council. The logo looks good except for some colors that can be changed out easily by the logo company.

Tanya – what is the next step with the complete/approved logo?

The logo will be used on jackets for lifetime members/Elders, offered at a reduced cost. We will need to revisit the thoughts behind where the logo will be used.

**MOTION: 02-19-2009-4:** Motion to approve the logo as designed and give Herb the ability to adjust/change colors as he sees appropriate, then move ahead with the next step.

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto

Motion seconded: Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen

Motion passed: Unanimously

**Tanya will email Herb to let him know that the Council approved the logo and to move forward, and will look through minutes for other discussions.**

#### **Four Winds Newsletter Guidelines**

The guidelines for the newsletter were provided by Yvette via email.

**MOTION: 02-19-2009-5:** Motion to approve the newsletter guidelines provided by the Communications Committee.

Motion made by: Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen

Motion seconded: Dave Wise

Motion passed: Unanimously

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Dave has not able to get in contact with Harold due to possible illness. Are there any suggestions in the event Harold is not able to work in the position as Treasurer at this time? When the Treasurer Position was previously vacant, Tanya commented that Herb Webb had expressed interest in assisting on a temporary basis. He may still be interested in helping out.

Ciro asked if there is someone geographically close to Harold that can assist? That person may be able to pick up the materials and send them to another member who can assist.

**Tanya will contact Herb to see if he is willing to assist as Treasurer in the interim. She will also email the Treasurer Position information to Debi Clairmont in the event she is interested in assisting.**

#### **Review of Action Items**

Action items were reviewed and a couple items were added prior to the close of the meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. Central Time

The meeting concluded at 1:40 PM MST.

**Respectfully Submitted by Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Secretary**