



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"

NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE

January 22, 2009

Welcome and Roll Call: Dave Wise, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Ciro LoPinto, Sharron Santure, Martin Bales (sitting in for Gina Kerzman), Phillip Dixon, Carol Crouch (sitting in for Leota Burnett), Edie Morigeau, Blythe Koyiyumptewa and Debi Clairmont (guest), Yvette Dulle and Nels Liljedahl (called in later during teleconference)

Not Present: Harold Bryant, Levi Montoya

President, Dave Wise called the meeting to order at approximately **9:05 am MST**. He commented on the great outcome of the Visioning session teleconference last evening.

Approval of October Minutes

There was one revision to the October minutes, change the "October" to "September" under the section "Approval of September Minutes".

MOTION: 01-22-2009-1: Motion was made to accept the October minutes w/revision.

Motion made by: Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen

Motion seconded: Ciro LoPinto

Motion passed: Unanimously

Special Order of Business: Kurt Cates Scholarship Fund

Kurt Cates was an inspiration to students for careers in natural resources and was essential in getting the AIANEA scholarship up and going. The suggestion is to rename the current scholarship or create a new one in Kurt's name. There was a one-time rename of the scholarship. The dollar amount has increased in the past few years, with OTCAC kindly donating to the scholarship fund.

Ciro motioned/recommended using the current scholarship and renaming it after Kurt Cates.

Kurt made the scholarship a reality.

In previous emails, Levi had volunteered to talk to Kurt's wife in February about this topic. The National Council will finalize a decision after Levi's discussion.

NHQ/Tribal Liaison Report: Edie Morgeau

Edie Morigeau discussed some items that her office has been working on this past quarter.

- Farm Bill activities will be going out to the field, heading to a directive to be sent out nationally. The national bulletin under 410, Programs will be the Guidance and Consultation with Federally Recognized Tribes Concerning the New 2008 Farm Bill Interim and Final Rules. This will provide guidance to states in consulting with tribes. The request is for the states/liaisons to contact each tribe and actively seek comments for input to the final rule. Anne Dubey and Edie are contacts for this effort.

- Fact sheet on conservation opportunities for Federally Recognized Tribes and information on legislative and regulatory changes. Looking to provide up to 90% cost share and 30% short term payments under the new Farm Bill.
- Agreement with INCA, states that we want to review tribal conservation districts, to assess what we need to do to get the Districts more active. INCA will provide a summary report, where 5 tribes have been selected.
- Guide for Consultation with Tribes – A request was sent out to the field for input on consultation practices that are working in Indian Country. Input was received from Arizona and South Dakota (or North Dakota). Would like to receive at least 2 more.
- Training – The Harmony Workshop (Working Effectively with American Indians and Alaska Natives course) held its first pilot workshop in Michigan last November. Would like feedback on the second workshop to be held in 2009. Martin Bales indicated that the second Workshop will be held in June in the state of Washington. This is a newly revised course through NEDC, combined into one course from two courses. The state of Wisconsin is also interested in hosting a Harmony workshop.

Suggest to Edie to email Roylene Rides at the Door for the update on the next Working Effectively with American Indians and Alaska Native course.

SEPM National Report: Carol Crouch

- The state SEPM's will be providing input for what training they would like to see at the conference.
- The schedule of posters for AIHM was sent out via email, and the responsibility is with the SEPM. Guidelines and templates were sent by email for getting the posters out. The AIHM posters are handled different from other posters; these posters are mandated by Executive Order. Alaska will do the 2009 posters.
- There is a new National Civil Rights Committee supervisor, who supervises the National SEPM's. Dana York previously oversaw the committee but that has been changed to Joseph Hairston.
- On March 9th, Carol will be in DC with the National SEPM's.
- The wording on the basis to attend the national conference should be updated. Currently, criteria stated is receiving or presenting an Award, Scholarship, Poster Presentation, a member of the Chief's staff and Training. Suggest a revision to the "Chief's staff" to be a National Council member/Executive Committee member. Replace "Scholarship" with SEPM or Tribal Liaison. Revise the overall criteria with these suggestions.

Tanya will provide a draft of the updated criteria.

- Intertribal Bison Cooperative (ITBC) was in Las Vegas during the same time as the INCA/IAC Conference. Edie and Richard Vigil presented to ITBC on behalf of NRCS. There are 57 tribes that belong to this cooperative and have received CIG grants from NRCS to bring buffalo back to the range. The presentation was to help ITBC understand NRCS and its programs, funds, set-asides within the states. ITBC would like to work directly with Liaisons with the states, it was recommended for them to contact the State Conservationists in respective tribal-participating states.
- There will be a new Secretary of Agriculture coming in with the new Administration.

AIANEA should work and communicate with INCA as a partnership effort on items presented today.

2009 National Training Conference – Sharron Santure

WTCAC (Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council) Partnership

- Sharron emailed out the working agenda document for the 2009 conference. They are currently working on the Liaison training. Gina is assisting with the career development curriculum and mentoring sessions. Tanya is in communication with the Elders for their part in the conference. The new streamlined Working Effectively with American Indians

and Alaska Natives training course will be presented to the State Conservationists and Leadership. Jerry Thompson was a part of the planning, but is now retired. Field trips will also be a part of the conference.

- WTCAC proposed to pay for the Oneida Youth to attend the conference, and provide sponsorship for the dancers, drummer, Color Guard.
- A letter from WTCAC was read asking for the registration of 11 Wisconsin tribal members and Native American students to be waived.
- Tanya suggested to define what it means to have WTCAC be a co-sponsor
- Martin suggested to be upfront on AIANEA and WTCAC responsibilities
- Invite WTCAC to sit in on planning committee meetings

Dave Wise will contact WTCAC for further information and extend the invitation to attend conference planning meetings. He will also mention the Harmony training as part of the conference.

MOTION 01-22-2009-2: Motion was made to accept the request for 11 members and student registrations to be waived for part of the week, as well as a thank you to WTCAC for the \$1400 sponsorship.

Motion made by: Ciro LoPinto

Motion seconded: Martin Bales/Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen

Motion passed: Unanimously

- The hotel is booked and the printing and A/V equipment is being covered by Wisconsin NRCS State Office.

Sharron will check on vehicle availability from Wisconsin NRCS.

- Propose a 2-day condensed Working Effectively with American Indians and Alaska Natives (Harmony Workshop) training. There has been some email communication between Dave Wise, Roylene Rides at the Door and Ann Perales. The training will be specific for Liaisons and Leadership attending. Information will be provided to the Harmony cadre as things start moving.

Visioning Update – Ciro LoPinto

An overview was given of the visioning committee and the Visioning Summit at the 2008 conference. There were questions asked at the summit and a brainstorming session took place. After the conference, interviews were conducted with some individuals who weren't able to attend the Summit. There were five areas selected and reduced to three topics:

1. Relationships Between AIANEA, NRCS and Tribes;
2. Leadership, Growth and Mentorship; and
3. Elder Involvement and Knowledge Sharing Elders, Mentoring/Leadership

Provocative Visioning Statements were developed, action plans were initiated, additional members were invited to participate and the plans are being put into place. The final documents will be presented to the National Council for review. The timeline for the plans are over the next few years.

Tanya and Ciro volunteered to put all the visions and action plans into one document. There will be a short turn-around time for review by the NC and the Elders.

Visioning Committee will send in the final document to the National Council for review.

Elders/New Drum Report – Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen

There will be an Elders Committee teleconference this afternoon. Tanya will review the 2009 conference with the Elders, the theme for the breakout sessions, the drum, travel policy, and the Elders action plan for the visioning committee.

The new drum will be introduced at the 2009 Conference Greeting Circle. All the wood has been received for the drum, based on the recent email to membership from Levi. The hide is still needed. Nels said he could get a moose hide from Vermont. Martin said that moose doesn't provide good sound, but can get two elk hides for about \$135 each.

Martin will get in contact with Herb regarding the hide for the drum. Tanya will email Herb's phone number to Martin and will look through the minutes for the dollar amount approved for the purchase of the hides.

Treasurer's Report/2008 Conference Budget Update – Harold Bryant

Harold Bryant was not be able to call-in today to provide the Treasurer's report, he will send the report directly to Dave Wise by the February teleconference.

Dave will forward the report onto the NC.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee Update – Tanya and Ciro

There were two C&B amendments, the one for the Elders was reviewed and approved, as well as the Secretary/Treasurer wording change being reviewed and approved.

For USDA Recognition, the NC needs to provide an updated C&B to the respective contact in Washington D.C., Peter Rocks (?). Tanya will hand over the responsibility for this committee to Ciro as new 2nd VP.

Membership Dues for the New Year – Dave

Dave is not sure who handles the reminders. Yvette stated that she sends out reminders for membership renewals. She's spoke to Harold regarding the Treasurer's part in this.

Four Winds Newsletter – Yvette

Yvette had a question regarding highlighting an NRCS employee who isn't a member of AIANEA. Are there specific guidelines for the newsletter? Tanya suggested that a profile of the employee can be included, just not in the "member" section. Currently, Yvette runs the recommendation by the Communications Committee. After the information comes in, it is submitted to the NC for review on a timeframe basis from the Communications Committee.

Yvette reported that Rose Marie McKeon requested to link AIANEA to their website:

<http://www.indigenoumapping.net/>.

MOTION 01-22-2009-2: Motion was made to approve <http://www.indigenoumapping.net/> to link their website to AIANEA website and vice versa if requested.

Motion made by: Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen

Motion seconded: Sharron Santure

Motion passed: Unanimously

Yvette will contact Rose Marie McKeon to give her the approval.

Subcommittee Member Lists - Tanya

As 1st Vice President, Tanya will contact the committee to see if Chairs, VC's and members are still willing to serve on their respective committees.

Other

Thank you to Debi Clairmont for her participation on today's teleconference as a guest.

Martin will check with Herb Webb on the status of the AIANEA Logo.

Next meeting - The next meeting is February 19, 2009 at 12:00 Noon Arizona time/1:00 PM CT. Call in information will be provided.

Meeting concluded at 11:13 AM MST.

Respectfully Submitted by Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Secretary