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

*"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"*

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**AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION  
FOR NRCS NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE  
March 26, 2009**

**Those present:** Dave Wise, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Ciro LoPinto, Harold Bryant, Levi Montoya, Sharron Santure, Don Richard (for Nels Liljedahl), Gina Kerzman, Leota Burnett, Edie Morigeau, Crystal Leonetti

**Not present:** Blythe Koyiyumtewa, Phillip Dixon

**Not Present:**

President, Dave Wise called the meeting to order at approximately 3:05 **pm CDT**.

**Approval of February Minutes**

The February 2009 minutes were reviewed and approved by the National Council members.

**MOTION:** Motion was made to accept the February minutes.

Motion made by: Ciro Lo Pinto  
Motion seconded: Leota Burnett  
Motion passed: Unanimously

**NO National Tribal Relations Coordinator Report**

Edie Morigeau shared items she has been involved in, including:

- Letter for the 2009 conference is with Chief White, Edie checked on its status
- Farm Bill fact sheet on changes for historically under served customers and one for Federally Recognized Tribes. Both of these on the my.NRCS Farm Bill website.
- Farm Bill net conferencing powerpoints are on the Farm Bill website
- Title 410 in the GM is being updated by Edie
- Lots of Farm Bill discussion taking place in DC regarding tribes. Trying to make it easier for tribes to participate.
- Consistent definitions are developed for Indian Tribes and Indian Lands, this is final.
- All of the above is found on my.NRCS under Farm Bill information.
- Ciro suggested the AIANEA website be linked to the Farm Bill website
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**ACTION ITEM:** Tanya will contact Yvette to create the link to the Farm Bill website on the AIANEA website.

### Proposed 2010 Diversity Conference

Dave reported that there have been recent talks with the other employee organization presidents regarding having a joint conference as a national Diversity Conference in 2010. Also, there was a teleconference with the Elders to gain their feedback and a teleconference with Chief White. Proposed is Kansas City, KS in 2010.

AIANEA has committed to the tribes and NRCS in North and South Dakota for 2010. During the talks, it was requested we look toward 2011 for the joint conference. After these communications, the result was AIANEA no longer in negotiation regarding the joint conference. Although, there is now an additional teleconference scheduled with Chief White for April 1, 2009 to discuss.

As part of the National Council discussion, it was asked what the goal of the 2010 Diversity Conference is. That has not been specifically described to Dave. Is it SEPM training? This is unclear. This would replace the individual employee organization conferences for 2010.

Dave would like to share a Plan A and have in mind a Plan B for the April 1 teleconference. Plan A is to hold off until 2011. Plan B not yet developed.

Gina suggested looking at other groups to meet with to assist with the NRCS budget and efficiency, such as national RC&D conference, INCA, archaeologist's conference.

The group stated that we need to make sure we convey the message that we are not part of civil rights, unlike the other employee organizations. We represent a government to government responsibility. It was mentioned that these communications highlight the need for different types of communication and sensitivity with different cultures.

**ACTION ITEMS: Tanya will contact ND and SD regarding the status of the planning for the 2010 conference in South Dakota and will ask their feelings about changing to a joint conference.**

**Dave will email to the National Council the white paper as developed and submitted to Chief White, his letter to the other presidents, and his follow up letter to Chief White.**

### 2009 National Training Conference

Sharron reported that the following sub committees have been formed and are working:

Photography – Chair, Tony Bush

Awards – Chair, Dana Vaillancourt

Auctions – Chair, Leota Burnett

We will have both a silent and live auction and Pooh Vongkhamdy has agreed to assist as auctioneer.

Poster – Chair, Carol Crouch

Gifts – Chair, Tony Bush

The group discussed having local food items in a mug rather than a bag. This was agreed upon.

Tanya reported on the Working Effectively with American Indians 2-day session and that the course content should be finalized by the first week of May. Also, there will be 2 Tribal Liaison breakout sessions on Wednesday, July 15 and an informal liaison networking session the Wednesday evening prior to the business meeting.

Sharron reported that the SWCS conference is the same week and they want to be cooperative not competitive. A National LT meeting has not been scheduled to take place during the SWCS conference yet.

There was discussion of the possibility of offering to host the NLT meeting. There was discussion regarding moving the Working Effectively training from Monday and Tuesday to later in the week, but it was decided to leave it as is.

Letters of invitation – Dave reported that he sent a letter to the Inter-Tribal Bison Cooperative, Oneida Nation, INCA, and Dawn Charging. The letter to STCs will wait on national bulletin. He also sent a letter to the Chair of WTCAC regarding partnership. Jerry Thompson and Julie Malvitz approved the letter prior.

Auctions – Leota will work with Tony Bush on space. Renae Anderson in WI will accept donations shipped prior.

**ACTION ITEMS: The Planning Committee will move forward on determining a mug to use for conference, possibly with AIANEA logo. Will work with Herb Webb on this and try to go through Gray Wolf Trading Post in Polson, MT.**

**Dave will send a letter to Chief White offering to host the National Leadership Team meeting during our conference.**

#### Kurt Cates Scholarship Fund

Levi reported that Rayma Cates will be honored to have the scholarship fund named in Kurt's honor and memory.

#### Drum

Dave reported that Nels is working with an Elder to get a moose hide. There is also a Biologist at Fond du Lac looking for one.

#### Treasurer's Report

Harold reviewed the 2008 Conference Report as sent prior to the teleconference.

Tanya suggested periodic general treasury reports at National Council teleconferences so the National Council is aware of account balances and investments. She also mentioned that we need a 2009 budget estimate soon. That will be ready by March 30 planning committee teleconference.

Harold proposed that the audit committee meet at the annual conference each year to do the audit and physically look through files. Tanya stated that this would need a vote by the National Council because the Constitution and Bylaws currently states that the audit will be done by February each year. If the National Council decides to change this, C&B would need to be amended. Tanya explained that in prior years, the National Council requested the Treasurer develop an income and debit report for submission to the audit committee for review and approval. This information is then used when developing the tax report that is due May 15. **Discussion regarding this will be tabled until the April teleconference.**

Harold mentioned that he is anxious to get to work on the AIANEA investments for the scholarship fund. He asked if there is a Chair of the Scholarship Committee. Tanya has been working to get all committees updated. Harold also has questions about 501© 3 status of association.

**ACTION ITEMS: Tanya will follow up with the Scholarship Committee to identify a Chair and updated member list.**

**Harold will call Tanya next week with 501© 3 questions.**

#### Visioning

Crystal provided an update from the Visioning Committee. The vision plan document is being revised and the only part still needing work is the leadership component. The plan is streamlined with lists of tasks. Each sub-committee (team) will be responsible to update their action plans and be accountable for accomplishments. The plan will be to the National Council before the May teleconference and a final to be distributed at the July conference in Green Bay.

**Review of Action items – Tanya took minutes in Blythe’s absence and reviewed action items.**

**Next meeting** –The next meeting is April 16, 2009 at 1pm CDT. Same call in information.

Teleconference ended at 5:10 pm CDT.

Respectfully Submitted By  
Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen  
AIANEA Vice President