



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"

NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE

May 21, 2009

Welcome and Roll Call

Dave Wise, Ann Perales (for Ciro), Leota Burnett, Martin Bales (for Gina), Sharron Santure, Edie Morigeau, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Harold Bryant, Millie Titla, Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Carol Crouch, Levi Montoya, Crystal Leonetti, Nels Liljedahl, Gina Kerzman

Not present: Phillip Dixon, Ciro LoPinto

Meeting began at 11:03 AM MST.

Approval of April Minutes

Martin would like to discuss the hides for the drum later in the teleconference.

MOTION: 05-21-2009-1: Motion was made to accept the April minutes.

Motion made by: Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen

Motion seconded: Leota Burnett

Motion passed: Unanimously

NHQ/Tribal Liaison Report - Edie

National instruction came out on the Tribal Conservation Guide on May 15, 2009. There were some mistakes in the instruction. The edits will be made and completed by May 22, 2009. Many people have assisted with this process.

The Briefing Book looks at the Farm Bill programs and records participation by AI/AN on tribal lands. This current Briefing Book covers the 2002-2008 time period.

A WINS student will be working with Edie June 1, 2009 to the end of July 2009.

Native American Working Group – subcommittee for agencies within USDA. The subcommittee is working to develop a management tracking system w/in the Dept. of Agriculture to document efforts in tribal consultation for cross-reference.

Edie is currently working on a decision memo for a new tribal conservation district in Nevada.

Ann – question: is the tribal consultation in draft only? Edie – an error was made and the final one will be released on May 22, 2009.

Martin – question: do you know how many tribes received stimulus money? Edie - Don't know. There is a watershed based programs that received funding.

Dave – question: Does the briefing report cover a certain time period? Edie- Yes, it covers the 2002-2008 for EQIP and WHIP; it tracks how many contracts were received and how many were actually contracted. There is a map generated that shows contracts on and off the reservation. Carol – how is that being handled in OK since there are no tribal lands? Edie – contracts are being tracked by area on map. Tanya – are the trends being tracked? Edie – there is an on-going visual of the contracts being tracked by the year. Carol – where can we get access to this data? Edie – it has been handed out to management at NHQ but not elsewhere. 2008 maps have just been published.

Dave – this briefing report is good data.

Edie – question: Ann Dubey and Edie are on the latest agenda for the Green Bay meeting. Haven't seen a copy of the latest agenda, Sharron is emailing the agenda to Edie now. Jerry Thompson is the contact person for these sessions.

SEPM National Report - Carol

Carol provided an update on the meeting in Spokane, WA last week for the Working Effectively with American Indians and Alaska Natives Harmony Workshop Executive Session. Roylene, Carol, Martin, Alan Epps and Jerry Rouse met to revise the 5-day course notebook to a "thunderbook" as it relates to the role of the State Conservationist and National Leadership. Notebook was shipped at 10 AM to NEDC to print for the Green Bay, WI conference. Ultimate goal of the cadre was to pull in the elements of the conference to tie-in that can be considered training to State Conservationists and National Leadership. Opening session will be with everyone in the general conference; will break out into the executive session after Chief Dave White speaks.

Carol is an advisor on recruitment/retention – Nathaniel is representing the American Indian group at a meeting now and Carol will be assisting again later this summer.

AIHM poster – Crystal is working on this in Alaska. Elders will be on the judging panel and hope to have the poster out to the states in September. Will determine who in the West Region will do the poster in 2010. Carol has been contacted by two West states who are interested in hosting the poster.

David Elliott will be hosting the Harmony display at the SAIGE conference.

Tanya – question: Has the Elders schedule been checked for both the Harmony session and the conference elder sessions? Carol – State Conservationists will be taken into the conference agenda so there will be no conflict.

Andre Alix is working to get a link in AgLearn for this Working Effectively with AI/AN session in Green Bay, WI. Pat Leavenworth will be sending out an invitation to all SC's to sign up for the training through AgLearn to receive credit for the training.

Sharron – how big of a room needs to be reserved for the SEPM/Working Effectively training? Carol - All NHQ leadership plan to be at this Harmony meeting as well as SC's that determine if they will attend. This brings up the point of hotel reservation availability. Carol is planning for 50 SEPM notebooks, 50+ notebooks for the SC Executive training session, for Tuesday and Wednesday.

Dave - For hotel rooms, we were able to reserve more rooms than usual and the hotel has been flexible in offering more meeting space.

Levi – will there be funding to assist with instructor's travel? Carol – will check with Andre on funding as well as picking up A/V needs for this part.

Tanya – will the SC's be registering for the conference as they register for the Harmony executive training session? Carol – yes, that information will be in Pat Leavenworth's letter.

Carol – term on National CRC is ending for AI/AN female, would like to have NC support in this position. Please consider applying or keep others in mind that would make great candidates. This announcement will be in the form of a national bulletin and will send out to SEPM's for their assistance as well.

Elders Update – Tanya

Some NRCS states and Tribes are assisting with the Elder's conference travel costs.

We have not heard if Marie Meade and Joe Joaquin's travel can be paid from their states.

Jerry Wolfe – mostly likely will not attend conference.

Loretta Metoxen – AIANEA will cover meals and incidental expenses

Billy – reimburse his tribe for airfare

A rough number is to have 100-249 copies of Elder Video available at the conference. Cost would be \$3.90 for paper sleeve, \$4.10 each for jewel case (not including tax and shipping (if needed)). It will take the company 2-3 days to complete the order. This is a video of Norman Lopez, made by the Colorado public television (copyrighted); the video was used at last year's conference in Norman's breakout session. This is an educational video that can be used in the states.

MOTION: 05-21-2009-2:

Motion was made to move forward with the duplication of the video for the conference attendees and members, upon approval of the copyright. An estimate for the number of videos will be determined based on the number of conference registrants on June 5, 2009.

Motion made by: Leota Burnett

Motion seconded: Sharron Santure

Motion passed: Unanimously

Tanya will look into the copyright of the video for duplication. The number of videos to be made will be determined upon the close of the June 5, 2009 early registration date.

Membership – Tanya

Tanya provided an update. All committee members must be paid members of AIANEA, which is stated in the bylaws.

One question is how to handle the situation if a spouse is assisting on a committee or attending the conference but is not a paid member. We may need to update the bylaws to include the spouse and/or family member that accompanies the Elder.

Tanya will write-up the revised membership bylaws for those accompanying Elders and submit that to Ciro since he is the chair of the Constitution and Bylaws committee.

Purchase of AIANEA merchandise

Need to purchase additional AIANEA merchandise to have for sale at the conference. Herb Webb will do the purchasing. NC is being asked to approve an amount, \$500 for AIANEA Merchandise, and provide a response to Herb.

MOTION: 05-21-2009-3: Motion was made to approve \$500 for merchandise and proceed with ordering and purchasing by Herb Webb.

Motion made by: Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen

Motion seconded: Nels Liljedahl

Motion passed: Unanimously

Notify Herb of today's decision. Herb will ensure that the total amount of merchandise also accounts for additional expenses (tax and shipping) within the approved budget.

Leota – Need to know how much funding is approved for the awards.

Crystal – Plaques cost more than the gift, and we are only allowed up to \$20 for the gift.

Scholarship – Felix is the new Chair of the committee. Leota and Felix are working with a contact in Idaho to try to locate information that Kurt had on the 2009 scholarship and applicant(s). In the past, we have given \$500 each, two scholarships, with one scholarship this year being in Kurt's honor. Consider the previous applicants and the new applicant received by Harold. Leota will send out the applicant information to the scholarship committee.

2009 National Training Conference - Sharron

Sharron – Committee added a youth-elder traditional activity that will be hosted from the Oneida tribe. This session will be Wednesday, 2 hours.

Each session has a contact person assigned.

Harold – the planning committee has done a great job in getting all arrangements completed.

Dave – Everything has worked out well in the planning of this conference. We have even included an NEDC course in this annual training conference.

Harold – are we offering only 2 busses? Sharron stated that cars will also be following the buses, possibly to transport Elders. Each bus can hold 56 people. We need to keep options open in the event one tour is fuller than another.

It is unclear if a National Bulletin has been released for the 2009 AIANEA conference. Some states are awaiting a bulletin so that their employees can request to attend.

Registration – 14 conference registrations have been sent in as of today.

2010 Conference Update – Dave

North Dakota is moving ahead with plans for the 2010 training. Spoke to Joseph Hairston regarding the SEPM training in the Dakotas.

Visioning Update - Crystal

Thank you to the visioning committee and everyone for your participation and comments that have been submitted. The document looks nice.

Dave – Do we ask Wisconsin to cover the printing to hand out at the conference?

Sharron – Wisconsin is doing the printing of the conference booklet/agenda.

Crystal - The Visioning Committee doesn't have a budget. The goal is to give the document to conference participants and to send to NHQ and to possibly have it bound and printed on nice paper. Printing options will be kept open until we know more.

Sharron will check with Renee, Wisconsin NRCS, to see if they might be able to do the printing.

This is a working document, visioning goals will not change but things might be added from time to time.

Crystal let the NC know that she may not be able to attend the conference this year due to a heavy travel schedule for the NLDP. Crystal asked if Dave could do the introduction of the team leaders – Ciro, Tanya and Deborah Clairmont – in her absence. Crystal can put a PowerPoint presentation together for Dave with voice options.

USDA Registered Employee Organization (REO) Meetings - Dave

There is a teleconference meeting conflict, the third Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM CT. Is there an AIANEA member that can sit in on the REO meeting? Leota suggested having the 1st and 2nd VP sit in for Dave, possibly alternating each month.

Dave will check with Tanya/Ciro.

Treasurer's Report – Harold

Thirteen separate deposits have been made.

Harold is working closely with Yvette regarding membership. Yvette is the keep of official membership records. Checks are deposited ASAP by Harold; information related to names on membership should be directed to Yvette. Copies of the checks are kept as well as records of deposit into the bank. Records after July 2008 to present have been recorded by Harold.

Ann will follow-up with Yvette on a member's record that was submitted last year for two years.

Fourteen registrations have been paid.

All Elders and those accompanying Elders need to submit a completed registration form for documentation purposes, name tag, etc.

Form was submitted to IRS for 501C3, submitted on May 15th. Millie is still shown as the statutory agent, so paperwork was sent and paid to Arizona. Need to update the name of the Presidents on the paperwork.

Harold will fill-out the paperwork for the tax exempt status for AIANEA as a non-profit group in Wisconsin.

Harold is working with Herb into finding a drum case made for the AIANEA drum. This case allows the drum to be shipped.

Sharron asked what the process is if she needs to purchase items for the conference. Her preference is to have AIANEA pay for it rather than get reimbursed. Harold stated it can be done but to let him know and he can assist.

Leota – The first Silent Auction/Live Auction item has been received.

Other

Blythe may not be able to attend the conference due to cultural reasons but is looking into the possibility of assisting as an instructor for the Working Effectively with AI/AN executive training

session in the beginning of the week. In the event she is not approved to attend, Blythe requests for a back-up note taker for the AIANEA Business Meeting at this year's conference.

Dave will look into getting a backup note taker for the Business Meeting.

For the next teleconference in June, Blythe will be on travel attending training out of state. She will call-in when her training is completed on that day.

Dave will check to see if someone can fill-in for note taking during the first part of June's teleconference.

Review of Action Items

Action items were reviewed.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 18, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. Central Time

The meeting concluded at 1:35 PM MST.

Respectfully Submitted by Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Secretary