



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"

NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE November 19, 2009

Welcome and Roll Call

Harold Bryant, David Wise, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Sharron Santure, Mark Donet (for Leota Burnett), Don Richard (for Nels Liljedahl), Deborah Clairmont (for Levi Montoya), Gina Kerzman (late), Ciro LoPinto (late), Philip Dixon (briefly)

In the secretary's absence, Sharron agreed to record the minutes.

SEPM National Report

Refer to Carol's submitted written report to the council by email. Tanya read through the report and added that Mr. Hairston had assured David that the SEPM training at the joint session would not be labeled mandatory.

The submitted written report from Carol is as follows:

- 1st Quarter FY 2009 - Conference Call was held November 12, 2009
- 10:30 AM (CST) (31) attended call
- Next AI/AN SEPM teleconference: February 4, 2010
- Update of NRCS 2010 American Indian Heritage Poster
 - Washington and Oregon will produce the poster
 - Committee will be soliciting from AI/AN SEPMs for theme for poster
 - 2011 and 2012 AIH poster will rotate to Northern Plains Region
- 2009 received by every state. Land care getting requests for the poster daily
- NRCS National recruitment event at the American Indian Science and Engineering Annual Conference was a huge success for NRCS
 - Recruitment report completed
 - AISES data base access letter with code sent out
 - Acknowledgement report for AISES recruitment event completed
 - Student spreadsheet and resumes will be sent this week
 - NRCS Cadre recruited for 21 NRCS states
- AIANEA CONFERENCE-SEPM TRAINING
 - I will be providing training at the AIANEA conference
- Date for diversity conference
 - Date: 2010 – SEPM Conference - March 15 -19, 2010

2010 Training Conference

Refer to Levi's last teleconference minutes sent to Planning Committee and leadership. Tanya reviewed Levi's notes for the council, explaining that the conference subcommittees' Chair and Co-Chair positions were being filled, and the Planning Guidelines were being rewritten to adapt them to the Conference Planning. Harold explained they were created for another group's use. The revised guidelines will be approved at either a Nov. 30 or a Dec. 2 teleconference. Tanya added that she wanted a draft conference agenda by Dec. 30 to send to NHO.

The official hotel contract has been signed by David and Millie Titla and Tanya's signature will be added to the contract.

Elections

David wrote a letter presenting the candidates and announcing the election to Yvette for distribution. Candidate bios and photos will be on the website. Dec. 7 is the election deadline.

Treasurer's Report and Scholarship Endowment

David forwarded Harold's report to the committee. Refer to this document. Tanya was able to clarify that the business savings account is the automatic deposits for the scholarship fund, and the Wells Fargo Investments is really a money market account that combines funds from the scholarship, old CD amounts and past excess money transferred out of the checking account. Harold explained that currently the checking account has about \$39,000 which combines both auction income and net profits from the conference from the past two years.

Sharron stated that she did not ever understand the association's finances because she had never seen a report of account balances and asked for a regular report to be provided to the council.

David asked for the scholarship money to be separated out into a separate line item, using the automatic deposit fund plus our best estimate of the amount of scholarship money that has been dumped into the Wells Fargo account.

Harold asked for the creation of a Finance Committee to create a proposal on how to best invest our financial resources. The members of the committee will be the Treasurer (Harold), the Chair of the Scholarship Committee (Felix Nez), and one other (Ciro volunteered).

Action Items:

- 1. Finance Committee will draft a financial investment proposal to submit to the council at the January meeting.**
- 2. Harold will report the account balances each month at the council meeting.**
- 3. A separate scholarship account will be set up separate from all other accounts.**
- 4. Tanya will review historical Treasurer Reports to determine an estimated amount that belongs to the scholarship account (from the current money market account). Completed 12/2/09, sent to Harold, Dave and Ciro.**

Approval of Minutes

David emailed all council members and substitutes the October minutes for review. Tanya moved to approve, seconded by Ciro. Motion carried unanimously.

Visioning Plan Update

There was discussion about the Visioning Committee's efforts regarding Traditional Ecological Knowledge and because this is an important part of the visioning plan, David wanted to continue efforts in Minnesota and Roylene Rides-at-the-Door is planning a pilot outreach project for ecological knowledge in Washington. Tanya spoke of the need to have standardized questionnaires for consistent data collection, if this information will be collected by different people at different meetings nationwide. More information on this subject is needed from Crystal and the Visioning Committee.

Next Teleconference

Due to scheduling conflicts the next teleconference has been changed to Monday, December 14, at 1:00 pm Central.

During the December teleconference, Council (including newly elected Council members) will determine a monthly day that will work best for them for the Council teleconferences in 2010.

Meeting adjourned 2:45 pm Central.

Respectfully submitted by **Ciro LoPinto, 2nd Vice President**