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## American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

*"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"*

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### NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE September 15, 2009

#### **Welcome and Roll Call**

Levi Montoya, Don Richard for Nels Liljedahl, Ciro Lo Pinto, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Gina Kerzman, Leota Burnett, Ann Perales for Sharron Santure.

Not present: Harold Bryant, Dave Wise, Blythe Koyiyumtewa, Phillip Dixon

Meeting began at 11:00 AM MST.

#### **Approval of September Minutes**

After reviewing the September minutes, it was determined that incomplete action items would be carried over to the October minutes.

Action Items Carried Over, As Follows:

1. **Dave, Tanya and Ciro will put together the details for the proposal submittals so that the information can be sent out to all those interested. Tanya will develop the criteria list for proposals.**

AIANEA should draft and send out a letter to Chief Dave White (Cc: Joseph Hairston) clarifying if the Diversity (SEPM) Conference will be considered "mandatory". This would greatly affect the SEPM training provided at the AIANEA training conferences if AIANEA's cannot be considered mandatory.

2. **Dave will draft the letter to Chief White and send it to the National Council for review.**

#### **AIANEA Letter to the White House**

Tanya briefly gave an overview of the letter that SAIGE sent to Kim Teehee. An AIANEA member asked if AIANEA would also be sending a letter to the White House. The National Council felt it would be beneficial to send a congratulatory letter to Ms. Teehee and also share the positives regarding AIANEA and NRCS.

3. **Dave will draft a letter to Kim Teehee and send it to the National Council for review.**
4. **Ciro will finalize the Historical Committee member list for the next teleconference.**

**MOTION: 10-15-2009-1:** Motion was made to accept the September minutes.

Motion made by: Ciro

Motion seconded: Leota

Motion passed: Unanimously

**NHQ/Tribal Liaison Report – Edie**

No Report this month

**SEPM National Report – Carol**

- 2009 AI Heritage Month Poster is complete, at LandCare and mailed to States

**2010 Training Conference – Tanya, Levi**

- First teleconference took place on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009
- There are a large number of volunteers with the potential for 17 sub-committees
- Chairs and Co-Chairs are being named
- Final signatures from Millie Titla and Dave Wise are already on contract
- Monthly teleconferences to take place the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month, 1 PM CST, same call-in numbers as National Council Meetings.

**Tanya – will check with the venue to get her signature/name added to the documents.**

Proposal for 2011 Training Conference – no further information

**Raddisson Credit Card Fraud** – 41 People, total reported back to Tanya that there may have been fraudulent charges made to their GOV or personal cards. New cards were assigned to some folks with the insinuation of more documents to follow.

**AIANEA Election Reminder**

Information has been emailed out to membership on nominations for the election. It is encouraged to contact the person ahead of time if you want to nominate them for a position to see if they are willing to be nominated. Only a person from a specific region can nominate someone to serve for their regional representative's position. If a current regional representative would like to run again for the same position, they can let the President/VP's know and their name can be added to the ballot or they can nominate themselves.

So far, nominations are as follows

- Midwest – 2 nominations
- West – 0 nominations, one contact made
- Southeast – 0 nominations, 1 possible
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – limited number

Off the Record – a discussion was started regarding the possible ethics conflicts of serving a National NRCS Position and being an officer for any non-federal organization. The USDA Ethics Officer is the only point of contact and is the only person that can give the final word in this issue.

### **Visioning Update – Ciro**

AIANEA/Tribal Relations Committee - Crystal provided a written preview of her proposal for a Leadership Project that would create a council/committee for creating/reviewing Traditional Ecological Knowledge and incorporating traditional management/conservation practices into the NRCS "toolbox"

Elder Involvement and Knowledge Sharing Committee – Tanya provided an update from the last teleconference with her committee. AIANEA members have volunteered to be on the Tribal Youth Camp committee and Shiraz Vira will schedule a teleconference soon. Spoke with Elders regarding my.nrsc profiles, Elders speakers bureau, recorded words/voices of Elders on website, awaiting their input.

Leadership and Mentoring Committee – Gina reported on the most recent teleconference as follows:

- Mentoring Program – Thoughts are to start small. Possibly 4 mentors and 4 protégé. Our 2008 conference survey results on mentoring are being used Nationally. Roylene coincidentally attended a meeting in which other Association reps were talking about the mentoring program in NRCS. Roylene updated the group about our progress with our Visioning Document. It was strongly suggested that if any current President of AIANEA cannot make a meeting such as this, that a substitute is appointed prior to the meeting.
- (Harmony) Helpline – Looking for volunteers to work on this project. Possible hotline for (Native) NRCS folks who are interested in reaching out to other Native NRCS folks. Ciro suggested possibly using an i-google account/homepage. Ciro will collect some information and forward it to the group

**Ciro will compile information regarding i-google and forward to Millie**

**Elders Council committee** – Tanya reviewed conference comments and suggestions with Elders, as follows. Considered the possibility of a "Breakfast with the Elders" portion of the conference. Ted Herrera discussed possibilities for travel scholarships for youth and Elders. Elders role in Vision Plan was discussed. Historical committee needs one standing Elder as a member. Discussed the present process and make-up of the awards process and committee. It was suggested that the awards committee solicit additional members and re-visit their process.

**AIANEA Drum** – Levi discussed the present progress on the drum. Wood is cut, some carving is complete. Still seeking appropriate hides as entering the hunting season. Storage case and drum stand will also be completed. The goal is to dedicate the drum at the 2010 AIANEA Conference. Some discussion ensued regarding building of hand drums.

### **Treasurer's Report – Harold**

- Harold was not present to submit a treasurers report

### **Other**

**Levi will follow-up (one last time) with Roy Fowler, DC in American Falls, Idaho, to see if any scholarship information has been received at that office. Anything received will be forwarded to Felix Nez.**

**Ann will follow up with Yvette to remove Oklahoma scholarship information from the AIANEA website. Ann completed this item by the end of the teleconference.**

**Tanya will contact Herb about cancelling the AIANEA Yahoo account. Completed on 10/15/09.**

**Review of Action Items**

Action items were reviewed.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. Central**

The meeting concluded at 4:00 EST.

**Respectfully Submitted by** **Ciro Lo Pinto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**