



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"

**NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE
September 17, 2009**

Welcome and Roll Call

Dave Wise, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Levi Montoya, Gina Kerzman, Sharron Santure, Lee Reeves (for Phillip Dixon), Edie Morigeau, Jim Spielman (for Nels Liljedahl), Leota Burnett, Ciro LoPinto, Blythe Koyiyumptewa

Not present: Harold Bryant, Carol Crouch

Meeting began at 11:08 AM MST.

Approval of May, June and August Minutes

After reviewing the June minutes, it was determined that the May minutes were not yet approved.

MOTION: 09-17-2009-1: Motion was made to accept the May, June and August minutes.
Motion made by: Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen
Motion seconded: Levi Montoya
Motion passed: Unanimously

Beginning with this teleconference, anyone with action items noted in the minutes will review them to determine items to be completed. Upon completion, individuals will follow-up with an email to the President, 1st and 2nd VP and Secretary so that action items can be updated and noted in the minutes for presentation at the next teleconference.

Tanya will follow-up on the action items from the May, June and August items to see if they have been completed. DONE 9/17/09

Blythe will send the final May, June and August teleconference minutes to Yvette. DONE 9/17/09

Lee Reeves (for Phillip Dixon) left the teleconference.

Radisson Credit Card Fraud

Mr. Butler at NHQ has assigned one staff member to look into the credit card fraud for NRCS. This was not just at the Radisson in Green Bay, WI, but Radisson's nationwide.

Tanya is compiling a list of those people affected for Dave to submit to Radisson and NHQ.

An email was sent out by Yvette to all AIANEA membership to notify them of the fraud. An email was also distributed to the SEPM's by Carol. Some SAO's are aware of the issue within the

states. It appears that the most affected is the Government Credit Card, though some personal credit cards may have also been compromised.

Dave/Yvette: Include language in the AIANEA email distribution that if anyone has been affected by this credit card fraud to please let Tanya know ASAP.

NHQ/Tribal Liaison Report – Edie

NHQ is working with three other USDA agencies and the Intertribal Ag Council to develop an intertribal tax guide for American Indian producers (Phase 1). Phase 2 - is to develop training (10-15 days of 1-day training), targeting 50 tribes in 10 states. Phase 3 – develop an informal informational tax brochure to be distributed from NRCS state offices.

NRCS at NHQ is working with BIA on the payment system (Protracts). There is broken electronic program payment link that they are collectively working to correct.

“Outreach” SharePoint – coming out in October.

Briefing Book – showing tribal participation over 2008 activities.

Edie will send information to Tanya regarding the available books “American Indians and Alaska Natives – A guide to USDA programs” and how to obtain copies.

DONE 9/17/09

Edie Morigeau left the teleconference.

SEPM National Report – Carol

Carol sent an email to Dave and Tanya: The date for the Diversity Conference was scheduled for April 2010 but had been cancelled. The new location is to be determined, may possibly be in January or February 2011 (?).

2010 Training Conference – Tanya, Levi

Levi will be the Chair of the 2010 Conference Planning Committee. There is a “soft” hold on the hotel reservations at this time.

Levi will send out an email to set up the next planning committee teleconference and will notify Edie if there is a need to use her teleconference phone number and pass code.

Tanya will check with Carol to send out the conference evaluations from the 2009 conference. **DONE 9/17/09**

Proposal for 2011 Training Conference – goal is to hold in the East or South Region. Recommend to set a deadline for proposal submittals for January 1, 2010.

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.

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.

Dave will draft a letter to Kim Teehee and send it to the National Council for review.

Visioning Update – Ciro

Crystal provided an update by email prior to this teleconference:
The Visioning Committee and three subcommittees are forging ahead.

Tanya, and the Elder Involvement and Knowledge Sharing Subcommittee are working hard on recruiting for another committee, which is the Youth Camp idea. They are also working on a Speaker's Bureau for the elders to communicate more often with NHQ. And, they are working on including more elder stories and quotes on our web site.

- Shiraz Vira will be heading the Youth Camp idea. Does this subcommittee need to be put through the process of the AIANEA bylaws to be incorporated as a committee?
 - Ciro – suggest gaining interest and support for the youth camp proposal from membership before proceeding to incorporation in the bylaws.
 - Youth camps will involve Elders, should be open to other areas around the country and not restricted to one location or area for more opportunities.
 - Sharron – suggest establishing a partnership with an existing youth camp.
 - Dave is willing to be a part of the committee.

Both the Relationships and Leadership subcommittees have not met since the conference, but individuals on both of those committees are working on various efforts. Both subcommittees plan to meet in the near future. Some of these action items include a mentoring program for our members and finding out native traditional conservation knowledge so that we can incorporate those methods into our list of NRCS practice standards.

Steve Durgin, Keeper of the Visions, is working on gathering all the information as it relates to the Visioning Committee and finding out how we can accomplish a sharepoint site to maintain the information digitally. He will also be keeping hard copies of everything.

We do have a question about the Historical Committee. Did it get formed at the conference in Green Bay and who are the people that volunteered to be on that committee?

- Dana Villaincourt volunteered at the 2009 training conference to serve on the Historical Committee.
- Committee members would include (but not limited to): Founding Member (possibly Ann Perales), Keeper of the Vision (Steve Durgin), Past President, National Council Member (2nd Vice President), Newer Member (possibly Dana Villaincourt) and an Elder.

Ciro will finalize the Historical Committee member list for the next teleconference.

AIANEA Election Reminder

Information has been emailed out to membership on nominations for the election. We hope there will be many nominations. 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.

Treasurer's Report – Harold

Harold contacted Dave today and gave a brief report on the following:

- Scholarship monies were sent out to recipients.
- AIANEA was reimbursed for rooms used in Green Bay for the Working Effectively with American Indians course and SEPM training from NEDC.
- The Spirit of Colorado DVD's have been mailed out to the AIANEA membership. Harold is trying to get mailing addresses for a few remaining members. About 15 videos are left over.

Other

Levi received an email from Rayma Cates (for Kurt Cate). Kurt's contact information is still showing on the scholarship application through the AIANEA website and general "Google" on the internet. The new Scholarship Committee chairperson is Felix Nez, so all information should now be sent to him.

Levi will follow-up 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.

Leota will contact Yvette to update the scholarship application on the website.

DONE 9/17/09

Levi commented that there are some vacant positions open in Colorado NRCS: a Tribal Liaison and DC position.

Review of Action Items

Action items were reviewed.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 15, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. Central

The meeting concluded at 12:51 PM MST.

Respectfully Submitted by Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Secretary