



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"

NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE

April 6, 2010

Welcome and Roll Call

Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Ciro Lo Pinto, Gina Kerzman, Ralph Goh, Leota Burnett, Stacy Kimble, Nels Liljedahl, John Harper, Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Levi Montoya, Edie Morigeau (briefly), Dana Vaillancourt, Carol Crouch (briefly)

Not present: Harold Bryant

Meeting began at 11:05 AM MST.

Approval of March Minutes

MOTION: 04-06-2010-1: Motion was made to accept the March 2010 minutes.

Motion made by: Ciro Lo Pinto

Motion seconded: John Harper

Motion passed: Unanimously

Action Item: Blythe will provide the March minutes to Yvette Dulle to post on the AIANEA website. Complete.

National AI/ANEPM Report – Carol Crouch

Washington and Oregon have selected the theme for AIHM, "From our Roots from the Past". The states have solicited for artists which will close on June 1, 2010.

Chief White is invited and has confirmed his attendance to the 2010 AIANEA Training Conference.

Carol is going to provide the SEPM training at the conference. Topics are being selected for the Working Effectively with American Indian (WEWAI) session and which cadre members can deliver the training.

Action Item: Gina will forward her ideas to Carol about topics for the WEWAI session. Complete

Thank you to AIANEA for supporting the AISES student scholarships. Nathaniel Todea and Carol were present to award the students and to see the appreciation for the support. The high caliber of knowledge presented at the AISES meeting was phenomenal of the high school students.

NHQ Tribal Liaison Report – Edie Morigeau

Edie is in the process of selecting the WINS student – Washington Internships for Native Students. She is currently reviewing the CSP program for consistency, tribal language, and the final rule for EQIP. Working on gathering data for the 2009 tribal report to determine how many tribal contracts (WHIP/EQIP) are in each of the states. The backlog from 2002-2009 data will show

progress over the years of work completed on tribal lands. Edie is also working with BIA to update the status of tribal trust lands. She is updating the 410 policy in the "Key Tribal Policies, Procedures and Partnerships" handbook to reflect the 2008 Farm Bill, clarifying the Farm Bill on tribal offices located on reservations throughout the states. The proposed State Action Plan is to locate expertise within the states to assist with tribal consultation in helping carry out this plan. The request for input to the proposed State Action Plan will be sent out to the national tribal network internal and external.

Tanya is working with Daryl Dunlap, NRCS Chief White's office, on getting the conference bulletin sent out. The bulletin was signed by the Chief in March 2010.

Action Item: Tanya will follow-up and stay in contact with the Chief's office regarding the bulletin. Complete

Ciro and Edie are working together on relations between the tribes and NRCS, in collaboration with the AIANEA Visioning Plan. The intent is to use the Appreciative Inquiry process to determine the most positive aspects of the Tribes' relationship with NRCS. The goal is to communicate through the state's tribal liaisons at the 2010 AIANEA training conference, to look for a common thread between comments received about how effective the working relationship and program delivery is between NRCS and Tribes.

Awards Committee Guidelines – (Discussion and Decision) – Dana Vaillancourt

Dana Vaillancourt, Leota Burnett, Deborah Clairmont, Philip Dixon, Sarah Bridges and Ted Herrera have assisted with updating the awards guidelines. A draft has been sent out to the National Council (NC) for review. The draft changes are positive. There are guidelines for awards specific to AIANEA members and one award, the President's award, is also open to a non-member recipients. The President's award is currently shown for up to three awards.

Suggested revisions are:

1. To have up to four (4) selections for the President's Award.
2. The 1st Vice President will serve as a member of the Awards Committee. The awards committee will encourage award nominations from the members and from the NC.
3. Generalize the award deadline submission for each year so that the document deadline doesn't need to be changed every year.

MOTION: 04-06-2010-2: Motion was made to accept the document with the revisions, with Yvette assisting with posting the information once she returns to the office.

Motion made by: Ciro Lo Pinto
Motion seconded: Levi Montoya
Motion passed: Unanimously

For this year, the award deadline will be revised to the first Friday in May.

Action Item: Leota will follow-up Mike Sterling to see if there is an issue with pushing the submission deadline back to May 7, 2010. Complete

Action Item: Dana will make the suggested revisions to the Awards Committee Guidelines document and send the revision out to the NC. Complete

Action Item: Tanya will provide the NC email addresses to Dana for distribution of the revisions. Complete

Action Items: The NC and Membership are encouraged to submit award nominations.

2010 Conference Update – Levi Montoya

Nine conference registrations have been received thus far. The National Training Conference Bulletin hasn't been released yet. The registration and agenda has been posted on the AIANEA website: <http://aianea.com/>.

Conference Highlights: The youth agenda is coming together. Contacts from three USDA Tribal Colleges will be attending. Local media will also be present.

Question: Should AIANEA have their own stand dedicated to the AIANEA Eagle Staff? This would save AIANEA from renting one from the hotel for each training conference.

The AIANEA drum looks like it will be completed for this year's conference.

Letter of invitation for the State Conservationists informing them of the upcoming AIANEA conference and for their support of attendance:

Action Item: Tanya will send the letters to the State Conservationists of the AIANEA award winners from those respective states to encourage support of the winner's attendance.

Action Item: Tanya will send a letter to the NRCS Chief to encourage approval of the State Conservationists attendance, which have been instrumental in approving Elder's travel.

Action Item: Leota will draft one standard letter/email that the Regional Representatives will use to distribute the National Bulletin to their respective regional members. Complete

Discussion: Pat Broyles has submitted his full registration fee but will not be reimbursed by NRCS for any portion of the fee or for his travel to the 2010 training conference. Ralph suggested waiving part of the registration fee in lieu of reimbursement later.

MOTION: 04-06-2010-3: Motion was made to reduce Pat Broyle's registration fee by \$125.

Motion made by: Ralph Goh

Motion seconded: Nels Liljedahl

Motion passed: Unanimously

Action Item: Levi will ask Elder Norman Lopez if he will perform the new drum blessing ceremony at the conference.

Action Item: Tanya will invite Gerald Allison to be a part of the new drum blessing ceremony for providing his drum generously for many years. Complete

Treasurer's/Investment Report – Harold Bryant

Harold submitted his report via email. He has opened the investment accounts and set up the dollar amounts as approved.

Action Item: Harold will send copies of the Investment Criteria and Policy to the NC. Complete

Tanya will work with Harold on a mix up with FedEx accounts between AIANEA and Iowa NRCS.

Scholarship and Auction Discussion – Gina Kerzman

Gina would like to increase support for donation to the scholarship via the Silent Auction. Suggest sending out an email to AIANEA members ahead of the training conference encouraging them to

bring silent auction donation items. AIANEA should remind members of the basis of the silent auction (scholarship) to encourage more participation. Encourage native item donations. Payment by credit card will be accepted starting this year. Many improvements are taking place to increase Silent Auction/Scholarship donations. An idea is to open the silent and/or live auction to the public but other logistics might be involved with this.

Action Item: Gina will forward her ideas to Leota for wording in the Silent Auction form that will go out to Membership.

Action Item: Leota will include the revisions in the Silent Auction form and forward to Yvette Dulle for posting and email distribution to members.

Joint Employee Organization Report – Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Stacy Kimble

Roylene Rides at the Door represented Tanya at the Joint Employee meeting since Tanya wasn't able to attend due to other commitments. Stacy Kimble attended the meeting and participated in some meetings as a member of the AIANEA National Council. Stacy provided a write-up to the NC of his participation. Thank you to Roylene and Stacy for representing AIANEA at this Joint Employee conference.

National Civil Rights Committee – Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen

Tanya has been selected as the American Indian Female on the National Civil Rights Committee. Congratulations Tanya!

Miscellaneous – Tanya

AIANEA received a letter of thanks from Oregon NRCS thanking AIANEA for a gift presented to them last year.

Action Items: Tanya will follow-up with Carol since AIANEA wasn't the presenter of the gift. The gift may have been from the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). Complete

Review of Action Items

All action items were reviewed.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 1pm Central time

MOTION: 04-06-2010-4: Motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion made by: Leota Burnett

Motion seconded: Levi Montoya

Motion passed: Unanimously

The meeting concluded at 1:30 pm MST.

Respectfully Submitted by Blythe Koyiyumtewa, Secretary