



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"

NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE March 2, 2010

Welcome and Roll Call

Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Ciro Lo Pinto, Martin Bales (for Gina Kerzman), Ralph Goh, Leota Burnett, Stacy Kimble, Nels Liljedahl, John Harper, Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Harold Bryant, Levi Montoya, Edie Morigeau, David Elliott (for 2011 Conference discussion), Millie Titla, Elder Billy Smith (for 2011 Conference discussion), Darlene Waters and Tracy Sells (for 2011 Conference discussion, Felix Nez (briefly), Crystal Leonetti (briefly)

Not present: Carol Crouch

Meeting began at 12:05 PM MST.

Tanya welcomed the National Council and Guests.

Approval of February Minutes

MOTION: 03-02-2010-1: Motion was made to accept the February 2010 minutes.

Motion made by: Ciro Lo Pinto

Motion seconded: John Harper

Motion passed: Unanimously

Action Item: Blythe will provide the February minutes to Yvette Dulle to post on the AIANEA website. **Completed 03/02/10**

2011 Conference Location – Council

The hotel conference packet was sent to all National Council members. All received their packets except for Nels Liljedahl. Darlene Waters suggested May 2011 for the proposed AIANEA training conference at the Wind Creek Casino & Hotel of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Tanya had a question regarding the last week of May which might overlap with the Memorial Day weekend/holiday. The first full week of June is also available, June 6-10, 2011, which is preferred during the open discussion during the teleconference.

Hotel rooms – book 125 rooms Monday through Thursday of the conference week. A lesser number of rooms will be booked on Sunday and Friday nights. Hotel will accept the government rate and tax exemption for rooms and meals. Elder Billy Smith asked if a decision will be made today and if other hotel proposals have been submitted for a vote. Tanya indicated that the deadline for submission of proposals has passed and the Wind Creek Casino & Hotel was the only submitted proposal. All the information, including selection for the meals is included in the packet. The hotel would like to offer packages for those who would like to come in early, prior to the conference.

Ciro asked if Alabama NRCS has offered their support for this conference location. David Elliott indicated that Alabama NRCS has given their support, in addition to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. The NRCS in Florida has also offered support. John Harper offered his thoughts in support of the hotel.

Tanya commented that the nearest airport is approximately 60 miles. Will the hotel offer a shuttle service? Darlene indicated that "yes" they will. Elder Billy Smith indicated that the preferred airport is out of Pensacola, FL for travel distance and cost. David Elliott indicated that the hotel has previously offered shuttle service and would do so for AIANEA at no cost.

Tanya discussed that a traditional meal is usually offered as part of the conference. Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve has offered and can offer a traditional aspect. The senior place *(please fill in the correct name here)* has also been visited in the past where a traditional setting and meal has been offered.

Will there be any issues with acquiring local speakers, from NRCS, the Tribe or other? Darlene indicated that there wouldn't be a problem obtaining speakers.

A focus on the youth will be a part of the training conference, as a family setting. AIANEA would like to highlight the local area attractions. Darlene stated that there is a Battleship attraction in Mobile, AL where a packet of information is available but the information didn't get included in the main proposal packet. The hotel has a pool, as well as the beach in Florida about 1 ½ hours away. The Magnolia Branch Wildlife Reserve is also an attraction that offers recreational activities.

Harold asked if the hotel room rate would include a member and spouse. Darlene indicated that there wouldn't be an additional charge for an additional number of people in the room, 4-5 persons. Rate will be \$70 single or double room per night, tax exempt.

MOTION: 03-02-2010-2: Motion was made to accept the offer from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians for the first full week, June 6-10, 2011.

Motion made by: Ciro Lo Pinto

Motion seconded: Nels Liljedahl

Motion passed: Unanimously

Darlene Waters offered to provide any additional information to AIANEA as needed.

Darlene Waters, Tracy Sells, Elder Smith and David Elliott exited the teleconference. Ciro Lo Pinto, 2011 AIANEA President, offered to David Elliott to be part of future conference planning committee teleconferences.

NHQ/Tribal Liaison Report – Edie

Edie completed an 8 week detail to the USDA to help set up the Tribal Relations department with Janie Hipp, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture. She attended 10 tribal conservation district meetings and consultation sessions (9 meetings with the DOL). USDA Tribal Conservation Action Plan was developed to respond to Obama's resolution executed in January 2009. The action plan established 3 sub-committees: Policies and Procedures (Anne Dubey is a member), Reporting Accountability and Performance Measures (Edie Morigeau is a member), Reporting on Education and Training. "Reporting Accountability and Performance Measures" subcommittee: USDA will publish a report every year on tribal consultation, where USDA will maintain a record of tribal consultation and will follow-up with the tribe on delivery of the consultation. GoLearn training will be available as part of the "Reporting on Education and Training" subcommittee, and

will be mandatory for all employees. A plan has been submitted to the White House and OMB for review. The report will be distributed for review at a later date.

Edie is also working with the Intertribal Agriculture Council on a tax brochure for tribal producers.

Crystal commented that perhaps the NRCS Native Practices guide could be incorporated into the USDA Guidebook. It could possibly fit into the NRCS piece. Edie requested for Crystal to submit the information on native practices.

NRCS Guidebook on AIAN Knowledge and NRCS Practice Standards Project – Crystal Leonetti

Crystal explained that people of Alaska gather food and fiber from the environment as their subsistence. There has been a question on her mind to somehow coordinate how local practices are used into something that can be used by NRCS in practice implementation. NRCS had no written practices that included native conservation methods. The AIANEA Visioning Plan acknowledged the subject of incorporating native conservation practices. Crystal has worked and met with NHQ, the Director of Ecological Sciences and the Director of the Conservation Engineering Division, through the NLDP. There was a meeting held last week in Alaska, with a special note that the meeting was held without an agenda as requested by local Elders. They discussed property rights and traditional ecological practices. A draft of the guidebook will be completed by June 2010. Second draft will be sent out for review to conservation districts, tribes, AIANEA, and all partners, to ultimately be incorporated into NRCS policy. Any suggestions and questions can be forwarded to Crystal. She would be happy to hear any thoughts.

Tanya asked if there would be any discussion that would include AIANEA. Three elders were able to attend the meeting in Alaska, so thank you to AIANEA for assisting with the Elders to attend. This topic would be important to include in the Harmony workshops (Working Effectively with AI/AN) with input from AIANEA.

Crystal and Edie exited the teleconference.

National AI/AN EPM Report – Carol Crouch

No AI/AN EPM report provided this month.

2010 Training Conference – Levi Montoya

Levi provided highlights from the Planning Committee teleconference calls which are held every second Thursday of the month. The conference agenda, registration form and tour information is now posted on the AIANEA website. Chief White contacted AIANEA and has accepted the invitation to attend. Overview: SEPM training session will held on Monday; the Elders session will on Wednesday; Tour will be on Thursday. The Working Effectively with AI/AN won't be held during this training conference, however, there will possibly be about two topics from the Working Effectively with AI/AN workshop that will be offered on Monday afternoon.

ACTION ITEM: All National Council members should review the 2010 training conference information that is on the AIANEA website.

AIANEA drum: moose hide won't be able to be acquired. AIANEA will proceed with an elk hide for both sides of the drum.

Breakout session on Wednesday will include the Youth, and the Youth working with the Elders.

Millie Titla is chairing the Youth session during the training conference. A working agenda has been developed, targeting an age range of 6-14 years old but youth of all ages are welcome.

Cultural awareness will be included for the local area including: hand games, elders' storytelling, hands-on activities, Lakota archery, hands-on engineering activities. The youth will be included in the lunch and the tour. Effort is being made to keep the cost reasonable. Donations have been received and additional donations are being sought to maintain costs to cover associated fees. There was discussion as to the specifics of the planning, costs, etc. Martin suggested seeking out members who can assist with portions of the youth presentations.

Harold/Millie – try to obtain a line item fund, earmark approximately \$725 to help cover costs in the event that current budget won't cover. Estimate is for 20 youth to attend. Levi indicated that a vote hasn't been needed for other conference budget line items. The youth component luncheon might include a different menu different from the adults.

ACTION ITEM: Millie will provide the youth component budget information to Harold to include in the AIANEA conference budget. **Complete**

ACTION ITEM: Regional Representatives will send out the information to their respective members regarding the 2010 Training Conference agenda, registration form, etc.

ACTION ITEM: Tanya will contact Edie to send the information out to her email distribution/contact list.

ACTION ITEM: Tanya will communicate with the AIANEA Elders to identify two of them that are able to participate in the Elder storytelling portion of the Youth session on Wednesday from 9:30 – 10:15.

ACTION ITEM: Tanya will forward the conference agenda and registration form to the State Conservationists, after determining if this should wait until the National Bulletin is distributed nationwide.

Leota – awards for the supporting State Conservationists and tribes who provide funding for AIANEA Elder travel. Are there any suggestions for wording on the awards for the STC's? There is a list of eight STC's. Suggest "in appreciation" of support and contribution. A plaque will be presented in appreciation.

ACTION ITEM: Leota will draft up the award wording and send it out to the National Council for review.

There was discussion on if we should recognize the NRCS state that provides the support for hosting the conference. It was decided that the state as a whole (not just the STC) should receive recognition in the form of a plaque.

Treasurer's Report – Harold Bryant

Provided payment in support of the Elder's airline tickets based on the approved resolution. Dues payments are still coming in, with new dues paying members. Thank you.

Investment Ad Hoc Committee Update – Harold Bryant

Investment information was sent out to the NC earlier today. Thank you to Felix and Ciro in the review of the investment proposal. Ciro stated thanks and support of Harold's work in the research of AIANEA's investment opportunities. A majority of the funds should be invested for the Scholarship Fund. Other funds for investment/endowment funds include the Elder Program Fund, Youth Activities Fund, and Special Activities Fund. Each fund will have their own name as they are established with the AIANEA name. Refer to the Investment Report and Proposal that Tanya

provided to the NC today. Harold suggested dividing the remaining funds equally three ways, after investing the majority into the Scholarship Fund.

MOTION: 03-02-2010-3: Motion to approve Harold Bryant to move forward with the investment into the named bank with the named amount, as discussed.

Motion made by: Leota Burnett
Motion seconded: John Harper
Motion passed: Unanimously

Harold briefly reviewed the Investment Policy and Investment Criteria for AIANEA.

ACTION ITEM: Tanya will distribute AIANEA's most current Investment Policy and Criteria to the National Council. **Complete**

MOTION: 03-02-2010-4: Motion to accept the four funding efforts to support Scholarships, Elders Program , Youth Activities and Special Activities .

Motion made by: Levi Montoya
Motion seconded: John Harper
Motion passed: Unanimously

MOTION: 03-02-2010-5: Motion to move forward with the suggested amounts to invest in each of the accounts.

Motion made by: John Harper
Motion seconded: Leota Burnett
Motion passed: Unanimously

MOTION: 03-02-2010-6: Motion to authorize Harold Bryant to withdraw and close the Money Market account and to withdraw the majority of the funds out of the Business Savings account, both at Wells Fargo.

Motion made by: Stacy Kimble
Motion seconded: John Harper
Motion passed: Unanimously

ACTION ITEM: Harold will move forward with the investment and withdrawals as approved.

Visioning Update – Crystal Leonetti, Ciro Lo Pinto

Discussion was not included in this teleconference.

Scholarship and Auction Committee Discussion – Gina Kerzman

Martin reviewed an email with information provided by Gina:

I was talking to the national council about improvements we can make to the auction, and the scholarship fund. I would like the committees to have a teleconference sometime this month so that we can get info out to members to get them thinking about items to donate, and to get them to think about committing some dollars. I would like to share some of my ideas with the committees. I have time to teleconference the end of the month.

ACTION ITEM: Martin will forward Gina's email to Blythe for inclusion in the minutes. **Complete**

Review of Action Items

All action items were reviewed.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 1pm Central time

MOTION: 03-02-2010-2: Motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion made by: Levi Montoya

Motion seconded: Martin Bales (for Gina Kerzman)

Motion passed: Unanimously

The meeting concluded at 4:06 pm CT.

Respectfully Submitted by Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Secretary