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**American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS**

*"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"*

**NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE**

**May 4, 2010**

**Welcome and Roll Call**

Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Ciro Lo Pinto, Gina Kerzman, Ralph Goh, Stacy Kimble, John Harper, Harold Bryant, Herb Webb, Levi Montoya, Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Millie Titla (briefly)

Not present: Leota Burnett, Nels Liljedahl

Meeting began at 11:06 AM MST.

**Approval of April Minutes**

**MOTION: 05-04-2010-1:** Motion was made to accept the April 2010 minutes.

Motion made by: Ciro Lo Pinto

Motion seconded: John Harper

Motion passed: Unanimously

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

**NHQ Tribal Liaison Report – Edie Morigeau**

No report during the teleconference for this month.

**National AI/ANEPM Report – Carol Crouch**

No report during the teleconference for this month.

**Detail Opportunity Questionnaire – Millie Titla**

Form was emailed to NC for review. This document is part of the Leadership Subcommittee of the Visioning Committee. Some comments were received, one to change the format of the document to a more common format (currently in Publisher). AIANEA is taking the initiative to develop this document for the national level/perspective. Feedback on the document is positive and will be a useful tool. Millie indicated that the common format will probably be Word. Stacy suggested that a database similar to the AISES Recruiting Cadre database would be beneficial. Ralph suggested adding the First Line Supervisor, State Conservationist and contact information.

**Action Item:** Millie and the Leadership subcommittee will moved forward with the Detail Opportunity Questionnaire and suggested revisions. Stacy agreed to assist the Leadership subcommittee with the questionnaire.

### **2010 Conference Update – Levi Montoya**

Harmony Cadre: Monday afternoon, Working Effectively WAI, 1-4 PM Roles of the Elder in AI, History of Dawes Act USDA NRCS policies regarding Trust Responsibilities, Unity. First three topic presenters from cadre and Unity from local community.

**Action Item:** Gina will ask for bios from the Cadre members presenting at the training conference's Executive Session of the Working Effectively with American Indians. Complete

**Action Item:** Levi will send out the most recent Planning Committee teleconference meeting minutes. Complete

Billy Mills has been confirmed, as well as a closer look at Crazy Horse as part of the conference tour and a visit to Devils Tower.

Conference registration numbers are low at this point, hopefully it will increase. Tanya suggested not worrying about registrations at this point. AIANEA will be sending out postcards inviting attendees to the conference, many thanks to Tanya Cook.

Pat Broyles expressed his thanks for the help from AIANEA.

Elder Billy Smith won't be able to attend the meeting due to workload. Elder Louie Dick may not be able to attend. Seven elders are confirmed to attend, with only one elder's travel not able to be covered by the respective state. Elder Jerry Wolfe will be able to attend for the first time in a few years.

The AIANEA Drum is coming along but the traveling case may not be completed in time. A smaller drum is being made in addition to the hand drum. Herb suggests including the smaller hand drum in the Silent Auction. Herb has completed an additional drum as a gift for AIANEA member and may be able to make an additional small drum. Ted Herrera offered his medicinal herbs as part of the drum blessing. Drum blessing ceremony will be part of the greeting circle and is on the agenda.

**Action Item:** Levi will check with Norman Lopez to see if the medicine can be included as part of his drum blessing ceremony.

**Action Item:** Tanya will discuss the meeting place for the Greeting Circle, for the Smudging, at the next planning teleconference.

### **Treasurer's Report/Investment Update – Harold Bryant**

Bills to date for the conference have been satisfied. The contract for the buses has been completed. Harold has established the investment accounts based on percentages and amounts of money.

There are three individual contribution deposits going into the scholarship fund via direct withdrawal/deposit. Encourage more participation in the scholarship deposit account. Tanya briefly reviewed the history behind the scholarship deposit and encouraged participation.

Ad-Hoc committee established to review investment policy and criteria. Tanya sent out the information to the National Council submitted from Harold earlier today.

**Action Item:** National Council should review the Investment Policy and Investment Criteria. Tanya will add this item to the agenda for the July National Council teleconference.

**Action Item:** Tanya will follow-up with Felix Nez on the Scholarship selection and timing of fund disbursement.

#### **2010 Award Nominations from National Council**

Tanya briefly discussed the nominations as coming from the National Council as a whole or from individual NC members. Herb suggested keeping the award nominations individually submitted so that the Awards selection committee doesn't feel influenced to select recipients based solely on NC submissions. National Council agreed to go with a minimum of one individual nomination per NC member.

**Action Item:** Award nomination deadline is Friday, May 7, 2010 for NC to submit a minimum of one award nomination per National Council member.

#### **Tribal Liaison Networking Session – Ciro Lo Pinto**

Relationship subcommittee of the Visioning Committee document was sent out to National Council earlier today. A Breakout session will be held at this year's conference, using the Appreciative Inquiry process to discuss the Relations among AIANEA, NRCS and Tribes. Tribal Liaisons will benefit from the discussions as they work in their respective states. This process takes positive discussions of the current state of affairs and moves forward with positive goals for the better workings when working with AIANEA, NRCS and Tribes.

#### **Employee Organization President Communications – Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen**

Teleconference was held on April 15, 2010 between Employee Association Presidents. Turnout and discussion was good. Employee organization presidents discussed 2011 conference plans. Organizations have begun plans for individual association conferences. In interpretation, the Chief of NRCS will let each organization make individual conference plans, although he encourages joint meetings. The timeframe is unclear as to whether or not joint meetings should be held yearly or every "so many" years. Overall, the organizations support individual meetings but are willing to meet jointly, but not every year. Association Presidents agreed they could meet jointly every other year, but to discuss this with their respective National Councils. Each association feels that their cultural needs must be met at joint conferences to maintain their identity. The concerns between all the Employee Associations are the same. The next possible Joint conference is 2012. A suggestion is to identify 3-4 regions to rotate for the joint meetings. The Presidents will send a joint letter to the Chief based on a common ground and understanding of agreement, Tanya is drafting the letter. The next Joint Employee Association Presidents teleconference is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Herb gave a brief history of the idea of joint meetings with discussions going back to 1998. He suggests that the Associations take the lead on the planning of joint meetings and inform NHQ of the efforts.

There are benefits to meeting jointly, which all organizations are using to move forward positively.

Stacy suggested meeting every three years but at the same time, really evaluate what the need is for joint/individual meetings. Each association is independent. Make a proposition to NHQ on the consensus between all four Employee Associations.

**Action Item:** Tanya will draft the Employee Associations President's letter and send to the National Council for review.

#### **Cultural Transformation Listening Sessions – Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, All**

One last listening session will be held on May 5, 2010. Millie Titla was able to attend one but wasn't able to ask her question.

**Action Item:** Tanya will put together a letter for submission as part of the responses to the listening sessions.

**Review of Action Items**

Items were reviewed by Blythe Koyiyumptewa.

**Next Meeting – Tuesday, June 1, 2010 at 1 PM Central**

**MOTION: 05-04-2010-2:** Motion to adjourn meeting.

Motion made by:   Ciro Lo Pinto

Motion seconded:  Levi Montoya

Motion passed:  Unanimously

The meeting concluded at 1:12 pm MST.

**Respectfully Submitted by Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Secretary**