



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"

NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE

October 5, 2010

Welcome and Roll Call

Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Ciro Lo Pinto, Gina Kerzman, John Harper, Harold Bryant, Leota Burnett, Stacy Kimble, Deborah Clairmont (for Levi Montoya), Nels Liljedahl, Ralph Goh (late), Blythe Koyiyumptewa (late), David Elliott (left early)

Not present: Levi Montoya
Meeting began at 11:04 AM MST.

Approval of September Minutes

MOTION: 10-05-2010-1: Motion was made to accept the September 2010 minutes with suggested amendments.

Motion made by: John Harper
Motion seconded: Gina Kerzman
Motion passed: Unanimously

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

NHQ Tribal Liaison Report – Edie Morigeau

Edie was unable to attend the teleconference but provided some items for Tanya to share. Edie was requested to be on the Regional Conservationist teleconference at the same time as the AIANEA teleconference and will brief the State Conservationists on the upcoming Tribal Consultations meetings taking place nationwide to solicit tribal comments on Farm Bill programs. Most information has been posted to the Tribal SharePoint, which is continuously being updated. Edie just posted the updated 410 Tribal Policy to the SharePoint.

Action Item: Tanya will forward the email from Edie regarding the NRCS Tribal SharePoint website. Complete

National AI/AN EPM Report – Carol Crouch

Carol was unable attend the teleconference but did request we reach a decision on the AISES Sequoyah Fellow for 2011. An Elder recommendation was provided and motion passed. AISES conference is Nov. 10-14 in Albuquerque.

MOTION: 10-05-2010-2: Motion was made to approve the Elder recommendation provided.

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

Action Item: Tanya will follow-up with Carol Crouch on the paperwork for the Sequoyah Fellow. Harold will provide the payment in the amount of \$1000 for the Sequoyah Fellow. Complete

Flicker photo site update (or Facebook) – Tanya

Tanya reported what she learned from Herb Webb regarding Flickr and the possibility of posting an AIANEA Facebook account. The original yahoo account for AIANEA no longer exists. Flickr is very user friendly and serves our needs nicely. We could likely get an account for the first year free since our previous account was jointly with APIO. The free account only allows the posting of the first 200 photos. Tanya advised we go ahead as previously approved and purchase a Flickr Pro Account for \$25 per year so that we are not restricted in the number of photos posted. We can link to the Flickr account on the AIANEA website.

Additionally, Tanya discussed the possibility of a Facebook account which would allow AIANEA to reach a larger audience and possibly be a better communication tool for some members. There is concern since members cannot access Facebook from a government computer and may not have a home computer. The Council decided to look into this as an additional communication tool, in addition to the website and the Flickr site. It was determined that Facebook should not be the only site that includes the AIANEA current and archived photos since it may be inaccessible to a number of members. Stacy Kimble volunteered to develop a draft Facebook page to present to National Council in November. Privacy issues and inappropriateness was discussed and explained that there are numerous tools to protect the AIANEA.

Action Item: Tanya will follow-up with the Flickr photo site and will create the account via the approval by the NC. Complete

Action Item: Stacy will draft up what will be used on the AIANEA Facebook page and provide a copy to the NC before uploading. Complete

2011 Conference Update - David Elliott

David provided an update that discussions are taking place with the hotel and tribe. He will begin planning committee teleconferences in the first part of November. A draft hotel contract has been developed. David will develop a draft conference agenda before the first committee teleconference so tribal interests are already input. Elder Smith, especially, has some specific things he wants to include.

Action Item: Tanya will develop and submit the NRCS approval packet to the national office for the 2011 conference in October 2010. Will be submitted to Eloris Speight with a cc to Ginger Murphy and Chief White. In Progress

2012 Conference Proposal status – Tanya

Just a reminder that the 2012 conference proposals are due Nov. 24 and National Council will plan to make a decision during the December teleconference. There will be a proposal for Foxwoods and possibly another one from the northeast. There is also interest from other regions.

National Teleconference Report – Tanya

Tanya was unexpectedly invited to attend a teleconference on Sept. 15 with the other employee organization presidents, Chief White, and Ginger Murphy. It was a very positive teleconference. Presidents shared their FY10 conference dates and locations. Ginger explained that approval packets must be submitted no later than 3 months prior to event (AIANEA always submits in Jan. for a June, July or August conference). Ginger and Chief were very comfortable with the letter submitted by the presidents in April, recommending that joint conferences take place every 3-4 years beginning in 2013. Planning for that conference would begin in 2011.

One of the organizations had already submitted their approval packet for a late June conference and the others were planning to submit their packets in September or October. Ginger's advice to AIANEA is to submit as soon as possible. Tanya will submit the packet in October. The expectation is that leadership would approve sooner and employees seeking approval to attend would receive that much sooner than in the past. Ginger stated that we likely will be on a continuing resolution for the entire FY11 and approval for meeting attendance might be lower than in the past. She suggests the sooner approval is achieved, the better for attendance. Ginger did share that she realized the value of these conferences when she attended the joint conference in March. She feels all employees would benefit by attending.

2011 Election Status – Tanya

Two nominations have been received for the 2nd Vice President position. No nominations have been received for the Northern Plains Regional Representatives. Deadline for nominations are October 8, 2010.

Action Item: Tanya will prepare the voting ballot to send out to all AIANEA members. Complete

Treasurer's Report – Harold Bryant

- a. 2nd signatory update – The closest banking institution that provides service to AIANEA's bank, Wells Fargo, is Wachovia. William Parrish is now the 2nd signatory on the AIANEA account.

Action Item: Harold/Ciro will invite William Parrish to join next month's NC teleconference. Complete

- b. 2009 audit update – The committee of AIANEA members is coming together with persons identified. Working to find a common meeting location.

Investment Update

Harold provided an update post conference and is working to close-out the final conference figures. No payment has been made for a scholarship recipient at this point for this year. Discussion began about the scholarships and it was decided that the scholarship committee will be on the Nov. agenda.

Action Item: Tanya will invite the Elders Committee Chair, Scholarship Committee Chair, and Millie Titla (for the Youth component) to sit in on the November teleconference. Complete

Constitution and Bylaws Committee report – Gina

A draft C&B was put together for the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to include an external audit/financial review for the Association. Gina reviewed the draft with the NC. Herb Webb provided some comments/suggested edits for the draft that were discussed during the teleconference.

Action Item: Gina will revise the draft with suggested edits and provide the update to the National Council. Complete

Action Items from 2010 Business Meeting follow-up

- a. Director's insurance – John Harper
John provided an email prior to the teleconference with quotes for the Director's and Officer's Liability insurance. There is a question on one of the quotes received that will need to be clarified. Discussion took place regarding the insurance and how to proceed with the quotes received. AIANEA hasn't asked for/received quotes for Director's insurance prior to this year's Business Meeting.

Action Item: John will check on the quote in question from Great American and provide an update back to the NC. Complete

Scholarship/Auction Committees – ideas for 2011

The committees will meet and discuss updates, item will be added to November 2010 NC agenda.

Tribal Scholars – Tanya, Ciro

Tanya discussed that to encourage Tribal Scholars to become familiar with AIANEA, we could consider a courtesy AIANEA membership for Tribal Scholars. Deborah Clairmont provided some background information on the program.

MOTION: 10-05-2010-2: Motion was made to provide a free AIANEA membership to the five 2010 Tribal Scholars for the duration they are participants in the Tribal Scholars program.

Motion made by: Gina Kerzman

Motion seconded: Ciro Lo Pinto

Motion passed: Unanimously

Action Item: Tanya will send a welcome letter to the current Tribal Scholars with the free membership to AIANEA. In Process

Review of Action Items

Items were reviewed by Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen and Blythe Koyiyumptewa.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, November 2, 2010 at 1:00 pm Central

MOTION: 10-05-2010-3: Motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by: Ciro Lo Pinto

Motion seconded: Nels Liljedahl

Motion passed: Unanimously

Tanya adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM MST.

Respectfully Submitted by Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Secretary