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

*"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"*

**NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE  
January 19, 2011**

**Welcome and Roll Call**

Voting Members: Ciro Lo Pinto, Gina Kerzman, Leota Burnett, Ralph Goh, Stacy Kimble, John Whitney, Herb Webb/Deborah Clairmont (for Levi Montoya), David Elliott (for John Harper), Mary Scott (for David Pesicka, had to log off due to phone problems)

Non-Voting Members: Bill Parrish, Carol Crouch, Yvette Dulle, Richard Vigil

Not Present: Harold Bryant, Blythe Koyiyumptewa

**Review and Approval of December Minutes**

**MOTION: 01-19-2011-1:** Minutes were reviewed by all participants, no additions or corrections made. Motion was made to accept the December 2010 minutes.

Motion made by: Leota Burnett

Motion seconded: Herb Webb

Motion passed: Unanimously

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

**NHQ Tribal Liaison Report – Edie Morigeau**

No report submitted by Edie. Tribal Network Committee meeting set for January 20<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM EST.

**National AI/AN SEPM Report – Carol Crouch**

South Central Region is producing the American Indian Heritage Month poster for 2011. Carol is looking for suggestions for the theme.

**Action Item:** Carol asked that all members of the National Council submit an idea for a theme to the 2011 Heritage poster.

A Working Effectively with American Indians (WEWAI) NEDC training course will be held in South Central region (2/8-9, 2011). There are possibly two vacant seats available for NRCS folks from that region.

Carol has agreed to schedule national American Indian SEPM training and a WEWAI short course for the Monday (6/6/11) of the AIANEA 2011 Training Conference in Alabama. Richard Vigil and Gina Kerzman have agreed to help Carol plan the course. The topic has already been added to the conference agenda for that date.

AISES Leadership conference will be attended by NRCS, contact Carol if interested.

AISES Science Fair will also be attended by NRCS, contact Carol if interested.

Gina asked if AIANEA mentor participants can attend WEWAI session, idea was accepted.

Decision was made to add any available AIANEA Elders to the WEWAI session.

Carol agreed to take the role of Scholarship Committee Chairperson

### **2011 Conference Update – David Elliott**

David Elliott reported on the progress of the Planning Committee. The committee will be meeting the second Tuesday of each month, with more frequent calls as the date approaches. The next call is February 8<sup>th</sup>. The meeting approval has been sent out to all States. The numbers of rooms were discussed regarding the arrival date, since the SEPM and WEWAI training are now scheduled for Monday. David reported that our room numbers for the arrival date is flexible, where the room numbers for the last day are not. David thought we had no rooms scheduled for Friday, where the contract states 75 rooms on Friday.

**Action Item:** David will check with the venue regarding increasing the rooms for Sunday, 6/5. David will also check with the venue regarding the numbers of rooms for Friday 6/10.

- a. **Webpage** – Yvette Dulle is looking for information to put on the website.

**Action Item:** David Elliott and Ciro will work with Yvette to produce the information regarding location, venue, appropriate airports, etc.

- b. **Conference theme** – David and Ciro asked that all National Council members submit a theme idea to David. Thoughts are that the theme would include ideas about sustainability, food, culture, ecology, etc. David provided a theme that has been suggested by a member. It is “Our Heritage, Our Culture, Our Traditions” as an example.
- c. **Sub-committees** – Sub-committees are forming, please consider signing up for one.

### **Review 2012 conference proposals**

No additional proposals had been submitted in time for the extended January 14<sup>th</sup> deadline. The only proposal is from the Mashantuckett-Pequot Tribe in Connecticut for June 24-29, 2011 at the Foxwoods Resort and Casino. The venue has agreed to provide rooms at the GOV rate and would supply meeting space free of charge.

CT STCO, Jay Mar, has been contacted regarding State support for 2012 AIANEA training/conference. Jay was very enthusiastic about the idea. Jay asked that if, in the event that the 2012 conference is approved in CT, that a supreme effort can be made by AIANEA to include all CT Federally recognized tribes in the conference. The other tribe is the Mohegan. Jay will propose the idea to his Leadership Team on Monday morning, January 24<sup>th</sup>, and respond back to Ciro. Jay asked that our decision to attend would become final after he hears from his LT. Jay was also very interested in initiating a consultation effort with the CT tribes as a result of our presence in CT.

**Action Item:** Herb Webb will contact members of SAIGE to determine the atmosphere for relationships that would include both tribes (Mashantuckett-Pequot and Mohegan). SAIGE held their 2010 conference at the Mohegan venue. We will also see if both tribes are members of USET.

**MOTION: 01-19-2011-2:**

Motion was made to accept the CT venue of the Foxwood's Resort Casino for the 2011 AIANEA Training Conference for the dates of June 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Motion is made with the provision that we do not finalize the decision until we hear a positive response from the NRCST Leadership Team.

Motion made by: Gina Kerzman  
Motion seconded: Leota Burnett  
Motion passed: Unanimously

**Action Item:** Ciro will inform the NC after he hears from CT STCO. Ciro will then contact the venue and inquire into raising the amount of rooms to match those requested for 2010 and 2011 conferences.

**Treasurer's Report – Harold Bryant/William Parrish**

Harold was not available to provide a report. Bill gave a brief report regarding most recent transactions, which appeared to include moving the agreed-to funds to the appropriate investment accounts. Harold or Bill will provide a Treasurer's Report for the next meeting.

**Facebook Update – Stacy**

Stacy submitted, for review, an AIANEA Policy for use of Social Media. NC reviewed the information and positively accepted what was offered.

**Action Item:** Stacy agreed to manage the proposed Facebook account until when and if others are interested. Stacy agreed to join the Communications Committee and help to create a link to the proposed Facebook account.

**MOTION: 01-19-2011-2:**

Motion was made to accept and immediately adopt the Social Media Guidelines as written and submitted by Stacy Kimble (see attachment).

Motion made by: John Whitney  
Motion seconded: Herb Webb  
Motion passed: Unanimously

**Action Item:** Ciro will sign the final document, scan and send to Communication Chair (Yvette) and Stacy. The guidelines will be put on the website. Some type of release will be prepared by the communications committee, in the future, to announce the creation of the Facebook account.

**Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report – Gina**

**Action Item:** Gina will send most updated copy of Bylaws to Yvette and to the USDA Contact person provided by Tanya.

**Action Items from 2010 Business Meeting follow-up**

**a. Director's Insurance – John Harper**

No action

**Visioning Committee report – if available**

No action

**Elders Committee report – if available**

No action, see 12/15/10 minutes previously sent by Tanya.

**Other items – website, newsletter, scholarships, etc. (as appropriate)**

Yvette Dulle talked about the website and an upcoming newsletter to announce conference.

**Action Item:** Yvette agreed to send out a call to members for articles and a call to National Council to update their bios. Yvette will begin to prepare a newsletter with a mid-February deadline for submissions and an end of February release date.

**Review of Action Items**

Reviewed with Council

**Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 2 PM Eastern Standard Time**