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

*"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"*

**NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE  
June 7, 2011**

**Welcome and Roll Call**

- a. Additional agenda items –** None at this time

Meeting began at 11:09 AM MST.

Voting Members: Ciro Lo Pinto, Gina Kerzman (late), Levi Montoya, Stacy Kimble, John Whitney, Ralph Goh, Lee Reeves (for Jack Lewis), Harold Bryant (for Leota Burnett)

Non-Voting Members: Blythe Koyiyumptewa, William Parrish, Richard Vigil, Deborah Clairmont, Rose Whitehair (NCAI)

Not Present: Leota Burnett, David Pesicka, Jack Lewis, Edie Morigeau, Carol Crouch

**Review action items from previous minutes**

Updated and completed

**Approval of May Minutes**

**MOTION: 06-7-2011-1:**

Minutes were reviewed by all participants, updates were provided to the action items with one correction/addition to the minutes. Motion was made to accept the May 2011 minutes.

Motion made by: Harold Bryant

Motion seconded: Levi Montoya

Motion passed: Unanimously

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

**NCAI/ONR Partnering Opportunities – Rose Whitehair**

Website: [www.ournaturalresources.org](http://www.ournaturalresources.org) Intertribal, Regional and National organizations included on this site. NCAI/ONR has multiple goals, with one being, representing Indian Country as one voice. Rose provided an overview of the website for easier maneuvering. Information can be posted to the website by AIANEA and others.

Richard Vigil provided some guidance in support of AIANEA becoming involved with NCAI, as it pertains to the Farm Bill and providing a combined service and effort in Indian Country. This is a good working opportunity. NCAI and AIANEA will continue communication for future endeavors.

### **NHQ Tribal Liaison Report – Edie Morigeau**

Edie was not available for the teleconference.

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

Carol was not available for the teleconference.

### **Assessing skill sets and availability for Details/Special Projects/Leadership Opportunities for AIANEA members, SEPM's and Tribal Liaisons**

Ciro has had discussions with Edie Morigeau regarding assessing the skills of the AIANEA Members, SEPM's and Tribal Liaisons. This information is to assist Edie in drafting up an MOU between the three USDA sister agencies and BIA. Suggest surveying all AIANEA members, Carol Crouch's email list of SEPM's and Edie's email list of Tribal Liaisons/contacts. Richard Vigil offered his assistance in this effort.

**Action Item:** **Ciro, Gina, Levi and Richard will work together to keep this moving forward. Any additional members who would like to volunteer should contact Ciro. On-going**

### **MOU with Outreach and Advocacy/Chief (example AAPI)**

Recommended to draft up an MOU between the AIANEA and USDA, and Outreach and Advocacy and the Chief. An example was provided that is in place between the USDA and the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC).

This may be the time for AIANEA to become more politically active in addition to our conferences.

**Action Item:** **Please provide any additions, suggestions, comments to Ciro regarding the MOU to keep this process moving in order to define AIANEA as an integral part of NRCS. On-going, Stacey provided an update report on 7/5/11.**

### **Outreach/Consultation opportunities with Department**

Janie Hipp from NHQ would like to meet with AIANEA regarding outreach and consultation with the Department. This is an important topic to keep the voice and need of AIANEA moving forward.

### **2011 Annual Business Meeting**

Harold suggested creating an Ad-Hoc committee to steer the AIANEA Business Meeting. Deborah Clairmont suggested a webcam type of meeting interaction. There may be some limitations based on when the Business Meeting can occur.

**Action Item:** **Harold Bryant and William Parrish will work together to possibly create the Ad-Hoc Business Meeting Committee. On-going, will provide a report during today's teleconference.**

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

- a. **Monthly report** – Harold provided an update regarding the AIANEA funds and requested to move the Youth funds into a larger earning account while not being used at this time.
- b. **Other communications** – Scholarship funds are set aside and available for awarding this year. Action will be taken to transfer the Elder funds set aside for Elder travel to the 2011 Training Conference (postponed to 2012), to the designated Elder Travel Fund. This was voted on in May 2011 by the NC.  
IMPORTANT NOTE: All funds can receive donations at any time.

William Parrish asked what the AIANEA membership is currently. Harold reported the number of deposits he's made this year for paid dues. There are annual and lifetime memberships.

### **Reports on Standing Committees - Levi**

Levi reported has contacted all the 2010 committee Chairs and Vice Chairs for updated participation and is awaiting responses. He sent out a follow-up email to the committees today.

### **Visioning**

- a. Leadership and Mentoring** – Deborah Clairmont provided an update. Working on webcam conferences, Elder alternate list. Developing rules and guidelines for protégé of Elders and mentoring while also working through NRCS protocol as well.
- b. Elders and Youth** – No updated report at this time.
- c. Tribal/Agency/Organization Relations** – No updated report at this time.

Gina reported that Steve Durgin is interested in chairing the Visioning Committee. He is a Civil Engineer and Leader of the Multi-State Design Team in Spokane and currently also pursuing a Master's degree in leadership at the local university.

**Action Item:** Gina will research the last AIANEA newsletter for the call to fill the Visioning Committee vacancy and the process to apply. She will be in contact Steve Durgin. Gina will ask Steve to submit a letter of interest.

### **Review of Action Items from current meeting**

Blythe reviewed all the action items with the NC.

### **Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, July 5, 2011 - the first Tuesday of every month at 2:00 PM EST**

**Meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM MST**

**Respectfully Submitted by,**

Blythe Koyiyumptewa  
Secretary