



American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS

"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"

**NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE
September 7, 2011**

Meeting began at 2:00 PM EST.

Welcome and Roll Call

a. Additional agenda items – Nothing to add at this time

Voting Members: Ciro Lo Pinto, Gina Kerzman, Ralph Goh, Carol Crouch (for Leota Burnett), Stacy Kimble, David Pesicka, John Whitney, Lee Reeves (for Jack Lewis).

Non-Voting Members: Harold Bryant, William Parrish, Cindy Sultenfuss (for Sherry Cosper)

Not Present: Levi Montoya, Leota Burnett, Jack Lewis, Edie Morigeau

Review action items from previous minutes

Updated list of action items

Approval of July Minutes

MOTION: 09-06-2011-1: Minutes were reviewed by all participants. Motion was made to accept the July 2011 minutes.

Motion made by: Gina Kerzman

Motion seconded: Lee Reeves

Motion passed: Yes

Approval of August Minutes

MOTION: 09-06-2011-2: Minutes were reviewed by all participants. Motion was made to accept the August 2011 minutes.

Motion made by: Lee Reeves

Motion seconded: David Pesicka

Motion passed: Yes

NHQ Tribal Liaison Report – Edie Morigeau

Edie was not available for the teleconference. Ciro provided an update.

- 2011 Tribal Nations Progress Report is due to come out soon. Six (6) NRCS Programs that Tribes participated in saw an 85% increase in funding.
- Regional Tribal Consultation Advisory Councils (RTCAC) – has been approved by Chief White with a Tribal Elder from our Elder Committee to serve on each of the RTCACs.
- NHQ has an initiative designed to strengthen Tribal Colleges in the development of a 4-5 Tribal Certified TSPs lead by NRCS and Tribal Colleges.

National AI/AN SEPM Report – Carol Crouch

- 2011 American Indian Heritage Poster winner has been sent to GPO. There will only be a surplus of 3900.
- American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) National Conference will be held November 10-12, 2011, in Minneapolis, MN.
 - 27 SCEPs were hired last year
 - 7-8 CIP were hired as FTE for the past five years
- National SEPM Council
 - now has a full staff
 - website is being updated and being posted to more often
 - Edie has sent out an email asking for Tribal Success stories
 - Teleconference will be held soon

Action Item: Carol will send Harold Bryant the Sequoia Fellowship form.

Action Item: Ciro will ask Tanya which Elders have received the Sequoia Fellowship and get back to the committee

Partnering Opportunities: John – ONR Trip Report

- John Whitney attended the “Our Natural Resources” conference, led by the National Congress of American Indians in Denver, CO.
 - Meeting was heavily dominated by USFWS
 - ONR is a clearinghouse coordinator for natural resources
 - ONR has a legislative agenda to procure Federal funding for Tribal natural resources
 - John will contact Edie M. to discuss outcome of meeting
 - We will check with an ethics person prior to signing off on any ONR endorsements

Assessing skill sets and availability for Details/Special Projects/Leadership Opportunities for AIANEA members, SEPM's and Tribal Liaisons – Input and vote regarding survey - Gina

- The survey was distributed via email to the National Council prior to the August teleconference for review. Overall, the survey is good with some verbiage updates based on the reviews provided. Suggested changes have been incorporated in the survey.

Action Item: Ciro will contact Outreach and Advocacy to discuss the distribution list of the survey

MOTION: 09-06-2011-3: Survey was reviewed by all participants. Motion was made to accept the revised survey.

Motion made by: John Whitney

Motion seconded: Stacy Kimble

Motion passed: Yes

MOU with Outreach and Advocacy/Chief – Stacy

- No update at this time.

Joint Employee Association Task Force – Gina

- A “white paper” is being put together to present to NHQ showing the importance of NRCS employee associations.
- Each organizations will be able to review white paper prior to voting on its acceptance and distribution

2011 Annual Business Meeting – Harold and Bill

- Harold checked with Arizona on non-profit laws and determined that a face-to-face meeting is not required.

Action Item: Gina will email outline for requesting time and agenda items for the business meeting.

Action Item: Regional representatives will survey members and return the information regarding the annual business meeting back to the National Council by Friday, September 16, 2011.

2012 Annual Conference

- NHQ is requesting information for employee organizational meeting as soon as possible. Ciro submitted the 2011 Conference figures and information.
- Discussion was held about 2012 conference alternatives
 - Continue in Alabama as planned
 - employees may travel on GTE
 - employees may travel on GTO
 - employees may travel on annual leave.
 - Regional meetings in lieu of national conference

Action Item: Gina will email the Regional Representatives to follow-up with their respective members to determine their responses regarding the 2012 AIANEA Training Conference in Alabama and bring those thoughts.

Awards Committee – Ciro

- Lee Reeves volunteered to Chair the Awards Committee.

Action Item: Ciro will email Leota to inform her about Lee volunteering.

Election Committee – Ciro

- Midwest, West and Southeast representatives
- 2nd Vice President

Action Item: Ciro will prepare a request for nominations email to be sent by Yvette

Treasurer's Report – Harold Bryant/William Parrish

- AIANEA members need to be up-to-date on paying their membership dues.
- There was no revenue generated this year to contribute to the accounts therefore; donations are greatly needed.
- Prior approval had already been voted on to pay the invoice for the baskets that were made up for the 2011 conference. Baskets are being stored for the 2012 conference. Invoice will be sent to Harold for payment.

Reports on Standing Committees - Levi

Levi was not available for the teleconference. No update provided at this time.

Visioning

- Leadership and Mentoring** – No update at this time.
- Elders and Youth** – No update at this time.
- Tribal/Agency/Organization Relations** – Ciro will attend the Traditional Ecological Knowledge meeting in New Hampshire on GTO to present the ISM Handbook and recruit for Agency

Review of Action Items from current meeting

Ciro and Cindy reviewed all the action items with the NC.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 4, 2011 - the first Tuesday of every month at 2:00 PM EST

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM CST

Respectfully Submitted by, Cindy Sultenfuss (for Sherry Cospers, Secretary)