



---

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

*"Respect, Harmony, and Beauty"*

**NATIONAL COUNCIL TELECONFERENCE  
April 5, 2011**

**Welcome and Roll Call**

- a. Additional agenda items** – No additional items.

Meeting began at 11:10 AM MST.

Voting Members: Ciro Lo Pinto, Gina Kerzman, Levi Montoya, Leota Burnett, Stacy Kimble, John Whitney, Jack Lewis, David Pesicka

Non-Voting Members: Harold Bryant, Blythe Koyiyumptewa, David Elliott (left early), Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen (left early), William Parrish, Carol Crouch (left early)

Not Present: Edie Morigeau, Ralph Goh

**Approval of March Minutes**

**Review action items from previous minutes** – Updated and completed

**MOTION: 04-5-2011-1:** Minutes were reviewed by all participants, updates were provided to the action items. Motion was made to accept the March 2011 minutes.

Motion made by: Leota Burnett  
Motion seconded: Levi Montoya  
Motion passed: Unanimously

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

**NHQ Tribal Liaison Report – Edie Morigeau**

Edie was not able to join the teleconference.

**2011 Conference Update – David Elliott/Ciro Lo Pinto**

- a. NRCS Budget/Travel as it effects the possible postponement of the 2011 Conference** – National Council needs to make a determination today regarding the 2011 conference. This decision will be to postpone to next year or continue with the planning. The host tribe and hotel will be able to release AIANEA due to the budget situation if we provide a decision upon today's teleconference. David spoke with Dr. William Puckett, State Conservationist, and the overall recommendation is to postpone the conference.

**MOTION: 04-5-2011-2:**

Motion was made to postpone the 2011 AIANEA Conference to 2012, to be held at the same location in Atmore, Alabama.

Motion made by: David Pesicka  
Motion seconded: Gina Kerzman  
Motion passed: Unanimously

**Action Item:** Ciro will send a letter to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians explaining the National Council's decision to postpone the conference with AIANEA's apologies.

- b. 2012 Conference/MOU with Agency** – The host hotel for the 2012 conference would be able to release AIANEA from the 2012 reservations if we let them know now. If we face the same budget situation next year and if we continue planning at their venue, they will require a non-refundable down payment to hold the rooms to cover possible cancellation.

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

Carol provided an update on email regarding the revised schedule for the American Indian Heritage Month posters, outcome of the AISES NAISEF. Oklahoma will oversee the 2011 poster for the South Central Region composed of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

**AIANEA sponsored 3 scholarships at the AISES NAISEF**

- The American Indian Alaskan Native Employee Association (AIANEA) awarded three scholarships to three high school seniors at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) National American Indian Science and Engineering Fair (NAISEF) held in Albuquerque, New Mexico from March 24 through March 26, 2011. AIANEA awarded a \$100.00 scholarship in the following three science project categories; Engineering, Plant Science and Environmental Science.
- Engineering winner was Nicholas C. Rajen for his engineering science project entitled *Surviving; Climate Change-Heat Transfer in Ancient Native American Building; Comparison of Experimental and Calculated Results*. Environmental Science winner was Ululani Nunies for her science project entitled *Oil Spill Clean Up*. Plant Science winner was Wilfred Jumbo for his science project entitled *The Effects of Natural Bark*. Nichols and Wilfred also won first metals for their science projects and will be competing at the International American Indian Science Fair.
- All three seniors have been accepted at least three major Universities; each.
- NRCS was a major sponsor at the conference

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

- c. Monthly report** – The payment was sent to AISES for the sponsorship, the AIANEA books have been reviewed, and initial discussion took place for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The CFC is not something AIANEA may want to become part of for reasons explained by Harold. Payroll deduction is currently being done by two AIANEA members to the scholarship endowment fund. Encourage further participation by automatic deduction.
- d. Other communications** – During the Elder's Committee Teleconference in March, the committee discussed the possibility of starting an "Elders Memorial Endowment Fund".

**MOTION: 04-5-2011-3:**

Motion was made to approve starting the AIANEA Elders Memorial Endowment Fund with a \$1000 donation and a \$1500 loan by AIANEA to begin the fund.

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

**Action Item:** Harold will take care of the details with the bank in the month of April to begin the establishment of the approved Elders Memorial Endowment Fund. **Complete**

Harold spoke with Art Muller, OCTAC, regarding the scholarship fund. The scholarship will be available to any qualifying student as selected by OCTAC/AIANEA.

Payment for a Tribal Membership was received from the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC). Clarification was offered today that the membership is for the annual fee.

### **Farm Bill and other programs**

Not discussed at this time.

### **Reports on Standing Committees – Levi**

Not discussed in detail at this time.

### **Annual Awards**

Not discussed at this time.

### **Communications – Yvette Dulle**

- e. **Webpage** – No specific updates
- f. **Facebook – Stacy** – Social media activity requires approval from the AIANEA President which has been granted. Stacy will add those NC members as “Administrators” who are interested in contributing to the updates for the Facebook page.

**Action Item:** Stacy will provide the Facebook information/write-up for posting to the AIANEA Webpage and for inclusion in the AIANEA Newsletter. **Complete, will be sent to Yvette today**

- g. **Newsletter** – No specific updates
- h. **Flickr** – No specific updates

### **2012 Conference Update – Ciro**

Foxwoods and AIANEA have released each other from commitment for the 2012 Conference.

**Action Item:** Ciro will notify the State Conservationists and John Whitney will notify the 2012 Planning Committee of the 2012 Conference update. **Complete**

### **Visioning**

- i. **Leadership and Mentoring** – teleconference was held on April 4, 2011. The committee is moving forward with the leadership and mentoring program with the hopes to be put it into motion by this Fall. Gina provided a detailed update on the progress of the program. Elder Ted Herrera is active on the committee and his contributions are very valuable.

### **Elders**

Tanya sent out of the minutes of the March 16, 2011 teleconference.

**Action Item:** Blythe will send out the Elder’s Committee teleconference minutes with the April 2011 NC Teleconference Draft minutes to give everyone an opportunity to review the important discussions. **Complete**

Ciro mentioned that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is interested in partnering with AIANEA at our conference to reach out to the American Indian people caring for our natural resources. He sent out the information on email with a link to the NCAI and the Our Natural Resources (ONR) websites.

**Action Item:** Ciro will invite Sherry Black, NCAI, to May NC teleconference. **Complete**

**Review of Action Items from current meeting**

Blythe reviewed all the action items with the NC.

**Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 - the first Tuesday of every month at 2:00 PM EST**

**Meeting adjourned at 12:52 PM MST**

**Respectfully Submitted by Blythe Koyiyumptewa, Secretary**