



# **AIANEA National Council Teleconference Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 22, 2017**

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*Respect, Harmony and Beauty*

## ***Council Members & Guests Attending:***

### **President**

Dr. Carol, Crouch, Oklahoma

### **First Vice President**

Kirt Peterson, Colorado

### **Second Vice President**

Cameron Clark, Wyoming

### **Secretary**

Melissa Sturdivant, Texas

### ***Guests Attending***

Deborah Clairmont, Illinois

### ***Past Presidents Attending***

Steve Durgin, Washington, DC

## ***Meeting Minutes:***

- a. Meeting was called to order at 1200 pm (Central) by Dr. Carol Crouch, President.
- b. Welcome, introductions & roll call  
A roll call of those in attendance was taken by Melissa and Carol; however, no quorum was present.  
  
Carol asked Melissa for clarification of doing business and Melissa reported that we are limited in what can be accomplished. Action items will need to be tabled until the next scheduled meeting and when a quorum is present.
- c. NRCS National AI/AN SEPM Report  
Facilitator: Deborah Clairmont
  1. Deborah reported on the status of the AIAN Heritage Month poster which is being developed in Florida. The news release has been distributed, and the deadline for art submittals is in mid-June. Deborah is hoping that there will be a lot of involvement from the Tribes in Florida. Carol asked Deborah if the size of the AIAN Heritage Month poster has been changed or will it remain poster-size, and Deborah reported that it will remain a full-size poster.
  2. Deborah indicated that she had attended the national meeting for the Women in NRCS (WIN) who had partnered with the Asian Pacific Islander Organization (APIO) and the National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees (NOPHNRCSE) to conduct a national training in Grapevine, Texas. Deborah reported that SEPM training was conducted as part of the NEDC-sponsored training, and it went really well. Deborah added that approximately 61 SEPMs were in attendance at the training. Carol asked how the travel was handled for this training and Deborah indicated that each state submitted a list of attendees.

3. Deborah reported that several sessions are planned for a national-level SEPM training to be conducted later in the year via webinar. These sessions are planned to be three days in length and each session will be three hours in length.

d. President's Report

Facilitator: Dr. Carol Crouch

1. Carol reported on the status of the work with AIANEA partnering with the Society of American Indian Government Employees (SIAGE) with SAIGE's planned conference in Arizona in June. Carol had reached out to Keisha Tatum, STC in Arizona, but has not gotten a response about coordinating the meeting request for AIANEA employees. Carol also talked with Barry Hamilton about this, but he indicated that the meeting request packet will probably need to be coordinated by NHQ and a Bulletin released announcing the training.

2. Carol thanked Deborah for being on the call and providing an update on SEPM business across the nation.

3. Carol indicated that Barry was not able to attend due to a family emergency, but reported that they had visited and he provided the following information to Carol:

a) Barry is planning to have quarterly teleconferences with the Tribal Liaisons, and hopes to include the Regional Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (RTCAC) representatives.

b) Barry is still working on updating the TL contact list, and hopes to have this completed by mid-April. Barry plans to attend the National Council meeting in April.

c) Barry met with Ross Racine of the Intertribal Ag Council (IAC), and mentioned possibly involving AIANEA members to mentor the youth who attend the annual IAC membership meeting. He is working with IAC to coordinate our involvement.

d) Barry asked that as we plan for future trainings, that we work to include a training for the Tribal Liaisons as well.

e. Other business:

1. Regional Reports. Carol commented that she had distributed a template which could be used to help collect data so that it can be submitted to the National Council. Carol is asking that we look at this and be able to discuss it in April.

2. Committee Reports.

Elders Council. Tanya provided a report; however, it was tabled until April with other committee reports and when the National Council will be present.

f. New Business:

1. Carol asked Steve about the payments he had made for the webpage and domain name, and Steve believes that we are using *Wix.com* but he believes he paid this for a year. Steve reported that the hosting of our domain name, the *.com* address, may be dropped as we transition to the other web hosting. The *.com* address will have to be paid for if we want to keep it. Carol suggested that we table this to the April meeting for discussion and disposition.

2. Carol reported that she has received the signed agreement from Yvette Dulle regarding the AIANEA computer purchase and Yvette's agreement for maintenance and upkeep.

3. Cameron discussed his attendance at the recent WIN, APIO and NOPHNRCSE NEDC-sponsored training, and explained how some of this travel was paid by National and some by his state. He asked that we consider partnering with one or several of these professional organizations for our national training, and stressed the importance of networking, especially

in consideration of budget concerns. Discussions followed. Cameron reported that 170 people were registered for attendance from the three employee organizations or were those represented by the National Civil Rights Advisory Council which Cameron is a member and why he attended the training. Cameron indicated that it takes 9 months and up to a year to get this level of training coordinated.

Kirt asked if this is something we should consider regarding our future trainings. Cameron believes that we either host our own training, or we work with partners to plan and conduct a training. With the latter, the planning and costs are shared and no one group carries the burden for the entire event. Discussions followed. Carol asked about specific Association-related events for the employee organizations and when or if they were conducted, and Cameron thought these were planned after hours and separately. Deborah felt that it was a great event, and suggested that we include the national SEPMS so that trainings can be conducted and this would help with getting more support and commitment from NHQ. Kirt asked about how many trainings we are involved with at present, and discussions followed. Carol commented that there may be too many because in the past when they did this, it was stopped because there were so many people out of the office for training. She remembered that it was not the direction NHQ wanted, and she asked, "Do we want a more specialized training for our specific audience, and it is this something we need to keep in mind?" Steve echoed this concern and that the perception at NHQ is negative for such large combined meetings, and this needs to be considered when deciding on how we move forward.

Carol suggested that since employees are required to attend a Working Effectively course, that we include as many AIAN-related functional areas as possible (such as Tribal Liaisons, AIAN SEPMS, etc.) which will improve the networking and training potential. Carol also added that we need to be careful of partnering with such diverse groups such as APIO and others because we might lose the uniqueness and spiritual aspect of our trainings. Kirt suggested that we need to determine how best to approach our future trainings.

- g. Adjourn – Carol extended her appreciation to those members and guests attending, and she welcomed Melissa back. With no further business, Carol adjourned the Council meeting at 1235 pm, Central.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melissa Sturdivant, AIANEA National Council Secretary. Please respond to [melissa.sturdivant@tx.usda.gov](mailto:melissa.sturdivant@tx.usda.gov) with questions or comments.