



# AIANEA National Council Teleconference Minutes

Thursday, October 26, 2017

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*Respect, Harmony and Beauty*

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

### **President**

Dr. Carol, Crouch, Oklahoma

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

Kirt Peterson, Colorado

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Cameron Clark, Wyoming

### **Secretary**

Melissa Sturdivant, Texas

### **Treasurer**

Bill Parrish, Pennsylvania

### **Midwest Regional Representative**

Debe Walchuk, Minnesota

### **West Region Representative**

Susan Looper, Nevada

## **Guests Attending**

Deborah Clairmont, National AIAN SEPM

## **Past Presidents Attending**

None

## **Meeting Minutes:**

- a. Meeting was called to order at 11:10 am by Dr. Carol Crouch, President.  
Carol extended her appreciation to all of those who sent prayers. Carol provided an update on her family.
- b. Welcome, introductions & roll call  
A roll call of those in attendance was taken by Carol and Melissa. A quorum was not achieved, so business before the Council was limited, initially. However, Derek and Melissa Allen emailed later as the meeting was underway, and business before the Council was conducted.
- c. Treasurer Report  
The treasurer's report was emailed to the Council. Cameron asked about the various scholarship accounts and how we are determining the amounts to award, for example, are we only distributing interest earned? Carol provided some background information of how this has been done in the past when Harold set up the market accounts. Carol added that we usually do not have enough interest earned in order to fund several scholarships and we usually went into general funds to make those awards. Melissa also provided some background information especially in regard to how and where the Harold Bryant Scholarship funds are located. Melissa added that Pam has asked to consolidate accounts, and Carol and Melissa elaborated that we also need some direction from a CPA in how best to set up these accounts and moving forward. Carol went on to say that all of this will help us define an annual budget which the Association can work with as we move forward.  
*Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented: Susan Looper*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Debe Walchuk*  
With no opposition and all those present voting in affirmation, and with one vote recorded by email (Derek), the treasurer's report was accepted and recorded.

d. Minutes for Review

The minutes were emailed to the Council.

*Motion to accept the minutes as submitted: Cameron Clark*

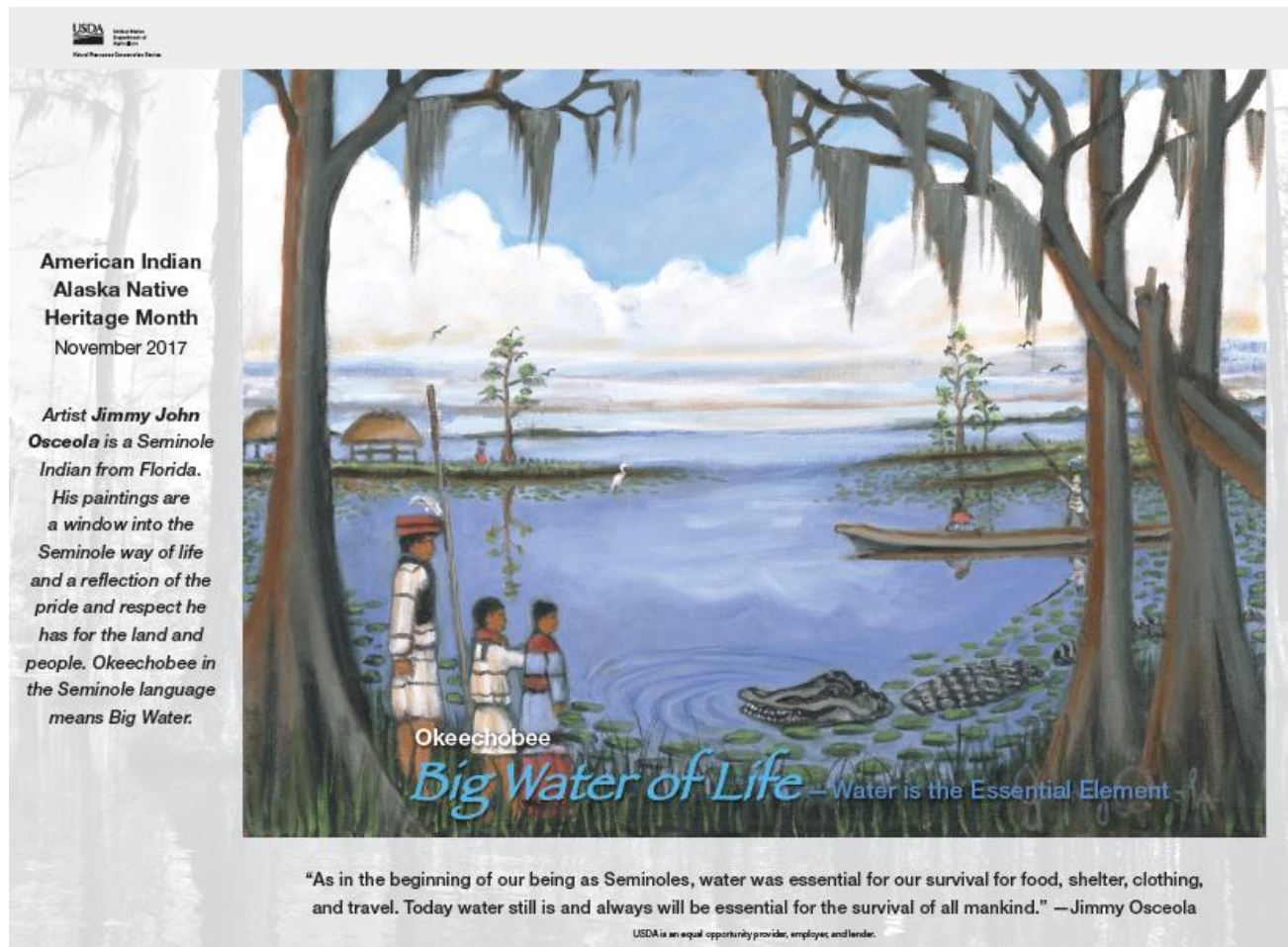
*2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Susan Looper*

With no opposition and all those present voting in affirmation, and with one vote recorded by email (Derek), the minutes were accepted and recorded.

e. National AIAN SEPM Report

Facilitator: Deborah Clairmont, NAIANSEPM

- 1) Carol asked Deborah is she had a chance to review the AIANEA Bylaws regarding the content related to the AIAN Heritage Month Poster. Deborah reported that she had reviewed this information and feels that it is fine to remove this from our Bylaws as a responsibility of the Association.
- 2) Deborah reported that the AI Heritage Month Poster has been shipped from the USDA Distribution Center. Deb indicated that 25,000 posters were printed and she is working on preparing the National Bulletin announcing the poster and hopes to have this disseminated soon. She is already working on next year's poster and working on the budget.



- 3) Deborah reported that she and Melissa Sturdivant will be traveling to NHQ to participate in the National AIAN Heritage Month Observance event scheduled Nov. 15. Carol asked if they will be video streaming this, and Deborah said that they are planning to do so.

f. Regional Representatives' Reports  
Facilitator: Dr. Carol Crouch & Regional Representatives

1. South Central Region Representative, Derek Kelso

a) The following information was provided related to events planned in Oklahoma:

<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chickasaw Nation Festival</li> <li>• Cheyenne &amp; Arapaho Soil Health Tour</li> <li>• Choctaw Nation Soil Health Workshop</li> <li>• Chickasaw Nation honoring NRCS and 7 Tribes for their Monarch and Pollinator work</li> <li>• NEDC WEWAIT workshop</li> <li>• NEDC WEWAIT workshop</li> <li>• IAC conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hard Rock Casino and Hotel</li> <li>○ Las Vegas, NV</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>10/6 and 10/7 11/16 10/23 and 10/24 10/28/2017  11/27 to 12/1 4/9/2017 12/11 to 12/14</p>
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRCS will be featured in the Winds of Change Magazine – AISES in the next issue</li> <li>• AISES Annual Conference will be held in Oklahoma next year</li> </ul>	

2. Midwest Region Representative, Debe Walchuk

Debe reported that since she has been working as the Tribal Coordinator, she has been limited in her communications directly with the tribes, and feels out of the loop. Debe will not be participating at the Intertribal Ag Council (IAC).

Debe is concerned that information is not getting distributed to the field office locations. Debe also indicated that there is not a POC yet defined, but she hopes this will happen in the future. The new AIAN SEPM is a potential person but she is limited in what she can do right now, too. Debe is concerned that there is no way to disseminate information from the Association to the AIANEA members or to Field Office locations.

Debe has been reassigned and will not be working directly with tribes in her new job position, as she will be working as the Red River Basin Coordinator. Debe plans to attend Council meetings through this year, and she will plan to complete her term at the close of the year, but wants us to begin looking for a replacement for her.

3. West Region Representative, Susan Looper

a) Susan reported that she is working with the Nevada AIAN SEPM and they are working to prepare for AIAN Heritage Month Observance with an event planned via state-wide VTC. Susan will be giving a presentation on AIANEA. They will also have a native food sampling.

b) Susan talked about the upcoming IAC and she wants to go, but has not heard anything. Discussions followed. Carol stated that the meeting request was forwarded to states, and the deadline may have already passed to be added to the meeting request.

g. National Tribal Liaison Officer Report

Facilitator: Barry Hamilton, National Tribal Liaison Officer

Barry was not at the meeting but forwarded the following information to the National Council.

He is meeting with some new tribal entities that are potential partners and will be assisting us with technical and program outreach in Indian Country. We recently just obligated a little over \$2M in Indian Country that will assist Tribes in all four regions. The Regional Tribal workgroup comprised of 4 Tribal Liaisons, the National SPEM and a state SPEM have been providing great assistance to our cause, serving Indian Country.

However, I am also interested to learn more about the Tribal Liaison meeting that is being planned at the IAC Annual meeting in Las Vegas. I just learned of this meeting this week. I would like to know who is planning the meeting and is there anything that I can provide.

Carol commented that she was asked by her State Conservationist, Roylene Rides at the Door and Noller Herbert to help develop a program for Tribal Liaisons to be held as part of the IAC meeting. This meeting will be held to review the Farm Bill updates. A draft agenda for this meeting was forwarded separately to the Council so they are aware of the program.

h. Committee Updates

Facilitator: Dr. Carol Crouch & Committee Chairs

1. *Scholarship Committee* – Susan Looper & Melissa Sturdivant

Susan reported that she and Melissa completed work on the application and distributed this to the Council for review. All of the comments received were incorporated into the application. We hope to go live on November 1 and are working with Yvette to make this happen.

Susan reported that Melissa has re-developed our AIANEA logo and this was added to the application.

Melissa commented that we are working with Yvette to ensure that our webpage will have the scholarship information and the application for download. She added that we have established an email address in which the applications will be received via this email. We will prepare an email/news blast that can be distributed, but we are channeling all traffic to our AIANEA webpage.

Susan added that we are planning on awarding 4 scholarships in 2017:

- One \$500.00 AIANEA Natural Resources Management Scholarship Award;
- Two \$500.00 AIANEA Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Scholarship Awards;
- One \$500.00 AIANEA Harold Bryant Scholarship Award.

*Motion to accept the 2017 Scholarship Program and Application as presented: Cameron Clark*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Kirt Peterson*

With no opposition and with all those present voting in affirmation, and with two votes recorded by email (Derek and Melissa Allen), the 2017 AIANEA Scholarship Program and Application was accepted and recorded.

*Motion to approve the award of \$2000 as part of the 2017 Scholarship Program: Cameron Clark*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Debe Walchuk*

With no opposition and with all those present voting in affirmation, and with two votes recorded by email (Derek and Melissa Allen), the 2017 AIANEA Scholarship Program and Application was accepted and recorded.

Susan asked about David Elliott's involvement on the committee since his retirement. Carol stated that she will get in touch with him. Susan and Carol asked if there is anyone else on the Council that would like to be a back-up reviewer of scholarships in case David is not available. Cameron offered to serve in this role, if needed.

2. *Bylaws Committee* – Melissa Sturdivant

Melissa reported that the bylaws are still being worked on and edited.

i. Old Business.

1. *Status of Regional Rep & VP Positions.*

Carol provided an update regarding nominations for the vacant positions on the National Council. She indicated that one application was received for the South Central Region – Derek Kelso. Carol added that two applications were received for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President position – Cassius Spears and Melissa Sturdivant.

*Northern Plains Regional Rep* – No applications were received.

Northeast Regional Rep – No applications were received.

Carol commented that the nomination period closes this week. She will work with Yvette to get the ballot distributed. Discussions followed. The South Central position is unopposed. Carol will reach out to Pooh and Cassius and see if we can find potential rep candidates for the Northeast.

2. *2019 National Training.* Cameron, Kirt and Melissa attended a planning meeting via teleconference. Cameron reported that the Business Plan had not been distributed to everyone so this could not be discussed during the meeting. Following the meeting, Kirt established a USDA Connect Community for the Planning Committee. He also uploaded files and established a structure to house planning documents that can be accessed and available online for the committee members. Cameron reported on the 12 sub-committees which are part of the conference planning efforts. Kirt added that we need to make sure we don't lose focus of why we are meeting, and don't have a meeting just to have a meeting. Melissa added that she also asked the committee about each respective employee association and planning of its events and asked if these can be integrated and planned for as part of the conference. She made sure to ask if we will be able to have a separate function for the Association such as for our business meeting and awards program.
  3. *CPA.* Carol asked Melissa if she knows of the status with this and Melissa reported that Pam has not been able to get in touch with the Texas Comptroller Office to inquire about the 501(c)3 transitioning to Texas, and all of this is tied together with the Articles of Incorporation as well. It is basically at a stand-still right now.
- j. Carol extended her appreciation to those Council members and guests attending and with no further business, she asked for a motion to adjourn the Council meeting at 12:25 pm, Central.
- 1<sup>st</sup> motion:* Susan Looper  
*2<sup>nd</sup> motion:* Debe Walchuk

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.