



AIANEA National Council Teleconference Minutes

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

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

Treasurer

Bill Parrish, Pennsylvania

East Regional Representative

Cassius Spears, Rhode Island

West Region Representative

Susan Looper, Nevada

Midwest Region Representative

Deb Walchuk, Minnesota

Guests Attending

Barry Hamilton, Washington, DC

Past Presidents Attending

Athena Cholas, New Mexico

Steve Durgin, Washington, DC

Meeting Minutes:

a. Meeting was called to order at 12:06 pm by Dr. Carol Crouch, President.

b. Welcome, introductions & roll call

Discussions:

A roll call of those in attendance was taken by Carol. Melissa Sturdivant, Secretary, was unable to attend the meeting, and Carol recorded the minutes as recorded and presented.

c. Treasurer's Report

Facilitator: William Parrish

Discussions:

Motion: To accept Treasurer's Reports for March and April as provided.

Motion to approve: Cameron Clark

2nd Motion: Deb Walchuk

Motion passed unanimously by acclamation and treasurer reports recorded.

d. Secretary's Report

Facilitator: National Council

Discussions: Minutes were reviewed, and no changes made.

Motion: To accept Minutes for both the January 23 and March 6 meetings of the National Council as provided.

Motion to approve: Deb Walchuk

2nd Motion: Susan Looper

Motion passed unanimously by acclamation, and the meeting minutes are recorded.

e. SAIGE Conference Update

Facilitator: Dr. Carol Crouch

Discussions:

Carol provided an update on the travel packet for the SAIGE conference. No travel approval yet. It was recommended that each employee planning on attending the SAIGE conference work directly with their supervisor and State Conservationist.

ACTION ITEM: Dr. Crouch will resend email request to NRCS AZ again and report response at the next teleconference.

f. National AIAN SEPM Report

Facilitator: Deborah Clairmont, NAIANSEPM

Deb Clairmont was not able to join the teleconference. Dr. Crouch provided an update on NRCS' AI Heritage Month. The poster is on target to be released to states in early October. Additional prints of the posters has been approved.

g. Regional Representatives' Reports

Facilitator: Dr. Carol Crouch & Regional Representatives

Dr. Crouch did email a simple reporting form for regional representative to consider using. Regional reports were provided and submitted as follows:

Oral reports were provided by Cameron Clark, Susan Looper, Debra Walchuk and Cassius Spears; however, the following written reports were submitted to the Secretary to record in the minutes:

1. Central Region, Derek Kelso, Oklahoma – written report provided as reported below:

Recruitment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cameron University• Oklahoma State University• National Land Judging• MCN Tribal College	
Tribal Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conservation Client Gateway Tool (5) meetings• Comanche Tribe Leadership meeting• Kiowa Tribe Leadership meeting• Cheyenne & Arapaho Soil Health workshop• RCPP projects (2) Oklahoma Tribes	April, 4 April 4 April 27 April 21

<p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wyandotte Nation Environmental Festival • Seminole Nation workshop • Choctaw Nation Soil Health Training • Signing with Choctaw Nation Chief Batton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Soil Health Agreement 	<p>April 28th May 16th May 11th May 9th</p>
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oklahoma is working with the Choctaw Nation to develop a Tribal Conservation District • NRCS named in top 50 places to work 	

2. Central Region, Cameron Clark, Northern Plains – written report provided as reported below:

This past month, I made contact with Diana Doan-Crider, who is heading up the Native American Rangeland Management Training Program. She is the Director of Animo Partnership in Natural Resources and is an Adjunct Professor of Texas A&M University. The training program is a multi-faceted and multi-partner initiative to increase the capacity for sustainable rangeland management on tribal lands. She is currently organizing the initiative for the Southwestern US and then will begin organizing the efforts in the Northern Plains region. She is planning for a “Train-the-Trainer” workshop in the region in the summer of 2018.

3. West Region, Susan Looper, Nevada – written report provided as reported below:

- a. Awarded the Special Recognition Award – Partnership on January 30, 2017 to Nevada:

FSA, Clint Koble (SED)
RD, Sarah Adler (SED)
NRCS, Bruce Petersen (STC)

NOTE: The NRCS award was accepted by Gary Roeder for Bruce Petersen. Everyone was humbled to receive the award, and loved the buffalo plaques. I will be submitting an article about the unique partnering efforts Nevada USDA agencies collectively made to provide services and programs to our Nevada Tribal communities, and why they were deserving of the recognition.

Susan...Can the recipients of this award participate in the SAIGE Conference when AIANEA recognizes these awards?

- b. RTCAC WEST Teleconference was held on April 4, 2017, but will be rescheduled because there was low Tribal Representation turn out. Lots going on in people’s lives, especially here in Nevada with flooding issues affecting Tribal lands.
- c. Circulating the Pathways announcements and even getting some student response about those internships opportunities.
- d. CSP 2017-1 Tribal sign-up provided positive interest from our Nevada tribes, with one application that included over 300,000 acres of rangeland. We don’t know if the application will go forward or not, but it is good to know they are considering participation in CSP, and possibly EQIP if they are not a fit for CSP.
- e. Attended our Nevada Interagency Civil Rights Advisory Committee (NICRAC) Meeting yesterday where our new AIAN SEPM, Patti Novak, reported on the Native American Rangeland Management Capacity Building Initiative (Millie Titla email). Patti is the Nevada NRCS State Rangeland Management Specialist and will be getting involved in this initiative in the WEST.

h. National Tribal Liaison Report

Facilitator: Barry Hamilton

Barry Hamilton updated the AIANEA council on the new BIA MOU that was released for review and encouraged everyone to review and send him any comments.

ACTION ITEM: Dr. Crouch will email the council a copy of the BIA MOU for review.

i. Committee Updates

Facilitator: Dr. Carol Crouch & Committee Chairs

List of all committee members was emailed by Dr. Crouch. No reports were given by committees.

j. New Business

1. Scholarship Email

- Discussion scholarship

ACTION ITEM: Susan Looper will organize a scholarship teleconference with committee members. Dr. Crouch will send an email requesting an email vote to approve the AIANEA scholarship form and other pending documents so the scholarship committee can begin to move forward.

2. Elder Travel Plan

- Discussion on criteria to fund Elders

ACTION ITEM: Add to May agenda

3. Awards Budget

- Annual budget needed - discussion

ACTION ITEM: Add to May agenda

4. Gate.COM and AIANEA.COM

- Paid

ACTION ITEM: Steve Durgin will check to make sure all service are paid for one year.

5. Discuss the possibility of partnering with APIO, WIN and NOPHNRCSE to plan a conference/training for 2018 or 2019.

Dr. Crouch led the discussion on considering a partnership with APIO for 2018. We should have a teleconference.

ACTION ITEM: Dr. Crouch will send an email to invite Nick Vita, President of APIO, to join our teleconference on May 17th.

- k. Review action items from current meeting:
Facilitator: National Council
1. Dr. Crouch will resend email request to NRCS AZ again and report response at the next teleconference.
 2. Dr. Crouch will email the council a copy of the BIA MOU for review.
 3. Susan Looper will organize a scholarship teleconference with committee members. Dr. Crouch will send an email requesting an email vote to approve the AIANEA scholarship form and other pending documents so the scholarship committee can begin to move forward.
 4. Elder Travel Plan: Add to May agenda
 5. Awards Budget: Add to May agenda
 6. Gate.COM and AIANEA.COM: Steve Durgin will check to make sure all service are paid for one year.
 7. Discuss the possibility of partnering with APIO, WIN and NOPHNRCSE to plan a conference/training for 2018 or 2019. Dr. Crouch will send an email to invite Nick Vita, President of APIO, to join our teleconference on May 17th.
- l. Adjourn – Carol extended her appreciation to those members and guests attending and with no further business, she adjourned the Council meeting at 1:08_pm, Central. Next scheduled meetings are planned for May 17 at noon, Central, and June 21 at Noon, Central.

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