



# AIANEA National Council Teleconference Minutes

Monday, March 2, 2015

12:00 pm Pacific, 1:00 pm Mountain, 2:00 pm Central, 3:00 pm Eastern

*Respect, Harmony and Beauty*

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

### **President**

*Steve Durgin, Washington DC*

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

*Athena Pratt, California*

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

*Dr. Carol Crouch, Oklahoma*

### **Secretary**

*Melissa Sturdivant, Texas*

### **Treasurer**

*Pam Crow, Texas*

*Bill Parrish, Pennsylvania*

### **East Regional Representative**

*Cassius Spears, Rhode Island*

### **Midwest Regional Representative**

*Debe Walchuk, Minnesota*

### **Northern Plains Regional Representative**

*Cameron Clark, Wyoming*

### **Southeast Regional Representative**

*David Elliott, Alabama*

### **South Central Regional Representative**

*Patra Ghergich, Louisiana*

## **Guests Attending:**

*None*

## **Past Presidents**

*Herb Webb, Montana*

*Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Ohio*

*Gina Kerzman, Washington*

## **Meeting Minutes:**

- a. Meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm (Central) by Steve Durgin, President.
- b. Steve took roll call and welcomed the new members to the Association's National Council. A quorum was achieved and business of the Association was conducted.
- c. New agenda items: None at present.
- d. Review of action items from past meetings or those currently on the Registry.  
Facilitator – *Melissa Sturdivant*
  1. **ACTION ITEM:** Steve and Melissa will work to get award notifications distributed to award recipients and supervisors. *Steve reported that he is still working on this. Melissa reported that she gathered the contact information and addresses and forwarded this to Steve. Steve indicated that the notifications are still being worked on at present.*
  2. **ACTION ITEM:** Melissa will prepare the runoff ballot and distribute this to the West Region members. *Melissa reported that this was completed and the election results were tabulated and verified. Steve reported that he had spoken with each of the candidates regarding the results, and reported that Susan Looper had won the election as the West Region Representative.*
  3. **ACTION ITEM:** Steve and Melissa will prepare an announcement of the general election results and distribute this to the membership. *Melissa reported that this was accomplished and the Association membership was notified.*
  4. **ACTION ITEM:** Steve and Melissa will research the process to determine the course of action needed to fill the East Region RTCAC position upon the retirement of John McCoy later in the year (Oct 15). *Steve reported that the Bulletin provides the guidance for this process, and also that the same process which was just completed for filling of the West Region RTCAC position and Alternate will be conducted for those*

*positions that are coming vacant this year. Discussions followed. This item needs to be looked at to determine the status is the Central Region RTCAC representation and filling of the East Region position.*

5. **ACTION ITEM:** Melissa will contact the principal parties and work to compile all of the historical information so that a common core of historical information is permanently recorded and readily available. *Melissa reported that this was done, and information is being submitted by different people and will be catalogued.*
6. **ACTION ITEM:** Steve will visit with Carol about the Bylaws review process that is needed and also forward to the Bylaws Committee a copy of most recent Bylaws and Constitution for the Association. Melissa reported that she had forwarded a copy of what was on file as the most current copy of the Bylaws and Constitution. *Steve provided some background information to Carol but decided they would meet separately to discuss further what is needed.*
7. Steve explained the purpose of the Action Item Registry for the new Council members and that it allows the National Council to keep track of deadlines and to have a record of work accomplished throughout the year.
8. Melissa asked that we close out the Action Item Registry for 2014 (Attachment A) and open a new registry for 2015 work (Attachment B).

*Motion to close the 2014 Action Item Registry for the AIANEA National Council: Cassius Spears*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: David Elliott*

*No discussions. All voted in favor with no votes opposed to the action proposed, and the motion passed.*

- e. Review and approval of minutes for the National Council meeting conducted on February 3, 2014.  
Facilitator – *Melissa Sturdivant*

*Motion to approve the minutes for the 2/3/2015 meeting as presented: David Elliott*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Dr. Carol Crouch*

*No corrections noted. All voted in favor with no votes opposed to the action proposed, and the motion passed.*

- f. Treasurer's Report.

Facilitators – *Pam Crow & Bill Parrish*

Pam reported the following account balances:

1. \$ 44,097.50 in Wells Fargo checking  
\$ 106,770.43 in Frost Bank
2. Pam reported that we are still waiting to receive the payment for the training registrations from Alabama. Melissa added that while we thought the process was completed, we discovered immediately following the Council meeting the previous month that another step was required. Melissa indicated that she had to register the Association with the Invoice Processing Protocol (IPP) system. Melissa explained that for a payment to be made by Alabama NRCS, Alabama required an invoice for the billing, and by doing this, this would trigger the payment to be completed. Melissa reported that she was working closely with the Contracting Officer from Alabama NRCS, and several other contracting officials in the "national" accounting processing channels, and also added that it is about a 30-day process to have the invoice created, billed, and for the payment to actually be processed. She said she would stay on top of it and let us know how it progresses. David extended his appreciation to both Pam and Melissa for getting this done!

*Motion to approve the treasury report as presented: David Elliott*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Dr. Carol Crouch*

*No corrections noted. All voted in favor with no votes opposed to the action proposed, and the motion passed.*

- g. President's Update.

Facilitator – *Steve Durgin*

1. Steve provided the final results for the election of the 2015 National Council, with the finalization of the runoff election for the West Region Representative. The 2015 National Council is as follows:

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Dr. Carol Crouch

Midwest Regional Rep – Debe Walchuk

South Central Regional Rep – Patra Ghergich

East Regional Rep – Cassius Spears

Northern Plains Regional Rep – Cameron Clark

West Regional Rep – Susan Looper

2. Steve indicated that they are talking about conducting a Working Effectively with American Indians (WEWAI) training in the Washington, DC area, but it looks as if it will be scheduled later in the fall of this year.
3. David asked Melissa about the Bylaws that were sent out recently and wanted to know if part of the document was missing because there was no signature page or any record that it was adopted and/or voted on. Melissa reported that this is what she was given by Gina two or three years earlier, and that she has not found a more

recent document that has signatures. Carol thought she might have some information, and she said that she would search for this. Tanya also reported that she knows that several revisions took place, and that there were formally-adopted Bylaws accomplished over the course of years. David reported that when he was President in 2007, major changes occurred with the Bylaws and that he has a signed copy he can share with the Constitution and Bylaws Committee as they begin to work with the review process. Discussions followed. Carol is the lead for this committee work.

**ACTION ITEM:** Steve will visit with Carol about the Bylaws review process and review what is needed to be accomplished by the Committee.

h. National AIAN Special Emphasis Program Manager (SEPM) Report  
Facilitator – *Deborah Clairmont*

Deb was not present for the meeting and no written report was submitted to the Council.

Steve asked Athena if she had attended the National SEPM teleconference, and Athena indicated that she was planning to participate in the May teleconference.

i. Regional Representatives' Reports  
Facilitators – *Steve Durgin & Regional Representatives*

1. Steve provided a general overview to the new Regional Representatives regarding what is generally provided with these regional reports. He asked that they review the Bylaws that Melissa had forwarded out by email and become familiar with those.

2. Southeast Region, *David Elliott*

David indicated that the Southeast Region is scheduled to develop this year's American Indian Heritage Month poster, and that he is working with Deborah Clairmont on this project. He reported that they are already behind schedule and are working to get things going with development of this project.

David reported that Alabama NRCS and the Poarch Band of Creek Indians was selected as one of the sites for WEWAI training planned in 2015, and that they are already working to prepare for this event later this year. He reported that he, Carol and Nathaniel are the three cadre members which will be providing the instruction during the session.

3. Northern Plains Region, *Cameron Clark*

Cameron reported that he continues to work on the database project and is combing through the various lists to reconcile and compile the information to a usable platform. He said that we have a lot of good lists, but each has its own format and information it provides, but, for the most part, they are not consistent with one another. He discussed that there is a lot of potential and opportunities to develop a usable database that will allow us to keep in touch with personnel with tribal responsibilities. Discussions followed. He welcomed input and suggestions from the Council regarding the scope and depth of the project.

Cameron reported that he had contacted the Wyoming AIAN SEPM and took her to several locations in the state to familiarize her with the area, the people, and the work being done. He indicated that the Tribal Liaison does not work with the SEPM and she has been pretty limited in her outreach efforts, so he has tried to assist her in meeting others who can help her be involved with the AIAN community.

4. Midwest Region, *Debe Walchuk*

Debe provided the following report, but asked for clarification regarding what she should be asking for from the individual states. She felt she was bothering the SEPMs considering they already provide information to the National AIAN SEPM. Carol clarified that she felt what Debe was doing was on the right track, and felt that it was not a duplication, and this is the type of information that the Council needs in order to know what is going on in the various regions of Indian Country.

See attached report provided by Debe (Attachment D).

5. East Region, *Cassius Spears*

Cassius reported that in Maine, the Penobscot Nation is working to develop a "People's Garden." A similar effort is occurring in Rhode Island for Elders of the Narragansett Indian Tribe as well as additional efforts with other tribes in the region.

Cassius indicated that John Whitney (New York) is working to develop the WEWAI training to be held in partnership with the Seneca Nation. John anticipates approximately 50 or more employees attending.

Several states are actively recruiting for the Pathways internships.

Cassius reported that several Pow Wows are scheduled this spring in several New England states to include those celebrating the spring thaw, and the spring planting moon.

Cassius added that he hopes to attend the semi-annual meeting of the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) which is planned to occur in Connecticut. He hopes to work with Connecticut and hopefully assist with the set-up of an outreach booth for the event.

j. National Tribal Liaison Officer Report

Facilitator – *Barry Hamilton*

Barry was not present for the meeting nor was a written report submitted to the Council.

k. Committee Reports

Facilitator – *Steve Durgin & Committee Chairs/Representatives*

The following committee reports were provided:

1. AIAN Database (Contact) Committee, *Cameron Clark*

Cameron added to his report from earlier in the meeting, but also requested Council feedback regarding the scope of the project. Discussions followed. Cameron explained how the access database is being developed using excel spreadsheets, and this information will be incorporated into a database so that information can be extracted as needed. Steve felt that the one excel master spreadsheet was the best route at present so that all of the information can be entered. Once we have all of this, then we can determine the course of action. Steve added that at least we will have all of the information and then information can be queried to extract what is needed.

Cameron indicated that about 350 people are on the list at present. Steve stated that he will assist Cameron in identifying the names of the fields which will help with this and creation of the end product.

2. Elders' Committee, *Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen*

Tanya reported on the status of the *Elders in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* book project, and indicated that she and Gina have been working on this, but had put it to the back burner with the national training being planned as well as the cookbook project being completed. She reported that in Alabama, Melissa had offered to help on the Elder book project and they were excited to have her involved especially with her work with bringing the Cookbook Project to fruition. Tanya reported that recently, the three of them met to review the project goals and to strategize a course of action to get things accomplished.

Tanya provided a historical perspective and background info about the project and how it has evolved over the course of years for the new Council members. She stated that the Elders want to share their story with AIANEA and the larger population – more importantly, they want people to know that Elders exist in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and that they contribute; and, as Elder Herrera shared, this is their opportunity to tell their story. Elder Metoxen felt it was important also to tell the whole story, the good and bad, which will provide a comprehensive picture of a people and an Elder.

They have a vision – they have the chapters identified that will be part of the book:

- Elder bios and photos which will be modeled similar to what was done in the Cookbook
- Their historical perspective; Tribal history
- My favorite place(s) – sacred places and why
- Contributions of my Tribe – foods, medicines, etc. and other important facts
- Atrocities suffered by my Tribe – massacres, diseases, etc.
- Sharing of wisdom to ensure survival of the next seven generations

One important aspect of this book is the inclusion of some of the interviews and audio recordings. Gina had recorded stories from previous Elder teleconferences, and they also have the interviews captured during the tapings to create the WEWAI DVD. There is a lot of information that is available to include in the book. The cumbersome part is extracting this information into a usable format and including it in the book. Tanya reported that they believe this is doable, but admitted that it is an aggressive time frame, but they want to plan for having the book ready by October to debut in November as part of American Indian Heritage Month.

They need some help from AIANEA members, and need the following support:

- Interviewers / researchers – interviews of the Elders as needed, and research of the tribal history
- Transcribers – to transcribe the recordings to written form
- Final reviewers – to read and review the type-sets of the material and to do a final proof before submission for inclusion in the book
- Marketing – to help with the outreach and marketing of the book

Tanya thought that we may need two people for each Elder to tag-team the work with the Elder. However, she said that some Elder Representatives have asked to be the POC for the Elder so they are not overwhelmed. Tanya reported that we hope to have a template available which will guide the development, and she commented that this really worked well with the cookbook project, and the Elders liked having a guideline to follow when pulling their information together.

Tanya requested feedback from the Council. Discussions followed. Steve suggested that we include as many members as possible. Steve asked about the transcribing process, and asked if she was using a software product to do this or what. Tanya stated that she does not have software, and recognizes that it will be a tedious process. Cassius asked about how many hours are needing transcription, and Gina thought at least or slightly more than an hour for each Elder who was interviewed.

Tanya added that we discussed including a CD in a sleeve at the back of the book and using some of the interviews conducted as part of the WEWAI DVD production. Tanya reported that Melissa had talked with Bob Stobaugh and he thought this would be fine and had no problem with us using some of his material from the audio tapings for the DVD.

Steve suggested that we might look at purchasing some software to help with the transcribing of the audio to paper. Steve asked Melissa how she is able to do the minutes and transcribing of those, and she indicated that she does not use any software, but replays the recordings over and over to get the final product. Carol asked if we are including Elders other than those in AIANEA, and Gina, Tanya and Melissa reported that this project involved only our Elders. Gina elaborated that we plan to include all of the Elders that have been involved with the Association to include Evan Spino, Leland Debe and Louie Dick, and that we will need help in doing interviews with family members or tribal members for those who have passed on. Cassius asked if we had releases from each of the Elders for the publication and release of their information to be published. Gina said that she has some and is working on making sure we have the others as well. Tanya added that each of the Elders were involved with the decision making and were aware of being recorded.

Debe asked if there will be an audio version of the book planned, and Tanya responded that it might be an option, but their first priority is to have a tangible product such as a book as the final product. Cassius added that the historical use of oral story-telling and tribal traditions might lend itself to producing an audio format for the book. He added that how you say something is very important to telling the story and does not translate similarly as what might be conveyed in written word. Cassius asked if we were ever considering selling the cookbook in a digital format. Melissa reported that this is available now and that an ebook version is available when ordering directly from the publisher's website. However, she explained that the Council decided to keep the sale through the Association because with the markup, we are able to collect additional monies to fund the college scholarships. Selling directly from the website only allows for payment of the direct cost; we don't have the ability to mark it up and collect scholarship funds. Cassius offered to look into self-publishing platforms and forward this info to Melissa, and she thought that would be great. Carol asked about the CD being available as part of the book. Tanya clarified that this would not be the work that is used in the WEWAI trainings, but would be extra material that was recorded and not used as part of the DVD, and that hopefully, we could capture some of it and put it together on a CD.

Steve asked that Tanya draft up a plan of action which identifies what is needed, and Steve would send this to Yvette for further distribution. It was believed that no vote was needed at this time since this is a standing committee and they are working on an on-going project.

3. Awards Committee, *Herb Webb*

Herb had no report at this time. Steve reported that he is still working to send out the notifications to award recipients and to their chain of command regarding this year's awards.

4. Cookbook Committee, *Melissa Sturdivant*

Melissa reported that a copy of the AIANEA Cookbook was presented to Chief Jason Weller by Roylene Rides at the Door on the Association's behalf. Melissa added that Roylene had asked for a copy and planned to present it to the Chief. Recently, Roylene conveyed that she had done this and the Chief was very pleased with the book.

Melissa reported that a new order form was created and distributed to the Council for their use. The order form now allows for additional contributions or donations to the scholarship fund. She reported that she sent this to John Whitney and he posted it to our Facebook page, and that she also sent it to Yvette. She added that Yvette was trying to get it loaded to the webpage, but she has been having problems getting things uploaded to the Association's webpage, and was working to get this corrected.

5. Communications Committee, *Gina Kerzman & Steve Durgin*

Steve provided some background information to the new Council members about the efforts to work on development of various communications platforms. Steve stated that right now it is Yvette and Anna but additional Association members signed up at the national training and want to help. They include: Pat Broyles, John Whitney, Sharron Santure, Robin Slate and Charlotte Pyle. Steve stated that we need a plan of action and may need to set a date to meet. Gina and Steve will meet to discuss this effort to build and further develop the Communications Committee.

**ACTION ITEM:** Gina and Steve will meet to discuss the effort to build and further develop the Communications Committee.

l. New business:

*No new business.*

m. Review of Action Items from current meeting:

1. **ACTION ITEM:** *(carried forward from 2014)* Steve and Melissa will work to get award notifications distributed to award recipients and supervisors. *Steve reported that he is still working on this. Melissa reported that she gathered the contact information and addresses and forwarded this to Steve. Steve indicated that the notifications are still being worked on at present.*

2. **ACTION ITEM:** *(carried forward from 2014)* Steve and Melissa will research the process to determine the course of action needed to fill the East Region RTCAC position upon the retirement of John McCoy later in the year (Oct 15). *Steve reported that the Bulletin provides the guidance for this process, and also that the same process which was just completed for filling of the West Region RTCAC position and Alternate will be conducted for those positions that are coming vacant this year. Discussions followed. This item needs to be looked at to determine the status is the Central Region RTCAC representation and filling of the East Region position.*

3. **ACTION ITEM:** Steve will visit with Carol about the Bylaws review process and review what is needed to be accomplished by the Committee.

4. **ACTION ITEM:** Gina and Steve will meet to discuss the effort to build and further develop the Communications Committee.

n. Closing thoughts & comments. Steve extended his sincere appreciation to the National Council and Association members for all that they have accomplished this year. Steve welcomed the new National Council members and looks forward to a great year working together. He said that we need to be thinking about our future training plan and this will be something that we will start tackling in the near future.

Bill Parrish asked that we remember the family of Bill Hunt, former State Conservationist from Minnesota and Deputy State Conservationist from Pennsylvania, and reminded us of his recent passing. Bill added that Bill Hunt was a strong advocate of our Association and all employee organizations. Carol reported that Bill will be returning to Oklahoma to be buried, and Carol plans to attend the service.

Gina reminded everyone that AIANEA Life Member, Leota Burnett, recently retired from NRCS. Steve will send this notice to Yvette for distribution.

Steve reported that Roy Doore has been ill so we should keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

o. Adjourn – Steve extended his appreciation to those members and committee chairs attending, and with no further business, Steve adjourned the Council meeting at 4:00 pm, Central.

4 attachments

- A. 2014 Action Item Registry
- B. 2015 Action Item Registry
- C. National Council 3 2 15 Meeting Agenda
- D. Midwest Regional Report (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.



## 2014 AIANEA National Council *ACTION ITEMS* Registry

Date: March 23, 2015

*Respect, Harmony and Beauty*

Date Initiated	Action Item Description	Person(s) Responsible	Disposition Date	Reference Document
<b>ACTION ITEMS – COMPLETED</b>				
1/20/2015	<i>Steve and Melissa will work to get award notifications distributed to award recipients and supervisors. 2.3.15-Steve reported that he is still working on this. Melissa reported that she gathered the contact information and addresses and forwarded this to Steve.</i>	S. Durgin & M. Sturdivant	CARRIED FORWARD TO 2015 REGISTRY	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, March 2015
2/3/2015	<i>Melissa will prepare the runoff ballot and distribute this to the West Region members.</i>	M. Sturdivant	3/2/2015	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, March 2015
2/3/2015	<i>Steve and Melissa will prepare an announcement of the election results and distribute this to the membership.</i>	S. Durgin & M. Sturdivant	3/2/2015	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, March 2015
2/3/2015	<i>Steve and Melissa will research the process and determine the course of action needed to fill the East Region RTCAC position upon the retirement of John McCoy later in the year (Oct 15).</i>	S. Durgin & M. Sturdivant	CARRIED FORWARD TO 2015 REGISTRY	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, March 2015
2/3/2015	<i>Melissa will contact the principal parties and work to compile all of the historical information so that a common core of historical information is permanently recorded and readily available.</i>	M. Sturdivant	3/2/2015	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, March 2015
2/3/2015	<i>Steve will visit with Carol about the Bylaws review process that is needed and also forward to the Bylaws Committee a copy of most recent Bylaws and Constitution for the Association.</i>	S. Durgin	3/2/2015	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, March 2015
1/20/2015	<i>Melissa will get with Pam and see about the status of the DUNS and SAM.gov registration.</i>	M. Sturdivant	2/3/2015	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Feb 2015
1/20/2015	<i>Steve and Melissa will get the election ballot prepared and distributed to the membership.</i>	S. Durgin & M. Sturdivant	2/3/2015	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Feb 2015

1/20/2015	<i>Melissa will gather names of supervisors for each award recipient and forward this information to Steve.</i>	M. Sturdivant	2/3/2015	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Feb 2015
1/20/2015	<i>Melissa will forward info on RTCAC selection process to Steve</i>	M. Sturdivant	2/3/2015	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Feb 2015
1/20/2015	<i>Steve will work to get the materials out to the candidates for the West RTCAC for their completion prior to the next National Council meeting for selections to be made.</i>	S. Durgin	2/3/2015	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Feb 2015
12/2/2014	<i>Steve will work to form an ad hoc committee which includes Carol, Melissa and Cameron to develop a directory of personnel working within the AIAN arena to include the AIANEA National Council, TLs, SEPMS, and other Agency personnel with tribal responsibilities.</i>	S. Durgin	2/3/2015	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Feb 2015
12/2/2014	<i>Melissa will work with Steve to prepare the call for nominations for the current vacancies on the AIANEA National Council and get this information to Yvette for distribution.</i>	M. Sturdivant & S. Durgin	1/20/2015	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Jan 2015
12/2/2014	<i>Steve will sign the letters for the scholarship recipients and forward these to Pam for processing.</i>	S. Durgin	1/20/2015	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Jan 2015
12/2/2014	<i>Carol will prepare the final letters to be sent to the scholarship recipients and forward to Steve.</i>	Carol Crouch	1/20/2015	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Jan 2015
12/2/2014	<i>Pam will prepare a listing of all of those who attended the national training and provide this to the National Council.</i>	P. Crow	1/20/2015	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Jan 2015
12/2/2014	<i>Tanya will go to the local Wells Fargo bank and remove her name from the account.</i>	T. Meyer-Dideriksen	1/20/2015	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Jan 2015
10/7/2014	<i>Steve will forward to David Elliott and Ciro Lo Pinto the questions brought forward regarding the East RTCAC.</i>	S. Durgin	2/3/2015	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Feb 2015
10/7/2014	<i>Melissa will forward to the National Council a link to preview the cookbook project.</i>	M. Sturdivant	12/2/2014	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Dec 2014
9/2/2014	<i>Steve will prepare and forward information about the RTCAC vacancy in the West Region to Yvette for distribution to AIANEA membership.</i>	S. Durgin	10/7/2014	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Oct 2014
9/2/2014	<i>Steve will work with Pam Crow and forward the 50% payment to the Wind Creek Resort.</i>	S. Durgin	10/7/2014	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Oct 2014

9/2/2014	<i>Melissa will forward to the National Council the email from Roylene requesting assistance with developing a communications protocol between the Agency and Tribes, etc.</i>	M. Sturdivant	10/7/2014	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Oct 2014
9/2/2014	<i>Tanya will forward to Melissa the information for inclusion in the cookbook on the three additional Elders.</i>	T. Meyer-Dideriksen	10/7/2014	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Oct 2014
9/2/2014	<i>Ciro will assist Melissa and Yvette with editing of the cookbook to prepare for publication.</i>	C. Lo Pinto	10/7/2014	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Oct 2014
6/2/2014	<i>Athena Pratt and Bill Parish will research bylaws to determine changes needed to make the president positions two-year positions instead of one-year positions.</i>	S. Durgin	7/2/2014	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, July 2014
4/4/2014	<i>Steve will coordinate a meeting with Richard Begay, Athena Pratt and Melissa Sturdivant to review duties and responsibilities of the Council officers.</i>	S. Durgin	6/2/2014	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, June 2014
3/10/2014	<i>Steve will follow-up with Athena so that she is aware that an external audit is required and of the other requirements needing attention and involvement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.</i>	S. Durgin	4/4/2014	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, April 2014
2/10/2014	<i>Steve will follow-up with Gina to determine the status of the letter to be submitted to the Regional Conservationists regarding involvement of AIANEA with the RTCAC work.</i>	S. Durgin & G. Kerzman	4/4/2014	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, April 2014
2/10/2014	<i>Steve will verify the process to form/re-form the Ad Hoc Finance Committee to allow for the annual audit to be accomplished.</i>	S. Durgin	3/10/2014	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Mar 2014
1/14/2014	<i>Gina, Roylene and Steve will continue to compile data to update the skills matrix database and forward this to Astor Boozer and Barry Hamilton as it becomes available.</i>	G. Kerzman, R. Rides-at-the-Door & S. Durgin	4/4/2014	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, April 2014
1/14/2014	<i>Melissa will draft the questions from Barry Hamilton and distribute these to the Association membership soliciting feedback regarding NRCS program regulations affecting business at the local level with Tribes.</i>	M. Sturdivant & Council	1/24/2014	Fwd'd to B. Hamilton (MS); Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Feb 2014
1/14/2014	<i>Steve and Carol will work to locate documentation which funds the AI Heritage poster event.</i>	C. Crouch & S. Durgin	2/10/2014	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Feb 2014
1/14/2014	<i>Steve and Melissa will work together to distribute the minutes from the Association's Annual Business meeting to those who attended.</i>	S. Durgin & M. Sturdivant	2/10/2014	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Feb 2014
12/19/2013	<i>To have the President work with Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen and Samantha Dinger to draft a letter to bring before the National Council which will be forwarded to the Regional Conservationists regarding the coordination of RTCAC business and involvement with the Association and specifically how often they meet, length of terms, and involvement of our Elders.</i>	G. Kerzman, T. Meyer-Dideriksen & S. Dinger	3/10/2014	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes, Mar 2014
5/7/2013	<i>Once the sharepoint information and logon instructions are forwarded to Gina and Steve, they will forward this to the Council.</i>	G. Kerzman & S. Durgin	4/4/2014	Nat'l Council Mtg Minutes,

## REFERENCE DOCUMENTATION

- “AIA NEA” indicates emails which were forwarded from the AIA NEA Membership email account maintained by Y. Dulle.
- “Nat’l Council Mtg Minutes” for the respective month when disposition was reported/recorded.

Initials indicate the principal individual.

- GK – Gina Kerzman
- CC – Dr. Carol Crouch
- SD – Steve Durgin
- SD1 – Samantha Dinger
- TM/TMD – Tanya Meyer- Dideriksen
- YD – Yvette Dulle
- GS – Garry Stephens
- MS – Melissa Sturdivant
- HW – Herb Webb

For information regarding the registry and/or its content, contact Melissa Sturdivant, AIA NEA Secretary, at [melissa.sturdivant@tx.usda.gov](mailto:melissa.sturdivant@tx.usda.gov).



2015 AIANEA National Council *ACTION ITEMS* Registry

Date: March 24, 2015

*Respect, Harmony and Beauty*

Date Initiated	Action Item Description	Person(s) Responsible	Disposition Date	Reference Document
<b>ACTION ITEMS – PENDING</b>				
3/2/2015	Gina and Steve will meet to discuss the effort to build and further develop the Communications Committee.	S. Durgin & G. Kerzman		
3/2/2015	Steve will visit with Carol about the Bylaws review process and review what is needed to be accomplished by the Committee.	S. Durgin & C. Crouch		
2/3/2015	Steve and Melissa will research the process to determine the course of action needed to fill the East Region RTCAC position upon the retirement of John McCoy later in the year (Oct 15). 3.2.15–Steve reported that the Bulletin provides the guidance for this process, and also that the same process which was just completed for filling of the West Region RTCAC position and Alternate will be conducted for those positions that are coming vacant this year. This item needs to be looked at to determine the status is the Central Region RTCAC representation and filling of the East Region position. CARRIED FORWARD FROM 2014 REGISTRY	S. Durgin & M. Sturdivant		
1/20/2015	Steve and Melissa will work to get award notifications distributed to award recipients and supervisors. 2.3.15–Melissa reported that she gathered the contact information and addresses and forwarded this to Steve. 3.2.15–Steve reported that he is still working on this. CARRIED FORWARD FROM 2014 REGISTRY	S. Durgin & M. Sturdivant		



# AIANEA National Council Teleconference

March 2, 2015

12:00 pm Pacific, 1:00 pm Mountain, 2:00 pm Central, 3:00 pm Eastern

This meeting will take place by teleconference.

**Call-in number:** 888-844-9904

**Passcode:** 5203411

## ATTACHMENT C

March 2, 2015			
Time (PST)	Duration	Topic	Presenter
12:00	10 min	Welcome and Introductions -Review agenda and ask for new agenda items	Steve Durgin
12:10	10 min	Review action items from previous minutes	Melissa Sturdivant & Council
12:20	5 min	Review/Approval of February Meeting Minutes	Melissa Sturdivant & Council
12:25	5 min	Treasurer's Report	Pam Crow & Bill Parrish
12:30	10 min	President's update: - Elections	Steve Durgin
12:40	10 min	National AI/AN SEPM Report	Deborah Clairmont
12:50	10 min	Regional Representative Reports	Regional Reps
1:00	10 min	National Tribal Liaison Report	Barry Hamilton

1:10	10 min	Committee updates -Elders Committee -Awards Committee -Ad Hoc -Cookbook Committee -Ad Hoc -AIAN Database Committee	Committee Chairs
1:20	10 min	New Business	Steve Durgin
1:30	10 min	New agenda items	All
1:40	10 min	Review of Action Items from current meeting	All
1:50	10 min	Closing thoughts and comments	All
2:00		Adjourn	

**Additional items:**

# ATTACHMENT D

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Date: March 2, 2015

To: AIANEA National Council

Subject: AIANEA Midwest Regional Representative Report to National Council

News:

District Conservationist vacancies with Tribal Liaison duties: Milaca FO, MN; Redwood Falls FO, MN.

WELRP Indigenous Farming Conference, March 6-7, 2015, Callaway, MN

SAIGE Annual National Training Program, June 15-19, 2015?, Welch, MN

National Cooperative Soil Science Conference, June 7-11, 2015, Duluth, MN

Per John Beck, MN State Soil Scientist:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/survey/partnership/?cid=stelprdb1267531>

The call for papers/posters/training deadline is coming up March 6<sup>th</sup> (may be extended).

Current POC's from Midwestern States:

Illinois: Josh Franks, DC, SEPM

Indiana: Kelley Barkell, DC, SEPM

Iowa: Abby Beltz, Bus Tools Spec., SEPM

Ohio:

Michigan:

Minnesota: Debe Walchuk, STL (Dave Wise, SEPM)

Missouri: Joe Steuber

Wisconsin: Chris Borden, SC, STL (Greg Yackle, SEPM)

Reports from Midwestern States:

Illinois: During AIANEA month in November the National AIANEA representative Deb Clairmont and I put a display together at our state office in Champaign at the entrance to the building as well as sent out statewide emails with articles and links. Routinely update our Share Point site with articles and links. Reached out to Chief John Froman (Peoria Tribe – Oklahoma) for a land purchase opportunity in December for land in Henry County, IL that has significant historical importance to his tribe. Attending national SEPM training in Washington DC this March.

Indiana: Currently we are working with the Pokagon's out of Michigan on some ground in Northern Indiana that tribal members own. They have a current WRP site that NRCS is providing technical assistance and financial. We are working to help the tribe enhance their WRP site. We are designing additional macro topography areas, an additional ditch plug as well as a water control structure to help bring flood waters onto the wetland site.

They received a grant from US Fish and Wildlife Tribal grants and they will be using that money as well as money from WRP to improve WRP habitats (through the WRP program).

As far as position here in Indiana we are moving forward with hiring 11 open spots should be on USAJOBS soon.

2 district conservationists

2 soil conservationists

1 soil conservation technician

2 Ag engineers

2 Engineer technicians

1 Area program specialist

1 Conservation Delivery Team leader

Also want to make a shout out to all involved in the AIANEA training conference in Atmore. Thought it was great and hope we get the opportunity to do again next year. Please let me know if anything I can do to help with the next conference.

Iowa: New SEPM, Abby Beltz

Ohio:

Michigan:

Minnesota: \*Awaiting new STC \*Fond du Lac Band 13 Moons Pow Wow last January \*2 Tribal Extension positions currently advertised \* MSTC Tribal Subcommittee advising STC \* USFS/NRCS/Tribes collaborating on the Upper Mississippi Headwaters Restoration partnership project \*Prairie Island Indian Community – Efforts to better manage the bison herd \* Red Lake Band receiving engineering assistance to implement lake access \*Leech Lake Band Tribal Ed & Career Fair, Red Lake Water Festival

Missouri: Nothing to report this quarter.

Wisconsin: In January 2015, the Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) made fifteen technical recommendations to the WI NRCS in order to make the EQIP program work more effectively on Tribal and Tribal member land in Wisconsin. The NRCS appreciates the hard work, dedication and patience shown by the WTCAC over the past 15 years that allows the NRCS to better meet its Trust Responsibilities in concrete ways. The WTCAC is increasingly providing similar assistance to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Farm Service Agency, National Ag Statistics Service, Risk Management Agency, Rural Development, and the US Forest Service.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debe Walchuk, AIANEA Midwest Regional Representative