



AIANEA National Council Teleconference Minutes

Friday, May 15, 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

1st Vice President

Athena Pratt, California

Secretary

Melissa Sturdivant, Texas

Treasurer

Pam Crow, Texas

Bill Parrish, Pennsylvania

East Regional Representative

Cassius Spears, Rhode Island

Midwest Regional Representative

Deb Walchuk, Minnesota

Guests Attending:

Deborah Clairmont, Illinois, National AIAN SEPM

Past Presidents Attending:

None

Meeting Minutes:

- a. Meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm (Central) by Steve Durgin, President.
- b. Steve took roll call of those attending the meeting. No quorum was achieved so business for the Council was limited.
- c. Review of action items from past meetings or those currently on the Registry.
Facilitator – Melissa Sturdivant
 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. Melissa added that Steve had told her that he was still working on this. 5/15 update: Steve has completed the letters and articles to be distributed, and he is mailing those to the supervisors and State Conservationists. Steve thought it would be completed by today, but he still needs a few addresses. Deb asked for clarification and what the awards were for, and Steve explained that these were the 2014 Association awards.
 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. 5/15 update: Steve reported that he needs to follow-up on this and the Central position, too. Deb reported that Jennifer Dubendorf was very active working with the Central Regional Conservationist, and is now the Assistant State Conservationist for Operations, etc. in Minnesota, and that she might be helpful with getting some information. Steve will check on the Central Region RTCAC position as well and hopes to have these positions advertised by the fall.
 3. **ACTION ITEM:** Steve will visit with Carol about the Bylaws review process and review what is needed to be accomplished by the Committee. Melissa reported that Steve had indicated that he is working to schedule a meeting with Carol. While in Oklahoma on his travel, he hopes to meet with Carol and review what needs to be done. Carol added that she hopes to meet with Steve tomorrow and get the committee work started. 5/15 Update: Carol has the committee information and is beginning her work with this committee.

4. **ACTION ITEM:** *Gina and Steve will meet to discuss the effort to build and further develop the Communications Committee. Melissa reported that Steve is working on this, and Gina added that they are setting up a meeting. 5/15 Update: Steve reported that Gina, Steve, Yvette and Melissa met to discuss some planning for the membership committee and Gina has the lead for working on this.*
5. **ACTION ITEM:** *Melissa will make sure the notice regarding Sarah Bridges is distributed. 5/15 Update: Melissa reported that this information was distributed by Yvette to the membership.*
6. **ACTION ITEM:** *Melissa will forward to the National Council a copy of the latest Bylaws. 5/15 Update: Melissa reported that the Bylaws were forwarded to the members of the National Council.*
7. **ACTION ITEM:** *Cameron will forward a member listing to each Regional Representative and the National Council. 5/15 Update: Melissa reported that Cameron had reported that he done this. Deb reported that she is working with Cameron and is emailing members in her region. Steve added that there are several lists being developed to help develop the database; however, he reported that we are sensitive to personal information being distributed, and we have several lists in development. He added that eventually, we may have a more public list available to the Association. Deb asked if she should be sharing Association minutes with non-members, and Steve indicated that this was fine. But, he added that member listings should not be distributed at present.*

Discussions followed. Steve added that eventually we want to have a database of members and other personnel so that information can be distributed. Deborah Clairmont stated that she would rather have information be sent to her for her to distribute to the Special Emphasis Program Managers (SEPMs) because this list is constantly changing. Steve indicated that he will let Cameron know. Steve offered that we might be able to link the two lists and when Deborah's list is updated, it would update the information in the database. Deborah added that she created and maintains her listing of SEPMs in an Excel spreadsheet. Deborah was concerned that the SEPMs are getting too much information – they get information from her regarding trainings, and then with the Association sending things, the SEPMs are bombarded with information. Deborah stated that she consolidates information and tries to reduce the amount of emails they are receiving. Steve reported that we will try to limit our email traffic to Association membership only, and any information specifically for SEPMs, that we would send it to Deborah for review and dissemination. But, Steve added that the main thing is that we are trying to be careful that personal information is not disclosed in the distribution lists outside of our employee association.

d. Review of minutes for the National Council meeting conducted on April 6, 2015.

Facilitator – *Melissa Sturdivant*

Melissa provided a brief summation of what occurred during the meeting; however, with no quorum present, approval of the minutes was tabled until the next scheduled meeting.

e. Treasurer's Report.

Facilitators – *Pam Crow & Bill Parrish*

1. Pam reported the following account balances:
\$ 48,367.50 in Wells Fargo checking
\$ 107,508.54 in Frost Bank
2. Pam reported that she will be sending a \$25,000 check to Frost Bank to replenish the money used for the national training. This money was "borrowed" from the investment accounts in order to take care of expenses during the national training pending payment of registrations and donations.
3. Steve indicated that there are still several registrations which have not been paid, and he will follow-up on those. Melissa and Pam reported that the \$4,000 was paid and we are caught up with the DUNS and SAM.gov systems.
4. Bill and Pam reported on the audit process this year. The financial records will be reviewed by an external auditing firm and this information will be reviewed by the ad hoc audit committee once the external audit is completed.

Pam provided a brief summation of the financials; however, with no quorum present, approval of the treasurer's report was tabled until the next scheduled meeting.

f. President's Update.

Facilitator – *Steve Durgin*

Steve reported that he had been approached by a retired NRCS employee about a project he is working on. His name is Rick Chavez and Steve explained that Rick did a photography exposé on Hispanic employees, and he is developing other work trying to capture the diversity of the USDA employees. He felt that this would be something inspiring for future recruitment opportunities and to showcase our careers. Rick has offered to do something similar to this project but focusing on American Indian/Alaska Native employees.

Discussions followed. Steve reviewed some options regarding how to be involved in this effort. Someone interested in participating would need to be in the Washington, DC area. Steve reported that he had asked him if he would be willing to narrow his project to Association members or to NRCS, and Steve reported that Rick seemed open to doing this. Steve suggested that he send this information to Melissa and then have Melissa forward it to the membership to see if anyone is interested. Basically, if someone is interested, then they can send their information to Steve and Melissa and then we can figure out how to involve Association members. Steve asked if someone was willing to work on creating a flyer or something to send to our members to let them know and to see if someone is interested. Melissa offered to work on this if Steve could provide her the information.

ACTION ITEM:

Steve will send the information about the project that Rick Chavez is working on. Melissa will prepare a flyer and then send it to the membership to see if anyone is interested in participating in the project.

g. National AIAN Special Emphasis Program Manager (SEPM) Report.

Facilitator – *Deborah Clairmont*

Deborah provided the following information:

1. Deborah reported that the previous day, she had conducted a quarterly teleconference for all of the SEPMs. She added that the new Director for the Talent Management Division, Jacqueline Padrone, was present and provided information to the SEPMs. She reviewed how important the information is which is provided from the state SEPMs and that their input is valuable for the agency.
2. Deborah reported that Athena attended the teleconference and provided information about the Association to the SEPMs and Athena welcomed their involvement in the Association.
3. Deborah provided an update on the American Indian Heritage Month poster, and reported that Mitchell Aman, Tennessee AIAN SEPM, is leading that effort for the southeast. They are searching for an artist and that information has been distributed across the state.

Deborah added that they need to do a better job at communicating with the State Conservationists that the poster is to be distributed to tribes; and, not field offices.

4. Deborah reported that Allen Maez, Colorado AIAN SEPM, provided information about the upcoming *Working Effectively with American Indians* (WEWAI) training which will be conducted in Colorado in mid-June.
5. Deborah also reported that Pam Walter, North Dakota AIAN SEPM, provided information about the WEWAI training scheduled for North Dakota in August.
6. Deborah asked Steve if the Association was conducting a national training this year. Steve reported that this was not planned. She asked where the next session was scheduled, and Steve indicated that this was not decided at present. Deborah asked Steve that as this is being planned, and the location is being decided on, that the Association work with the respective state AIAN SEPM in getting things accomplished. Steve added that the success of trainings such as this is contingent on having everyone being involved, especially now given the scope that these less frequent, mini-trainings are expected.
7. Deb (Walchuk) asked how we let new employees know about the employee's association, and added that National Bulletins used to be fairly common but she had not seen one in a long time. Steve commented that Deb was correct, and he had not seen these bulletins in a long time either. He offered to work on a bulletin, and added that the presidents of the employee's associations had not met in a while and maybe this is something they could work on together and send out a National Bulletin to let employees know about the Association. He added that we probably need to do this annually, and we could follow-up with an email blast. Cassius commented that during the on-boarding process for new employees that the employee's associations are reviewed. Deborah added that in her national guidelines she published that she provides that information and encourages the SEPMs to let employees in their respective states know about the employees association. Steve reported that he will talk with Sharyn Alvarez about this and see if we can send something out to the employees. Steve commented that we could possibly do a one-page fact sheet for each employees' group and attach it to the bulletin. He thought this might be better than attaching the membership brochure. Deborah suggested that we send our newsletter to her, and she will send this to the state-level SEPMs, and then they can distribute this to their states. By doing this, Deborah added that the SEPMs are doing their part to help get the word out to employees in their respective states. Deborah reported that when she was the Illinois AIAN SEPM, she would get our newsletter and send this to all of the employees in her state. Steve reported that this is a great idea, and part of the whole effort with the Communications Committee, and that this is being developed right now.

ACTION ITEM: Steve will get in touch with Sharyn Alvarez regarding sending out a National Bulletin about the professional employee's association.

h. Regional Representatives' Reports

Facilitators – *Steve Durgin & Regional Representatives*

1. Northern Plains Region, *Cameron Clark*

Cameron was not able to attend the teleconference; however, he submitted the following report:

- a) Cameron attended a job fair at Central Wyoming College and was able to explain what NRCS is and how USA JOBS works to about a dozen Native young adults and a couple of dozen non-Natives. While there, he made contact with a teacher in Riverton who would like to have him speak to her High School classes about careers.
- b) Cameron is leading the state-level Civil Rights Advisory Committee (CRAC) in a 2-2-2 / Morale Improvement project for the state staff. Rather than do a couple of quick events, he is trying to involve everyone and build consensus. He hopes that this process works well and has favorable results.
- c) Cameron sent out contact lists to each of the regional reps, so that they can begin building mailing groups. It is a work in progress.

2. Midwest Region, *Deb Walchuk*

- a) Deb provided an update and stated that she had worked to forward the Association's meeting minutes from the last meeting to employees within her regional area. She is working to update the mailing list as she is getting some emails returned. She did not hear back from folks in her region but provided an update of events underway or recently occurring.
- b) Deb reported that while attending the Intertribal Ag Council's (IAC) Food Summit in Green Bay, she reported that recently a new employee to the IAC, Lea Zeise, reached out to her and asked about training opportunities with NRCS as she begins her new job with the IAC for the south and eastern tribes. Deb reported that she assisted her with career planning and also directed Lea to Melissa for additional information regarding educational and outreach opportunities. Deb reported that Melissa was in quickly touch with Lea and provided some additional information and resources that might assist Lea as she begins working with tribes in the south and east. Melissa shared that she gave Lea David Elliott's contact information as well as he would be a great resource for her working in that region. Deb thinks Lea might be a great resource in the future, especially as she begins her work with the tribes on those regions as part of the IAC.
- c) Deb reported that at the upcoming Society for American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) conference, NRCS will be receiving an award. Deb is also presenting a session during the SAIGE Conference.
- d) Deb indicated that her Acting State Conservationist just signed off on the State's Technical Advisory Committee's Tribal Sub-committee's recommendations regarding 25 various issues affecting local tribes and services provided to tribes. Deb reported that the newly assigned State Conservationist, Cathy Pullman, begins today.

3. East Region, *Cassius Spears*

Cassius provided the following written report, and spoke on these items during the meeting:

- a) Tribal Communities:
 - Narragansett Tribal Food Sovereignty Initiative was awarded \$5000 for their Elders "Peoples Garden."
 - Penobscot Tribe of Maine: Congress Members Support Penobscot v. Maine in Unprecedented Court Filing – a group of Congress members has filed a brief in federal court backing the Penobscot Indian Nation's lawsuit against the State of Maine over hunting and fishing rights in the Penobscot River. <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2015/05/05/congress-members-support-penobscot-v-maine-unprecedented-court-filing-160253>
 - Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center is in the final stages of crafting the largest traditional dugout canoe "mishoon" made in New England in hundreds of years.
- b) Tribal Communities:
 - United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) 2015 Semi-Annual Meeting is being hosted by the Mashantucket Pequot Nation starting on May 18th. Cassius reported that he will be attending this meeting as an invited guest.

4. West Region, Susan Looper

Susan was not able to attend the meeting, but submitted her report to Cameron who turned it in for her. It is as follows: I had a chance to promote joining AIANEA at our CA – NV Mentoring Face-to-Face Meeting in Davis, CA last month. I have signed on to be a USDA Mentor (tor-mentor) Training. He is a great person, a newbie Soil Con Tech with NRCS. Anyways, in visiting with my Mentee and several others, I got a chance to tell them what I was involved with in the agency, including about AIANEA. There were several people that asked me to send them AIANEA Membership forms, so I did. I also sent them the link to the AIANEA website.

i. National Tribal Liaison Officer Report

Facilitator – *Barry Hamilton*

Barry was not present for the meeting; however, he submitted the following report:

1. In the past few months, NRCS has coordinated webinar outreach activities in Indian Country through our partners.

IAC – Intertribal Agriculture Council

February 10, 2015 – CIG

IAC – Intertribal Agriculture Council

AIHEC – American Indian Higher Education Consortium

April 23, 2015 – ACEP (2 sessions)

IAC, AIHEC, USET and INCA all provided assistance in reaching out to all of the tribes during the comment periods of the interim rules

- | | | |
|--------|-------|--------|
| • EQIP | • VPA | • ACEP |
| • CSP | • CIG | |

2. Climate Change in Indian Country

The NRCS has partnered with the Tribal Colleges through an agreement with AIHEC to collaborate on Climate Change in Indian country. Please see the attached Request for Applications (RFA) for more details (Attachment C). Please assist us by discussing with your Tribal College contacts to encourage them to submit their application.

Under the directions of the Arthur “Butch” Blazer, DUS NRE, the National Tribal Liaisons representing their perspective USDA agency come together once a month as “ONE USDA.” This is a team effort that allows us to gather concerns and obstacles that we face in Indian Country and once a month, we gather at the round table and discuss the best possible solutions to provided assistance. This approach in our service has been very effective and has brought many of us together leveraging technical and financial resources. Climate Change is a major priority for our group.

3. Environmental Justice – (EJ)

USDA NRCS has partnered with 1994 Land-Grant institutions to facilitate outreach to Indian tribes for assessment and planning assistance, and dissemination of USDA climate resilience strategies, practices and financial assistance. We are committed to achieving environmental justice throughout every community in America. We strive to create opportunities to improve the environment and human health in all communities in which we work while ensuring that environmental burdens do not affect any one community disproportionately. However, this goal has become more challenging since environmental justice communities, and Tribal Governments and their communities, are more heavily affected by the impacts of climate change than any other sector of our Nation. Given that USDA programs touch almost every American every day, the Department is well positioned to help

Environmental Justice Communities and Tribal Governments build resilience and adaptation strategies to help them address the impacts of climate change.

Goal - Increase capacity building within environmental justice communities and Tribal Governments.

Stay tuned as the Environmental Justice Strategic Plan 2016–2020 is in draft form and more information and the finalization of the strategic plan will be coming soon.

At the present, we are exploring how we can obtain more conservation planning in Indian Country to ensure that we are addressing all of the resource concerns of our Tribal producers, Tribes and the BIA. We will be reviewing and discussing with the BIA their Integrated Management Resource Planning (IRMP) process. “Stay Tuned.”

If you are interested in assisting the agency to review proposals for the following programs, please contact me. The programs that we will be needing reviewers are as follows:

- | | | |
|-------|-------|--------|
| • VPA | • CIG | • RCPP |
|-------|-------|--------|

j. Committee Reports

Facilitator – *Steve Durgin & Committee Chairs/Representatives*

The following committee reports were provided:

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

Tanya was not present but Melissa provided an update of committee work underway. Melissa indicated that they are working on developing the guidelines for the publication of the Elders' book that will help the Elders gather information and also help the volunteers assisting with the project. Melissa reported that she has been working with Elder Ted to develop a template that can be shared with the other Elders. She also indicated that Gina and Tanya are developing the list of questions to guide the interviews and research that will help with gathering the information for the chapters.

2. Cookbook Committee, *Melissa Sturdivant*

Melissa indicated that there is nothing to report at this time.

3. Bylaws Committee, *Carol Crouch*

Carol was not on the teleconference, but Steve reported that Carol has the information and hopes to begin the work on reviewing the Bylaws very soon.

4. Database Committee, *Cameron Clark*

Cameron was not on the teleconference; however, Steve reported that Cameron continues to work on gathering addresses and updating the information. Steve indicated that he hopes to work with Cameron to transfer the information to an Access database and see what information can be gleaned from the listings of personnel.

k. New business:

1. Athena reported that she had attended the National SEPM teleconference on the previous day. She added that she had extended an invitation to the SEPMs to join the Association, but also that if they needed assistance or mentoring, they could contact members of the National Council and Association. Athena asked how we can encourage the SEPMs to seek out and to find an Elder near them that could assist them in their work or personal lives. Athena added that she learned that member and former President Roylene Rides at the Door sought out an Elder in Washington to assist and advise her in her roles and responsibilities as State Conservationist and to ensure she was doing all she could for tribes in her state. Athena asked if we could think about this individually and then come back together later on and see if we can come up with a strategy that would encourage our AIAN SEPMs to find an Elder in their local community.

Steve added that this goes beyond just SEPMs, this extends to our own members – each of us would benefit from this experience.

Melissa added that as part of the Visioning Committee's Mentoring & Leadership Sub-committee work, she has been trying to find a way that mentoring can occur and something the committee can work on, especially long-distance. Melissa reported that some great ideas and a plan were developed in the past, but commented that the biggest hindrance has been budgetary constraints. The Mentoring and Leadership Sub-Committee came up with some great ideas but the Elder – mentee relationship never could be developed because our Elders were far away from those being mentored. Melissa added that she attended a national OPM-led training on mentoring recently, and asked a question; the question wasn't fielded, but that it still holds true now with the Association and the mentoring that we do – how do you mentor long-distance? How do you have an effective long-distance mentoring relationship? Melissa commented that she thought Athena's idea was a wonderful suggestion and may be an effective means to provide mentoring and support for employees, Association members and SEPMs. Athena commented on something Ciro shared about the Association, and it was that there is less emphasis on personal development, and more on how we can serve and improve our relationship with the tribes we work with. Athena added that by possibly getting people involved with a local Elder, it will get them more involved with those local tribes. Steve wondered if Roylene could share some of those ideas or strategies in how she developed this. Steve asked if we could add some of these stories in the Elders book. Melissa shared that this is something already being developed with the Elders Committee.

2. Athena asked about the Association's webpage and where information is kept. She commented that there does not seem to be a central location for important documents or other information and the webpage is not up to date. Athena asked if we should purchase a hard drive to put information on so that it is centrally located. Melissa commented that she was trying to reconcile the archives and gather information. Initially, Melissa stated that we were trying to get the DUNS and SAM.gov registration completed, and this transitioned to getting info to update the webpage. But, the main thing was trying to get the historical info and update the webpage. But, Melissa offered to collect this information and get it on a hard drive to be stored. Steve added that we now have permission to explore the website, and are looking to get this up to date. Steve stated that he would like to add Athena to the Communications Committee and she agreed.

I. 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. Melissa added that Steve had told her that he was still working on this. 5/15 update: Steve has completed the letters and articles to be distributed, and he is mailing those to the supervisors and State Conservationists. Steve thought it would be completed by today, but he still needs a few addresses.
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3. **ACTION ITEM:** Steve will get in touch with Sharyn Alvarez regarding sending out a National Bulletin about the professional employee's association.
4. **ACTION ITEM:** Steve will send the information about the project that Rick Chavez is working on. Melissa will prepare a flyer and then send it to the membership to see if anyone is interested in participating in the project.

m. Closing thoughts & comments. Steve asked Melissa if she could summarize the action items and send this following the meeting pending distribution of the minutes.

n. Adjourn – Steve extended his appreciation for all the work our members continue to do, for those members and committee chairs attending, and with no further business, he adjourned the Council meeting at 2:40 pm, Central.

3 attachments

- A. 2015 Action Item Registry
- B. National Council 5 15 15 Meeting Agenda
- C. Request for Applications (AIHEC)

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



2015 AIANEA National Council *ACTION ITEMS* Registry

Date: May 31, 2015

Respect, Harmony and Beauty

Date Initiated	Action Item Description	Person(s) Responsible	Disposition Date	Reference Document
ACTION ITEMS – PENDING				
5/15/2015	Steve will get in touch with Sharyn Alvarez regarding sending out a National Bulletin about the professional employee's association.	S. Durgin		
5/15/2015	Steve will send the information that Rick Chavez is working on to Melissa. Melissa will prepare an informational flyer and then send it to the membership to see if anyone is interested in participating in the project.	S. Durgin & M. Sturdivant		
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		



2015 AIANEA National Council ***ACTION ITEMS*** Registry

Respect, Harmony and Beauty

Date Initiated	Action Item Description	Person(s) Responsible	Disposition Date	Reference Document
ACTION ITEMS – COMPLETED				
4/6/2015	Melissa will make sure the notice regarding Sarah Bridges is distributed. 5/15 update: <i>Melissa reported that this information was distributed by Yvette to the membership.</i>	M. Sturdivant & Y. Dulle	5/15/2015	Email dtd 4/10/2015 (YD)
4/6/2015	Melissa will forward to the National Council a copy of the latest Bylaws. 5/15 update: <i>Melissa reported that the Bylaws were forwarded to the members of the National Council.</i>	M. Sturdivant	5/15/2015	Email dtd 4/20/2015 (MS)
4/6/2015	Cameron will forward a member listing to each Regional Representative and the National Council. 5/15/ update: <i>Melissa reported that Cameron had reported that he done this. Deb reported that she is working with Cameron and is emailing members in her region. Steve added that there are several lists being developed to help develop the database; however, he reported that we are sensitive to personal information being distributed, and we have several lists in development. He added that eventually, we may have a more public list available to the Association. Deb asked if she should be sharing Association minutes with non-members, and Steve indicated that this was fine. But, he added that member listings should not be distributed at present.</i>	C. Clark	5/15/2015	AIANEA Nat'l Council Minutes, May 2015, Regional Rep Report (CC)
3/2/2015	Gina and Steve will meet to discuss the effort to build and further develop the Communications Committee. 5/15 update: <i>Steve reported that Gina, Steve, Yvette and Melissa met to discuss some planning for the membership committee and Gina has the lead for working on this.</i>	S. Durgin & G. Kerzman	5/15/2015	AIANEA Nat'l Council Minutes, May 2015
3/2/2015	Steve will visit with Carol about the Bylaws review process and review what is needed to be accomplished by the Committee. <i>Melissa reported that Steve had indicated that he is working to schedule a meeting with Carol. While in Oklahoma on his travel, he hopes to meet with Carol and review what needs to be done. Carol added that she hopes to meet with Steve tomorrow and get the committee work started. 5/15 update: Carol has the committee information and is beginning her work with this committee.</i>	S. Durgin & C. Crouch	5/15//2015	AIANEA Nat'l Council Minutes, May 2015

REFERENCE DOCUMENTATION

- “AIANEA” indicates emails which were forwarded from the AIANEA 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.

- AP – Athena Pratt
- CC – Cameron Clark
- DCC – Dr. Carol Crouch

- GK – Gina Kerzman
- MS – Melissa Sturdivant
- SD – Steve Durgin

- TM/TMD – Tanya Meyer- Dideriksen
- YD – Yvette Dulle

For information regarding the registry and/or its content, contact Melissa Sturdivant, AIANEA Secretary, at melissa.sturdivant@tx.usda.gov.



AIANEA National Council Teleconference Friday, May 15, 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

May 15, 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 April Meeting Minutes	Melissa Sturdivant & Council
12:25	5 min	Treasurer's Report	Pam Crow & Bill Parrish
12:30	10 min	President's update	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 - Bylaws & Constitution Committee - Ad Hoc - Cookbook Committee - Ad Hoc - AIAN Contact 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:

**AIHEC - TCU - NRCS/USDA
STUDENT CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY RESEARCH PROJECTS
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
APRIL 2015**

AIHEC is pleased to announce that we are soliciting applications from TCUs interested in conducting community-based projects intended to support local climate change adaptation efforts. This is a pilot activity supported through the *Partnership to Support Tribal Farmers, Ranchers, and Communities* project through funding from the USDA National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). We hope to use this pilot activity as the basis for establishing an ongoing TCU climate change research support fund that will support Tribal climate change resilience and generate best practices in TCU/community climate change partnerships.

Support is being provided **in the amount of up to \$10,000** that can be used to cover all appropriate costs associated with the projects.

Project Overview

AIHEC wishes to support TCUs in encouraging their students to participate in addressing the urgency of climate change impacts in their home communities, and to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to advance understanding of climate change, mitigate the extent of climate change, and adapt to its impacts.

AIHEC will provide small awards to TCUs to support current or planned climate change vulnerability projects that can help further local climate change adaptation planning and implementation efforts.

Projects should include, or if associated with prior work, be based on:

- Review of published local and regional climate change projections
- Connections to current local/Tribal climate change adaptation efforts
- Engagement with community members
- Field data collection (including interview data) relevant to specific local climate change issue(s)

TCU faculty/student teams will be provided technical support through the USDA regional Climate Hubs. Teams are encouraged to engage the larger climate change research community, such as the Climate Science Centers (managed by the USGS). The climate change vulnerability project reports will be shared with the TCU/AIHEC community during the 2016 AIHEC Student Conference.

Applicant Eligibility

Applications must be submitted by faculty members from AIHEC member institutions in good standing.

Application Submission

Please send your completed application as a Microsoft Word or PDF file by e-mail to enewland@aihec.org.

Please do not mail hard copies. Applications will be accepted electronically **through June 21, 2015.**

Applications received after the deadline date cannot be considered. If you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact: **Al Kuslikis** at akuslikis@aihec.org; 703.838.0400 x121.

Award Process

Applications will be considered in the order they are received and as they are received. The award process will be initiated upon application approval. Awards will be made until available funds are expended.

Climate Change Vulnerability Research Project Application

1. Research Team

Name, title and role of faculty, staff or students participating in the project. If students are to be recruited, provide the number of students expected to be involved.

2. Project Context

If this project is part of a larger climate change initiative on your campus, please describe. If the project will be conducted as part of a course, please provide a brief course description.

3. Research partners

Please list any research partners (e.g. Tribal agency) that will be involved in your project.

2. Budget Summary

Budgets can be up to \$10,000. Funds may include faculty/staff, student researchers, local travel and field study instrumentation, and supplies. Costs associated with community meetings may be included.

Personnel	
Faculty/staff	
Students	
Supplies (e.g. sensors, specimen/sample containers)	
Travel (local travel only)	
Other	
	Indirect limited to 8%
	Total

4. Research Summary

Please provide a concise description of your project, including main research goals, specific issues to be examined, methods (including data analysis) and the anticipated significance of the project.