



ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER ORGANIZATION

Asian Pacific Islander Organization

MINUTES OF APIO TELECONFERENCE NOVEMBER 15, 2011 4:00 P.M. EST

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Non Profit Status
#DLN 503150066

Participants: Angela Biggs, Peter Bautista, Yi Kum, Winnie Chen, Reese Libby, Ly Phuong, Joseph Toquero, Kurencio Ngowakl, Yuri Plowden, Gina Schworm, Shawn McVey and, Oliver Miranda

Call to Order

Angela called the meeting to order.

Old Business

1. Review and approval of Oct 6 VTC meeting notes

Review and approval of October 6th minutes of APIO annual meeting via VTC was conducted. It was recommended that in the future, names of APIO participants must be recorded and a roll call for each vote will be conducted rather than regional roll call. Shawn presented a motion to approve the minutes and Yuri provided second on the motion. The Council voted to approve the minutes.

New Business

1. President's, National Council and Committee updates
 - Angela reported that Society for Range Management (SRM) had invited APIO to join with their upcoming conference in Spokane, Washington. Pete had informed Jay regarding this invitation. APIO decided not to join SRM at this time but will look into partnering in the future.
 - Yuri indicated that the SRM conference include topics such as Ecological Site Descriptions that is important for those in the West but not for those in the East states.
 - It was suggested that the APIO conference committee can begin to plan for options for the next conference including regional conference and partnering with other organizations. NRCS funding is still unknown since USDA budget has not been approved at this time.
 - Treasurer's report was discussed. It was noted that there were significant amount of income and disbursement and they were associated with moving funds from one account to another. There was a large disbursement in 2010 associated with the National Conference at Kansas City, Missouri. Gina presented a motion to accept treasurer's report and Pete provided second on the motion. The Council voted to accept the report.
 - Secretary: Oliver indicated working with Cheryl Morton and the Communications Committee. Pete will provide some information to Oliver.
 - Mentoring/Recruitment/Career Development/Outreach: Angela encouraged everyone to sign up, and suggested that the NC sign up as mentors. She expressed that deadline is fast approaching. She explained the planned training process utilizing online live meeting through Outlook. The training requires two days, with four hours of training each day in January 2012 for

Mentors and Protégés. Yuri suggested that each regional representative should encourage and send reminders.

- Scholarship Committee: Angela mentioned that APIO is looking for chairperson for the Scholarship Committee. Reese volunteered for this vacant position. He will obtain pertinent information from Dave Fischer.
- Natural Resource Committee: Oliver reported that he is the chair and is looking for volunteers. Pete and Joe volunteered to be members. Gina said that she will share spreadsheet that contains names of members who volunteered for the committees.

2. Regional Representatives Report

- East: Yuri reported that she had sent the Council a draft of some outreach brochures developed by the Pennsylvania Civil Rights Committee targeting socially disadvantaged, historically underserved, and beginning farmers. She asked that the Council consider translating these materials and distributing the documents. Pete reiterated that this is similar to the proposed plan submitted to NHQ. He mentioned that another way for funding this project is through the National Outreach Coordinator through Kurencio.
- West: Phuong said that she had sent announcement on Mentoring Program.
- Midwest: Winnie said that the Midwest has two new members. She has sent correspondence to the membership in her area and introduced herself. She mentioned the appropriate use of work email.
- Northern Plains: Shawn said that he found out the members in his region and provided information on APIO Mentoring Program. He also distributed the treasurer's report
- Pacific Islands Area East: Reese indicated that he has sent correspondence to members and non members to promote the Mentorship program and career opportunities. He said that tomorrow is GIS day.
- Pacific Islands Area West: Joe said that he has received confirmation of his membership to APIO.
- South: Yi indicated there is not much to share at this time. She asked when the renewal for 2012 membership is available. She also asked for APIO member distribution list. Angela said that Oliver can provide that information.

3. National AAPI SEPM update

- Kurencio reported that Dr. F. Clearfield, the Director of Outreach and Advocacy, will retire soon. He also reported that J. Padron, NRCS National HEPM, has accepted a position with the USDA Office of Human Resources as a Special Emphasis Program Manager. He indicated that there is a twenty two percent turnover of SEPMs across the nation. He added that AAPI SEPMs have identified language as a barrier and that there has been low participation. He provided snapshot information of AAPI SEPMs shown at the following table.

NRCS AAPI SEPM

<i>REGION</i>	<i>MALE</i>	<i>FEMALE</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
West	3	10	13
Central*	10	4	14
East	8	15	23

*One vacant AAPI SEPM position in IA