

NOPHNRCSE National Council Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2009
Official Minutes

- I. **Luis Hernandez** called the meeting to order at **6:05 pm CST**.
- II. **Roll call** was taken and a quorum was established.

NOTE: National Council-7 members required for quorum.

Officers Present:

President, Luis Hernandez
Executive Vice President, Astrid Martinez
Secretary, Eileen M. Vale
Treasurer, Jorge Camacho

Regional Representatives Present:

Midwest, Heather Medina
East, Tim Garrahan
West, Roney Gutierrez
Northern Plains, Ted Lucero

Guests Reporting:

Amanda Hasemeier
Carmen Ortiz
Angel Figueroa
Mike Castillo

Absent:

Officers: Vice President, Gilbert Guerrero (excused)

Regional Reps: Caribbean Area-Jorge Ruiz (excused), South Central-Cresencio Perez (excused), and South East-Jazelle Jusino (excused)

- III. **Approval or Changes made to the Agenda:** Luis Hernandez asked the National Council to see if any modifications needed to be to the agenda. Under On going business, the changes went as follows: A. Update on 2009 Conference, B. New Website Update, C Webinars Update (tabled until next month), D. Update on 2009 Elections, E. Update on 2010 Conference (Hotel Visit & Conference) (tabled until next month), F. Winrock International, G. Recommendations /Discussion on the 2010 Professional NRCS

Employee Organization Contract Agreement, H. Discussion on Business Meeting at the 2009 Conference, I. Discussion on a bill that resurfaced from 2004-2005 J. Update on Career Enhancement Program, K. Update on Membership Drive (tabled until next month), L. Regional Representatives reports. Astrid Martinez made a motion to approve the changes as amended. Heather Medina seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried.

- IV. Approve Minutes:** Luis Hernandez asked the National Council to review the draft minutes from May 19, 2009 teleconference. Under Section IV Approve Minutes a correction needs to be made from Ted Lucero to Tim Garrahan. Under F. Proposal for Light Kit costs this sentence was added: Luis appointed Gilbert Guerrero to take lead on this project. Tim Garrahan made a motion to approve the changes as amended. Eileen M. Vale seconded the motion, no more discussion motion carried. Luis Hernandez asked the National Council to review the draft minutes from May 21st on the New Website Demo. Eileen M. Vale made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Heather Medina seconded it, no more discussion, motion carried.

V. Treasurer's Report:

Previous Month's Balance: January 2009	Account Type	CURRENT BALANCES
NRCS FCU		
\$32,325.83	Regular Checking Account	\$32,636.42
\$15,258.54	Money Market Account	\$15,280.49
WELLS FARGO		
\$57,155.18	CD Regular Account *	\$57,155.18
\$62,053.25	Scholarship and Endowment *	\$62,053.25
\$166,792.80		\$167,125.34

Jorge Camacho presented the treasury report listed above. Jorge stated that he has researched the saving account options that NRCS Federal Credit Union has to offer. He suggested that the money market account would be the best option for us. Ted Lucero made a motion to transfer the monies from the CD at Well's

Fargo to the new money market account at the NRCS Federal Credit Union. Roney Gutierrez seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried.

VI On-Going Business:

A. Update on 2009 Conference: Luis Hernandez stated that the paperwork on approving NRCS employees to attend the national conference in August has been sent to Washington D.C. However, one concern is, if all the state conservationists received the memo regarding the deadline to submit the names of NRCS employees participating in this year's conference. It is come to our attention that not all states received the memo. Therefore, we need to see if we are going to meet our numbers for the conference. Amanda Hasemeier stated that she will inform us when she receives the information from Diana McQueen. It was suggested if we should ask for an extension on the deadline for the states submitting the list of names of attendees to the conference. Amanda stated that we should wait to see what the numbers look like. Diana should have the numbers within a day or two. Amanda stated that they were able to lower the cost of the tour buses by \$1500. The planning committee would like to issue a Thank You gift to each of its members. Each polo shirt is costing \$28.00. There is already a set budget for \$20 per shirt. The Planning Committee is asking if the NC would approve paying the difference of \$8.00. This would equal to a total of \$360.00. Astrid Martinez had a concern with this since this is over the \$20 amount. She stated she will talk to her SAO in regards to this issue. Astrid Martinez had stated several concerns with the conference program agenda. Astrid stated for Wednesday morning's State Conservationist Breakfast a block of two hours is highly recommend. Furthermore, five states are involved with NOPHNRCSE in making this conference happen. Astrid asked why we have only one of the five state conservations speaking in the opening ceremony. Astrid stated that we should have the other four state conservationists be acknowledged in a special way and/or give them each a few minutes to introduce themselves and state they represent, members of the council agreed with her that the STC should be in the agenda during opening ceremonies. Astrid also had a concern with the breaks in between sessions. The question on whether an email was sent out regarding the need for moderators. Amanda stated that there are moderators in place. Registration waivers will be granted this year. There will be one allowed per region. It will be base on a first come first serve basis. The person has to be in good standing with the organization. The requests will be sent to Regional Reps. Regional Reps will submit all requests to Eileen M. Vale. Astrid Martinez made a motion to grant one registration waiver per region. Heather medina seconded it, no more discussion, motion carried.

B. New Website Update: Carmen stated that the next deliverable of the new website included a series of documents that she would have to

demonstrate in a web meeting. Carmen commented on how hard it was to plan these web/conference meetings due everyone's hectic schedules. Tim Garrahan made a motion that a subcommittee should be created to help Carmen make decisions for the new Website. This subcommittee will include Carmen, Lori Valadez and Roney Gutierrez. Ted Lucero seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried.

C. Webinars Update: Will be tabled until next month's teleconference.

D. 2009 Elections: Mike Castillo stated that we have only received 8 nomination forms. Mike would like to see if we could extend it July 4th.

E. Update on 2010 Conference (Hotel Visit & Contract): Will be tabled for next month's conference.

F. Winrock International: Angel Figueroa gave a brief description on what Winrock International is: Winrock International is a non-profit organization that provides assistance to underdeveloped countries to empower the disadvantaged and sustain natural resources. Winrock contracted NOPHNRCS's President, Luis Hernandez to propose a partnership to send NRCS employees who are also members of this organization on missions to provide technical assistance. These missions would be initially be in Latin America and later to other Continents. Angel stated that the Chief Dave White is aware of this project and NOPHNRCS's involvement. The Director of IPD supports this program. However, first we must take proper steps to ensure that we do not jeopardize our involvement.

G. Recommendations on the 2010 NRCS Organization Contract

Agreement: Luis Hernandez presented the 2010 Professional Organization Contract Agreement and asked the NC to review and give any recommendations needed before signing. The contract goes as follows:

Risk Analysis – 515 employees gathered to attend a National NRCS Diversity Training Conference the first week in April 2010. The 'Organizations' will bear the burden of all associated costs in hosting the Joint National Training in Overland Park, Kansas. Each Organization come with different percentage of membership and would support the Conference based on those numbers.

Equitable Agreement:

1. Each Organization is responsible for their expenses to the Conference.

- a. Cost to shipping boxes and stored by the hotel.
 - b. Business Meeting
 - c. Wednesday Luncheon
 - d. Etc.
2. Each Organization is responsible for a prorated share (based on estimated attendance) of the Convention Center deposit.
 3. The Presidents will review all major expenses to make sure are correct.
 - a. One example is the banquet entertainment.
 4. The optimistic revenue (any profit sharing) will use a calculation based on final participation/membership registration. We will use equal ratio, if the registration is blank (not associated to any professional organization).
 5. The estimated numbers per Organization are:
 - a. Asian Pacific Islander Organization (75) **15%**
 - b. National Organization of Professional Black Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Employees (290) **56%**
 - c. National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees (150) **29%**
 6. Proceeds for any Auctions/Raffles will be divided based on the Organization donating the item. If none, then split three ways.
 7. The Presidents of the Organizations will resolve any financial obligation that becomes an issue.

Signed and authorized this _____ day of May 2009

Kent Matsutani
President
APIO

Luis Hernandez
President
NOPHNRCSE

Kalven L. Trice
President
NOPBNRCSE

On item #1 it was recommended by the NC that each items pertaining to each organization be itemized. On Item #2 it was recommended that each organization is responsible for an equal share (based on the estimated attendance) of the Convention Center deposit. On item #4, it was recommended to use the term registration revenue, in stead of "profit sharing". Furthermore, we will use the percentage equal ratio (1/3), if the membership registration is blank. On Item #6, it was suggested for the proceeds (donations) for any Auctions/Raffles will go to the organization it represents.

H. Discussion on Business Meeting at the 2009 Conference: Luis stated this year's business agenda should consist of election results, regional rep reports, committee reports, 2011 conference proposals and NOPHNRCSE's accomplishments for 2009. It was suggested that Eileen M. Vale compose an email requesting members to submit agenda items

for this year's business meeting in Philadelphia. The deadline to submit agenda items will be July 6th.

- I. Discussion on a Bill that resurfaced from 2004-2005:** Luis stated that Mario Morales presented a bill for the total of \$1763.40 that was dated back to 2004/2005. Luis said that he contacted Bertha Venegas since she was the President at that time. Luis stated that Bertha said not to pay that bill. She further stated that all bill were paid and that bill should have is paid. Astrid Martinez stated she will look in the treasury files.

- J. Update on Career Enhancement Program:** One applicant applied, Edwin Martinez. Astrid Martinez made a motion to grant Edwin Martinez \$1000.00 Scholarship. Jorge Camacho seconded it, no more discussion, motion carried.

- K. Update on Membership Drive:** Ted Lucero stated that have not heard anything from Rocemi and they have nothing to report at this time. This item will be tabled for next month's teleconference.

- L. Regional Representatives:**
 - **West- Roney Gutierrez** stated he worked with Angel Figueroa on Winrock International, been forwarding emails and assisting with scholarship recipients.

 - **Caribbean Area- Jorge Ruiz was absent.**

 - **Northern Plains- Ted Lucero** stated he has been forwarding emails and general announcements, and has been working on getting a Hispanic SCEP on board with the NRCS. The SCEP started last week in New Mexico.

 - **Midwest-Heather Medina** stated that she has been forwarding email correspondence to members about jobs, the 2009 NOPHNRCSE Conference, and other misc emails. She has been answering phone calls about the position on the National Civil Rights committee for the Hispanic Male/Female. She has also forwarded the job announcement regarding the NCRC Chair and MD State Con.

- **South Central – Cresencio Perez** Continue to forward emails to the membership. Chris stated that he is currently working on settling a Texas committee to assist with membership renewals. He also met with Sal Salinas, Texas Deputy State Con. And he reported that Texas (at this time) would be sending at least eight members to the conference in Philadelphia.
- **South East- Jazelle Jusino was absent**
- **East- Tim Garrahan** General correspondence, emailing vacancy announcements, and job opportunities. Participated in the monthly Planning Conference teleconference. Working on getting the NEDS course “How to work effectively with Hispanic Farmers” off the ground.

VII Other Business:

VIII Adjournment

Ted Lucero made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jorge Camacho seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm CST.

Luis Hernandez, President

Eileen M. Vale, Secretary