

NOPHNRCSE National Council Meeting Minutes
May 19, 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
Vice President, Gilbert Guerrero (tardy)
Secretary, Eileen M. Vale
Treasurer, Jorge Camacho

Regional Representatives Present:

Southeast, Jazelle Jusino
South Central, Cresencio Perez
Midwest, Heather Medina
East, Tim Garrahan
Caribbean Area, Jorge Ruiz

Guests Reporting:

Edwin Almodovar
Amanda Hasemeier
Irma Hernandez
Carmen Ortiz

Absent:

Officers Absent: Executive Vice President, Astrid Martinez (excused)

Regional Reps: West, Roney Gutierrez (excused), Northern Plains, Ted Lucero (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, A. Spanish Translation Ad-Hoc Committee, B. Webinar, D Volunteer Farmer to Farmer Program worldwide (Winrock) will be tabled until next month. Jorge Camacho

made a motion to make these changes stated above. Jazelle Jusino seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried.

- IV. Approve Minutes:** Luis Hernandez asked the National Council to review the draft minutes from April 21, 2009 teleconference. Under IV Approve Minutes, Luis pointed out that the date of April 21, 2009 needed to be changed to March 17, 2009. Jorge Camacho made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Tim Garrahan seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried. Luis then asked to review the minutes over the look & feel of the new website teleconference held on the April 24th. Eileen M. Vale made a motion to approve the minutes of April 24th as presented. Tim Garrahan seconded the motion, 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 was aware at one time NOPHNRCSE had a debit card. However with the changing of banks last May, the debit card was cancelled. The reason why Jorge was asking if NOPHNRCSE had a debit card was he had a concern on how or what method he was going to use to pay the travel expenses for the students. Luis suggested for Jorge to contact Gilbert to see if he can call the Travel Agency he is using for the students to see if they accept checks. Luis stated that Gilbert suggested that he can pay for the travel expenses from his personal credit card and get reimbursed from NOPHNRCSE. Jorge

Camacho made a motion for Gilbert Guerrero to use his personal credit card to purchase the traveling expenses for the students and to be reimbursed by NOPHHNRCSE. Cresencio Perez seconded it, no more discussion, motion carried. Jorge had another concern with the CD's that were about to mature from Well's Fargo. The concern was that he does not have all access to the scholarship money. Luis proposed that Jorge finds out exactly which account is maturing first. If the account pertaining to the scholarship funds happens to mature first, Luis proposed the funds to be transferred to a savings account at the NRCS Credit Union. Another concern was we need to develop ideas to help generate more funds for our organization. Gilbert Guerrero made a motion for Jorge Camacho to transfer funds from the Well's Fargo CD account to a savings at NRCS Credit Union. Jorge Ruiz seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried. Jorge Camacho made a motion to approve the Treasurer's as presented. Gilbert Guerrero seconded it, no more discussion, motion carried.

VI On-Going Business:

- A. Spanish Translation Ad-Hoc:** Will be tabled until May 29th teleconference.

- B. New Website Update:** Carmen stated that they have just finished with the 2nd deliverable which consists of the look and feel of the new website. She would like to schedule another teleconference to discuss and demonstrate on how the new website will look. Eileen will send out an email with the time, date and teleconference access code for this meeting.

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

- D. Volunteer Farmer to Farmer Program Worldwide (Winrock):** Will be tabled until May 29th.

- E. Update on 2009 Conference:** The conference program agenda is currently still in a draft form. Amanda stated that they should have the agenda ready to go by the end of the week. She stated that a National Bulletin regarding the conference was released within the last week. The Planning committee will be writing an article in La Voz in regards to auction items needed for Scholarship Night. The article will state where members can mail their donated items to, such as the hotel address. Edwin stated the problem that they were having on the program was they had too many speakers. Only 80% of the speakers were committed and they were still waiting to hear on the rest. Edwin commented that we have a good program. However, we still need to

secure a commitment from the rest of the speakers. Amanda stated that Eileen Vale sent out an email regarding when the registration deadline is. The email also included all the hotel and registration information. Irma Hernandez stated that she has been working with NEDS in offering an outreach course, on How to Work Effectively with Hispanic Farmers. The Chief, Dave White would like to see this project accomplished in time for our conference in August. Therefore, Irma Hernandez would take the lead on this project with 6 or 7 people. She would like that one of the cadre members be a member from the NC. She informed us that on June 9th and 10th they will have a face to face meeting. Jazelle Jusino asked if we were going to grant registration waivers at this year's conference. In the past we have granted one waiver from each region. Last year 4 members from Texas were granted waivers, since they were the only applicants. It was discussed to wait after the deadline of June 15th to see how many members are approved to attend this year's conference. June 15th is the deadline states have to determine how many (members) NRCS employees will be granted GTE or GTO for this year's conference.

- F. Proposal for Light Kit Costs:** Luis Hernandez stated that he has been talking to Mike Castillo in regards to taking pictures at the conference and selling the pictures to members. These funds will be then used for the organization's needs. Therefore, Luis was proposing that NOPHNRCSE help pay for the cost of ink, paper, camera umbrella and light. The cost of the items would be estimated between \$500 - \$700. Gilbert stated that this would not be feasible due to the fact that everyone has their own digital cameras. Gilbert further stated that maybe we can have everyone who took pictures at the conference to post them on our new website. We can then pull pictures from it and produce a NOPHNRCSE calendar. We can then sell the calendar to members. Luis appointed Gilbert Guerrero to take lead on this project.
- G. Update on the Joint 2010 Training Conference:** Luis stated that Lori Valadez will be traveling to Kansas City on May 21st to take a look at the facilities and meet with the planning committee. There will be two representatives from each organization with the exception of the American Indian/Alaskan Native Association for NRCS. The Joint 2011 Conference will be held April 5th - 9th.
- H. Career Developmental Survey:** Luis stated that Dr. Frank Clearfield will be presenting a presentation at this year's conference in Philadelphia. We had 100 members respond to the survey. The results of this survey help us determine how we can help members become better NRCS employees.

- I. **Update on Membership Drive:** Tim stated that the deadline for the membership drive was May 15th. Rocemi Morales will be working on producing the results for us as soon as possible. Our overall goal was to have an increase of 25% in membership.

J. **Regional Representatives:**

- West- *Roney Gutierrez* was absent
- Caribbean Area- Jorge Ruiz stated he has continued sending emails and that the Caribbean area was sending 4 or 5 NRCS personnel to this year's conference. He also reminded some members to pay their dues.
- Northern Plains- *Ted Lucero* was absent
- Midwest- *Heather Medina* I have continued to distribute email communication to members. I have answered questions from NOPHNRCSE members about the career enhancement scholarship. I have also answered questions about the position for the National Civil Rights committee Hispanic (male and female) positions.

As the Hispanic Female representative for the National Civil Rights Committee I attended the meeting in Puerto Rico in May. It was suggested by the new chair, John Hall that we have a listening session at the organizations meetings (ex. 2010) and need to work with the planning committee for a session.

- South Central - *Cresencio Perez* Continue to forward emails to the membership. Have visited with several past members to renew their membership. Will contact Salvador Salinas, Acting Texas State Conservationist, to see what support Texas NOPHNRCSE members can expect to attend the 2009 conference
- South East- *Jazelle Jusino* Send general correspondence, vacancy announcements, and Florida will be sending 3 and South Carolina 1 to this year's conference.
- East- *Tim Garrahan* General correspondence, emailing vacancy announcements, and job opportunities. Participated in the monthly Planning Conference teleconference. Assisted the NHEPM at a job fair in mid April, over 1000 people attended.

VII Other Business:

VIII Adjournment

Gilbert Guerrero made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cresencio Perez seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm CST.

Luis Hernandez, President

Eileen M. Vale, Secretary