

March 2, 2010

Tuesday, March 02, 2010  
2:11 PM



Nevada  
Interagency  
Civil  
Rights  
Committee

Farm Service Agency  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
and  
Rural Development

## CIVIL RIGHTS IS FOR YOU!

NICRC Website: [http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov/about/NV\\_CR.html](http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov/about/NV_CR.html)

**DATE:** March 2, 2010

**TO:** NICRC Members

**RE:** NICRC Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Bill Elder, NRCS Advisor/DEP  
Teri Knight, FWEP  
Cory Lytle, Chair  
Mike Odegard, AIANPSEP  
Liz Warner, AAPIEPM  
Diane Arizo, Secretary  
Melissa Bright, FSA Liaison

**Not Present:**

Jarrod Edmunds, Vice-chair  
Carmella Apodaca, HEP  
Rose Santos, BEP  
Lucienne Plante, NRCS HR Specialist

**I. Opening & Introduction**

The meeting began at 11:06 am. Cory Lytle took roll call.

**II. Review of Minutes**

The minutes of January 10, 2010 were not reviewed.

**III. Program Reports**

**1. NRCS Advisor Reports:** Bill Elder discussed with Bruce that he would like to hold a face-to-face NICRC meeting, and perhaps include an opportunity to have an all-employee meeting. Bill reiterated the NICRC's responsibility to provide guidance and training to other members who don't attend other training events. Cory agreed and stated that he would like to have at least one face-to-face meeting during his term. Possible locations discussed were Austin and the Reno State Office. Liz mentioned it would be nice to have Bruce meet the committee members. This matter will be placed on the agenda to discuss in June.

**2. Chair Report:** Cory Lytle led a discussion about the upcoming 2010 Joint Professional Employee Training in Kansas City, MO on March 15-19, 2010. The NRCS SEPMs attending are: Carmella Apodaca, Teri Knight, Jarrod Edmunds, Bill Elder, Mike Odegard and Liz Warner. Members in attendance today confirmed registration was complete, but some travel arrangements still need to be made. Teri reminded everyone to use super shuttle service.

An email was sent out indicating there will be three luncheons, individually hosted by the Hispanic, Asian American Pacific Islander, and Black associations. The cost of the luncheon is included in the registration fee. Therefore each person registered shall indicate which luncheon he/she shall attend

in accordance with the email sent out in January. Mike requested that Liz forward a copy of the email to him.

Bill stated he received a letter suggesting each attendee bring their state tax exemption certificate. However, since Nevada does not classify NRCS as tax exempt for travel, only procurement, he will be using the one issued by MO when checking into the hotel. Mike stated that since this is a national concern, each individual must determine how they supply tax exempt verification. If the hotel does not accept the MO tax exempt certificate, then tax will be paid.

Teri reminded everyone to comply with the requested dress code for the event.

Bill requested all persons attending convene between 7:00-8:00am on Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at the SEPM registration table.

**3. Career Fair Update(s):** Bill reported the UNR career fair went well, and he collected about 45 resumes from potential employees. Liz said all promotional items requested have been received (cow stress balls, etc).

**IV. Old Business**

None.

**V. New Business**

**1. NICRC Position Vacancies.** Diane Arizo, USDA Rural Development volunteered to serve as Committee Secretary for the remainder of Bonnie Vierra's term.

Veterans SEP remains vacant.

**2. Civil Rights and Program Delivery course.** Bill stated that Debbie Brackley, Assistant for Field Operations in Fallon, identified the need to send folks to this course. Do we want to host in FY2011 in Reno or just send 2-3 people to the existing session in Boise? Bruce is in support of sending a few select individuals to Boise if there are employees who have not yet taken this course and he would like to have at least 1 person from each NRCS office trained to provide counsel to their office staff. There are 2 sessions: Albuquerque, NM in June 2010 and Boise, ID in July 2010. Cory wanted to know how many people this would include. Bill stated approximately 3, of which Cory is one of them. The others are the 'new' DC in Elko, and the new DC in Winnemucca.

**VI. Open Comment**

None received.

**VII. Future Meeting Dates for FY10 (All meetings are available by teleconference. Calls are set up by the Secretary.)**

June 1, 2010 (Teri will set up the teleconference for the June meeting.)  
September 7, 2010

**VIII. Adjournment**

Minutes prepared by Diane Arizo and reviewed by Cory Lytle and the committee.