



Website Updates:

See new photos and updates on the project website

Follow-up of Annual Meeting:

To what extent are you reporting outcomes and impacts in your Quarterly Reports?

In what ways are you actively collaborating with partners?

Highlights:

- Advisory - 1
- Washington, DC - 2
- Partner Activities – 3
- Grants - 3

NRE Partners:

- FBCC
- NICC
- SBC
- SGU
- ISU
- NDSU
- SDSU
- UNL

Paula's Travel:

- July 7 - NICC
- July 20-22 - SGU
- July 26-30 - FBCC & SBC

USDA IFAFS GRANT 2001-2005

NRE Advisory Committee Meets



NRE Advisory Committee members meeting in Bismarck, ND in June were (from left): Al Young, Carty Monette, Jim Venette, and Joe McDonald.

"Tell your story" was the suggestion of Carty Monette, at the close of the NRE Advisory Committee meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota on June 11 and 12. Dr. Monette, President of Turtle Mountain Community College, believes other institutions can benefit from learning about the NRE partnership model.

The purpose of the NRE Advisory Committee meeting was to have an external review of the progress of the grant, to obtain suggestions for measures to evaluate the impact of the project, and to generate recommendations to assure sustainability after project funding ends. Iowa State University project team Harold Crawford, NRE Project Co-Director, Mary de Baca, Program Manager and Paula Teig, NRE Tribal College Liaison, and Laurel Vermillion, Vice-President at Sitting Bull College discussed the origin of the project, progress toward project objectives, and challenges of implementing the US Department of Agriculture funded NRE program.

Dr. Joe McDonald, President of Salish Kootenai College, complemented project directors for being persistent in obtaining funding and sharing decision making both in proposal preparation and in carrying out objectives of the grant. He acknowledged the cultural sensitive Talking Circles to assess needs at the beginning of the NRE

project and urged personnel at all partner institutions to "keep assessing changing needs." McDonald envisioned natural resources credit programs in the Tribal Colleges to be the most sustainable part of the project.

"Building trust," according to Dr. James Venette, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, College of Agriculture, food Systems and Natural Resources at North Dakota State University, "is both the biggest accomplishment and the ongoing challenge of the NRE project." Venette views the positive approach of teaming Tribal Colleges and state universities as a foundation for future partnerships.

Dr. Alvin Young, Visiting Professor and Senior Fellow, Institute for Science and Public Policy, Sarkeys Energy Center, University of Oklahoma, chairs the NRE Advisory Committee. Young discussed the importance of expertise in the 1862 institutions on environmental assessments, of the science behind natural resources, and of identifying critical issues as assets in partnering with Tribal Colleges as they educate young people in their tribal culture while preparing them for making a living. "In the end," Young concluded, "we all need to concentrate on taking this NRE project and making it sustainable."

The NRE Advisory Committee expects to submit a report very soon to Dr. Crawford. Look for highlights of the report in a future NRE newsletter. The committee plans meetings for June 2005 and June 2006. Advisory Committee members are invited to attend annual and mid-year meetings and other NRE events.

NRE to Washington, DC

Notice:

NRE Annual Meeting
October 6-8, 2004
Niobrara State Park
Hosts: NICC

Reporting

How are you reporting to your stakeholders and your administrators?

Report with photos and stories for the NRE newsletter!

Send your news for the next newsletter to Mary M. de Baca

**18 CURTISS, IOWA
STATE UNIVERSTIY
PHONE:
515-294-8574**

**FAX:
515-294-5334**

**E-MAIL:
mmdb@iastate.edu**

NRE on the Web

<http://ifafsnrp.ag.iastate.edu/>

Submit project workbook and photos for the web to [Jason Decker](mailto:Jason_Decker).

<Jason_Decker@hotmail.com>



Steering Committee members are invited to go on the Washington trip, September 20-23. We would like to have someone from each of the partner institutions in the group, so if steering committee members are unable to go, we ask that they designate someone from your college/university to go. If more than one is interested, we'll welcome them (so long as we can find hotel space).

The **purpose of the trip** is to create greater awareness by USDA staff of Tribal College efforts, to seek opportunities for future grants and collaboration, and to strengthen the appreciation of historical and current cultural contributions of American Indians. Those who participate will report on the outcomes of the trip at the Annual Meeting, October 6-8 at NICC.

Tentative schedule

Monday, September 20, travel, arriving in Washington in the afternoon if possible. Starlight tour of the capitol city.

Tuesday, September 21, all day activities at the National Museum of the American Indian (see <http://www.americanindian.si.edu/>). Possible walking tour to Washington Monument, WWII Memorial, and Lincoln Memorial.

Wednesday, September 22, USDA with CSREES staff at USDA. Possible visit to AIHEC or other departments in the afternoon.

Thursday, September 23: Visit the capitol and meet with congressional delegations. Late afternoon/early evening departure from Washington.

Trip financing: The NRE project will pay for travel for those who participate and all other costs come from your own institution budget. ISU will help make flight arrangements.

Arrangements: Mary de Baca will make hotel contact, set up appointment schedule, figure out getting around in Washington, prepare orientation materials, and requests your input during the visit to USDA.

Timetable: Please let Mary know of interest right away but no later than July 16. Cutoff date for air ticket advance purchases and for hotel reservations is August 16.

Sign up now to participate in the Washington, DC trip. Call or e-mail Mary to reserve a spot or if you have questions, comments, or suggestions.

Partner Activities

Sinte Gleska University

Sinte Gleska University submitted work plans for the capacity building initiative. SGU cites several objectives 1) to foster awareness on the reservation of the natural resources, plant, animal and plant science, and land management programs, 2) to increase enrollment in environmental science by establishing relationships with K-12 students, 3) to develop new tribal leaders through student classes and leadership opportunities, 4) to strengthen relationships between SGU and tribal land management agencies, 1862 universities, local schools, USDA extension and outreach programs, 5) to evaluate alternative uses for tribal lands that improve economic, environmental, and cultural conditions, 6) to promote overall cultural and economic health of the community through educational and research projects, and 7) to increase the capacity of SGU to offer quality education in Environmental Sciences and Natural Resources.

Focus areas are recruitment, research, and institutional capacity building. Incorporated in the work plan are activities at SGU ranch, with horses, after school programs, tree planting, greenhouse plants, medicine wheel garden and research plots. Personnel involved in the work plans include Lisa Colombe, Subodh Singh, David Weisser, and other faculty and students.

Nebraska Indian Community College

Shelly Avery and Hank Miller of NICC have submitted a capacity building work plan entitled "Working Together to Expand Knowledge." The work plan addresses four areas of need at NICC: 1) Student development - involving students in professional organizations, internships, student exchanges and portfolio development, 2) Faculty development - including education and awareness of natural resources and technology through conferences, workshops, seminars, professional meetings, and extension services, 3) Recruitment and retention - through a natural resources learning community, talking circles, extension workshops, exit interviews with graduates and alumni, and 4) Increase awareness of current events and their relationship with natural resources through "Topic Tuesday," a holistic approach open to students, faculty, and the community.

Iowa State University



Barbara Osborn, ISU Horticulture visited Hank Miller and others at NICC in May with Paula Teig to discuss an ISU student experience program at NICC.

Opportunity Partnership Grants

Don't forget about the opportunity to submit a mini proposal for activities to enhance your present capacity building initiative or natural resources community projects or to add a new activity within those two major areas. Remember that partners are required, so 2 or more institutions can work together on an activity. Leverage your own funds with a one to one match of up to \$15,000. Take advantage of this opportunity to improve environmental integrity, economic viability, quality of life, and/or strengthened institution.