



# 2<sup>nd</sup> National Tribal Districts & Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils Conference



## Agenda

December 6-10, 2004

Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas

# "Coming Together"

Hosted By



Oklahoma Tribal Conservation  
Advisory Council (OTCAC)



Indian Nations Conservation  
Alliance (INCA)

## Conference Host:

### Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council

#### Board Members:

PJ Workman, Chairman

Clara Bushyhead, Vice Chairman

Art Muller, Treasurer

Renee Hood

Choctaw Nation

Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe

Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Absentee Shawnee Tribe

Welcome from OTCAC Chairman, PJ Workman: We are pleased to host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tribal Districts & Conservation Advisory Councils Conference to be held at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas on December 6-10, 2004. This national conference is being held to promote the conservation and preservation of Indian natural resources, and to utilize these resources in a wise and sustainable manner throughout all of Indian Country. This conference provides a great opportunity to meet and visit with many of the tribal leaders of agriculture and conservation in Indian Country. We sincerely hope that your participation at this conference will be informative and beneficial to you. This national conference is being hosted by the Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (OTCAC) and Indian Nations Conservation Alliance (INCA) and both offer a WELCOME to all of you attending.

**OTCAC Mission Statement:** To conserve and preserve natural resources and Indian Country in Oklahoma through a process exercising sovereign rights of the American Indians, and obtaining funding for each tribe to control the destiny of our ecosystem including soil, air, lands, water, flora, fauna and cultural sustainability.

#### Why OTCAC was Organized:

- ❖ To get a "bigger voice" at all levels of USDA decision-making: State - Regional - National. To get changes to USDA policies like an Indian exception to the EQIP cost-share program.
- ❖ To get a statutory set-aside of USDA money for Oklahoma Indian landowners. To promote conservation education and economic development among our native people.
- ❖ To promote and protect each tribe's definition of what is considered Indian Country.
- ❖ To promote conservation and ecosystem research.
- ❖ To promote the interests of all Council members equally.
- ❖ To promote and protect the uniqueness of all tribal cultures.
- ❖ To promote both the cultural and the economic needs of the tribes and their member landowners.
- ❖ To promote cooperation and encourage partnership building between the tribes and federal agencies.

## Conference Host:

# Indian Nations Conservation Alliance (INCA)

### Board Members:

Dick Gooby, Executive Director	
Richard Thompson, Chairman	Shoshone-Bannock Nation
Terry Tatsey, Vice Chairman	Blackfeet Nation
Russel D. Zephier, Secretary	Oglala Sioux Nation
Thomas Begay, Treasure	Navajo Nation
Art Muller, Member	Potawatomi Nation

### About INCA:

The Indian Nations Conservation Alliance (INCA) was formed to assist all Tribal Nations/Alaskan Natives in the United States wanting to establish, maintain or strengthen Tribal Districts and/or Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils to protect the air, land, water, cultural and natural resources and Mother Earth for future generations.

INCA was formed at the request of tribal districts and advisory councils throughout the U.S. in Las Vegas, Nevada in Dec. 2000.

This Alliance in no way affects Indian Nations Sovereignty.

INCA was incorporated in the State of Montana on June 28, 2002 and received Internal Revenue tax exempt status on September 9, 2002 as described in section 501 (c) (3).

### Why

Currently there are more than 560 Federally Recognized Tribes and Alaskan Native Nations in the United States of America that have land holdings of more than 54 million acres nationwide.

The Tribes/Alaskan Nations that do not have a Tribal District or Conservation Advisory Council for the most part, do not have the opportunity to provide leadership to or have the needed access to, USDA, EPA, and/or other federal agencies and private organizations with conservation programs and resources. Tribal Districts and/or Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils are essential if Indian Country is to ever achieve parity in access to USDA and other federal Agencies conservation programs and to be able to manage their lands in a productive and healthy manner.

Presently there are 27 Tribal Districts and several Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils throughout Indian Country. There are also several regional groups consisting of advisory councils and tribal districts around the country.

## How will INCA carry out its purpose?

1. Conducting outreach with tribes whom have neither a Tribal district nor a tribal conservation advisory council. We will work to inform tribes of the value of and need for a tribal district or tribal conservation advisory councils.
2. Assist tribes throughout the U.S. when asked, to help organize tribal districts or tribal conservation advisory councils.
3. Assist tribal districts and tribal conservation advisory councils in capacity building and providing information on USDA, EPA and other programs that can help them achieve their short and long-term goals, i.e. taking care of the natural resources in Indian Country and increasing Native Americans opportunity to own and operate farms.
4. Work with federal agencies and private foundations to help bring needed programs, assistance, and resources to Indian Country.
5. Identify and seek solutions to barriers restricting tribes from being able to participate in natural resource programs provided by Congress via the Farm Bill and other federal programs and/or agencies.
6. Provide a forum for tribal districts and tribal conservation advisory councils to showcase their needs and successes. This forum will come from a local, regional and national perspective,
7. Work with federal agencies to make needed changes and additions to policy so programs will fit in Indian Country. This will be achieved with the cooperation of the federal agencies and Indian Tribes throughout the U.S.
8. Review policy needs with federal agencies.
9. Work with the U.S. Congress and the administration to voice the needs, opportunities and possible solutions to the conservation of natural resources in Indian Country.
10. Recommend legislative needs to the administration and the U.S. congress.
11. Work to create an awareness of the general public of the urgency and need for orderly development and conservation of the natural resources in Indian Country.

12. Improving the quality of life for Indian people by providing the most efficient and productive use of Indians lands throughout the U.S. Thus providing opportunity for an improved quality of life for future generations in Indian Country.

### Meeting the Goals:

INCA will request funding and assistance from USDA, USDA agencies, EPA, other federal agencies and work to secure foundation grants to carry out INCA's Strategic Plan.

INCA will maintain a national perspective regarding the needs of Indian Country throughout the U.S. by interaction with representatives of the INCA Board of Directors and membership throughout Indian Country. While at the same time assist individual tribal districts and tribal conservation advisory councils to meet their individual short and long term goals

INCA will work with other Indian groups and organizations throughout the U.S. to assure that the tribal districts or tribal conservation advisory councils goals and the goals of all of Indian Country are met.

INCA is developing a *Seven Generations Planning Process* Tribes, tribal districts and tribal conservation advisory councils can use to develop shared visions of what they want the reservation to look like *Seven Generations* from now. The planning process walks the group through the steps needed to develop a plan that when implemented will achieve the shared visions.

Conference hosts would like to thank and recognize our  
Conference Sponsors.



**Gold Feather Sponsors:**

**Citizen Potawatomie Nation**  
**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Nevada**



**Silver Feather Sponsors:**

**Cherokee Nation**



**Bronze Feather Sponsors:**

**Choctaw Nation**

**Sponsors for the Conference Social:**

**Hospitality Sponsors for the Conference:**

**Planning Committee Agenda  
December 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6th**

## Planning Committee Agenda – December 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

:00 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Saturday, December 4, 2004</b>
12:00 am – 2:00 pm	<b>Registration Committee Meeting Laughlin III</b>
12:00 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Gathering Items to go in Registration Bags Receipts/Name Tag Assembly Laughlin III</b>
12:00 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Items Gathered in Laughlin Room for Silent Action Laughlin III</b>
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Exhibitor Committee Meeting Laughlin III</b>
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	<b>OTCAC and INCA Planning Committee Meeting Laughlin III</b>

### Sunday, December 5, 2004

9:30 am – 10:30 am	<b>Registration Committee Meeting Sunset Room</b>
10:30 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Conference Office Laughlin III Registration Bags Assembled</b>
3:00 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Exhibitor Booth Assignment Set-up Laughlin Room I and II</b>
3:00 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Banner &amp; Sign Committee Laughlin III</b>
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Gathering of Silent Auction Items Laughlin III</b>
3:00 pm -6:00 pm	<b>Audio Visual Check-In Equipment (Inventory) Laughlin III</b>

### MONDAY, December 6, 2004

9:00 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Registration – Sunset Booth</b>
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Conference Planning Committee Meetings 10-11 pm Auction Committee 11-12 pm Special Needs Committee 1-2 pm Audio Visual Committee 3-4 pm Photo Committee Meeting 2-4 pm Speaker/Moderator Committee Laughlin III</b>
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Exhibitor Set-up Laughlin Room I and II</b>
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Silent Auction Items SET-up Laughlin Room I and II</b>



**Conference Agenda**  
**December 6<sup>th</sup> through December 11th**

**MONDAY, December 6, 2004**

6:00 pm -9:00 pm	<b>Welcome &amp; Social</b> <b>Vista Room</b> <b>Moderator: PJ Workman &amp; Dick Gooby (Welcome)</b>
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**TUESDAY, December 7, 2004**

7:30 am – 5:00 pm	<b>Registration – Sunset Booth</b> <b>All Breaks will be served in the Laughlin I Room</b>
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	<p align="center"><b>Exhibits Open – Laughlin I and II Room (12-7 through 12-9-2004)</b></p> <p> <b>Moderators: Tuesday (8 -12) Natha Workman (1-5)</b>  <b>Wednesday (8-12) (1-5)</b>  <b>Thursday (8-12) (1-5)</b> </p> <hr/> <p><b>Exhibitors:</b></p> <p>1.</p>
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	<p align="center"><b>Silent Auction Opens – Laughlin I and II Room (12-7 through 12-9-2004)</b></p> <p> <b>Moderators: Tuesday (8 -12) Melaine Yost (1-5) _____</b>  <b>Wednesday (8-12) _____ (1-5) _____</b>  <b>Thursday (8-12) _____ (1-5) _____</b> </p>

**TUESDAY, December 7, 2004**

8:30 am – 10:00 am	<b>LAUGHLIN I ROOM</b>  <b>EXHIBITS OPEN</b>	<p align="center"><b>GENERAL SESSION</b>  <b>Moderator: Herb Webb</b>  Flag Ceremony:  <b>Invocation: Louie Dick</b>  Welcome Address: PJ Workman, Chairman OTCAC &amp;  Richard Thompson, Chairman INCA  Keynote Speaker: Anne Venneman, USDA Secretary <b>(Invited)</b>  Anna Belle Romero, Director of Native American Programs, USDA  M. Darrel Dominick, Oklahoma State Conservationist</p> <p align="center"><b>Vista Room</b></p>
10:00 am – 10:15 am		<p align="center"><b>Break In Laughlin Room</b></p>
10:15 am - 12:00 pm		<p align="center"><b>GENERAL SESSION</b>  <b>Moderator: Russel Zepheir</b>  Speakers: Tex Hall, President, National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)  Bill Wilson, President of National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)  Bob Drake, President of Grazing Land Conservation Initiative (GLCI)</p> <p align="center"><b>Vista Room</b></p>
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm		<p align="center"><b>LUNCHEON</b>  (Tickets required )  <b>Moderator: Clara Bushyhead</b>    Invocation: Leota Burnett and Sherry Marable    <b>Keynote Speaker: Brian Patterson</b>  <b>Tribal Success</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Scenic Room</b></p>
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm		<p align="center"><b>GENERAL SESSION</b>    <b>Moderator: Art Muller, INCA and OTCAC Board</b>    Speakers: Animal Plant Health Inspection Service  National Agricultural Statistics Service  Natural Resource Conservation Service- Oklahoma Video    <b>Subject: Vision, programs and working together</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Vista Room</b></p>
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm		<p align="center">Break</p>
3:15 pm – 5:00 pm		<p align="center"><b>GENERAL SESSION</b>    <b>Moderator: Thomas Begay, Treasure, INCA</b>  Speakers: PJ Workman, President ,Oklahoma’s Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils  <b>Subject: State Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils.</b>  Terry Tatsey , Vice, President, Indian Nations Conservation Alliance  <b>Subject: Tribal Colleges and USDA working together</b>  Farm Service Agency  Risk Management Agency  <b>Subject: Vision, programs and working together</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Vista Room</b></p>
8:00 am - 5:00 pm		<p align="center"><b>NRCS Civil Rights Meeting</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Reno Room</b></p>

## WEDNESDAY, December 8, 2004

8:00 am – 5:00pm	<b>Registration – Sunset Booth</b> <b>Exhibits Open &amp; Silent Auction – Laughlin I</b>				
8:00 am – 10:00 am	<b>EXHIBITS OPEN – LAUGHLIN I ROOM</b>	<b>GENERAL SESSION</b>			
		<b>Moderator: Terry Tatsey Vice Chairman, INCA</b> Invocation: Brian Patterson  Introduction of Tribal Conservation Districts and Tribal Conservation Advisory Councils  Introduction of Congressional Representatives  Motivational Speaker: Clara Bushy Head, Cheyenne Arapaho  Speaker: Louie Dick, Seven Generations Plan The Umatilla Way  <b>Vista Room</b>			
10:00 am – 10:15 am		<b>Break Laughlin Room</b>			
<b>Moderators:</b>		<b>Brent Reavis</b>	<b>Leota Burnett</b>	<b>Roylene Rides at the Door</b>	<b>Shawn Fleming</b>
10:15 am – 11:00 pm		Penobscot Indian Nation Department of Natural Resources <b>John Banks</b> <b>Virginia City</b>	Poarch Band of Creek Indians Enhance Their Land <b>David Elliott</b> <b>Mesquite</b>	Oneida Nation History & Economic Development <b>Brian Patterson</b>  <b>Vista Room</b>	Section 106 Assessing Cultural Resources <b>KC Kraft</b> <b>Virginia City II</b>
11:15 am – 12:00 pm					
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm		<b>Lunch On Your Own</b>			
<b>Moderators:</b>		<b>Melanie Oliver</b>	<b>Lester Ligons</b>	<b>Carol Crouch</b>	<b>Stacy Riley</b>
1:00 am – 1:45 pm		Native American Fish & Wildlife Society <b>Ira New Breast</b> <b>Virginia City I</b>	Intertribal Bison Cooperative Salish Kootenai Tribe <b>Joel Clairmont</b> <b>Mesquite</b>	Cultural Awareness Training Federal Agencies  <b>Vista Room</b>	Intertribal Agricultural Council <b>Matt Pollock</b>  <b>Virginia City II</b>
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm					
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm		<b>Break Laughlin Room</b>			
<b>Moderators:</b>		<b>Duane Crider</b>	<b>Ann Colyer</b>	<b>Carol Crouch</b>	<b>Duane Crider</b>
3:15 pm – 4:00 pm		Tribal Success Stories Cherokee Nation <b>Angie Drewes</b> Cheyenne Arapaho <b>Clara Bushyhead</b> <b>Virginia I</b>	USGS <b>Kim Winton</b>  <b>Mesquite</b>	(Continued)  <b>Louie Dick</b> <b>Roylene Rides at the Door</b> <b>Carol Crouch</b>  <b>Vista Room</b>	No Till Farming and Soil Quality. <b>Greg Scott</b> <b>NRCS</b>  <b>Virginia City II</b>
4:15 pm – 5:00 pm					
8:00 am - 5:00 pm		<b>NRCS Civil Rights Meeting</b> <b>Room to be announced</b>			

**WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 8, 2004**

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**Vista Room**

**LIVE/SILENT AUCTION**

**Moderator: Tom Brothers  
Auctioneer: Kirk Schreiner**

**Invocation: Leota Burnett and Sherry Marable**

**Don't Miss the Fun, Food, and Celebration of  
50 years of Tribal Conservation Districts  
Duck Valley**

**Social (Finger Food)**

**Sponsored By: TBA**

**Donations Recognized:**

**1.**

**Thursday, December 9, 2004**

8:30am – 3:15 pm

**NRCS Leadership Meeting**

**Reno Room**

10:00 pm – 10:15 pm

**Break Laughlin Room**

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

**Lunch On Your Own**

**THURSDAY, December 9, 2004**

8:00am – 12:00pm	<b>Registration –Sunset Booth</b>		
8:30 am – 10am	<p><b>GENERAL SESSION</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Dennis Artherton</b>          Invocation: Louie Dick          Sharon Ruggi: President, National Association of Resource Conservation and Development (RC&amp;D)          Noller Herbert: NRCS Tribal Relations          Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service          Foreign Agricultural Service          Vision, programs and working together</p> <p><b>Vista Room</b></p>		<p><b>NRCS Leadership Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Reno Room</b>  <b>8:30 am – 3:15 pm</b></p>
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Break		
<b>Moderators:</b>	<b>Herb Webb</b>	<b>Shawn Fleming</b>	<b>Clay Horton</b>
10:15 am – 11:00 pm	Intertribal Timber Council <b>Don Montonic</b> <b>Virginia City I</b>	Bureau of Indian Affairs Fire Management <b>Merlin McDonald</b> <b>Virginia II</b>	Chickasaw Nation Marketing Vegetables with USDA Dollars <b>Jennifer Hayes</b> <b>Vista Room</b>
11:15 am – 12:00 pm	Chickasaw Nation Community Gardens <b>Ira Adams</b> <b>Virginia City I</b>	Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wild Horse & Burro Program <b>Mary Lou Drywater</b> <b>Virginia II</b>	Grazing Land Specialist (GLCI) <b>TBA:Roylene</b> <b>Vista Room</b>
12:00 pm- 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch On Your Own</b>		
1:00 pm- 3:15 pm	Networking between Tribal Colleges and Federal Agencies <b>Robert Whitman, Chair, American Indian          Science and Engineering Society          (AISES)</b> <b>Virginia I</b>	<p><b>GENERAL SESSION</b>  <b>Moderator: Darrel Dominick</b></p> <p>A representative(s) from each Native American Natural Resource Associations, Tribes, Tribal Conservation Districts, and Agencies are encouraged to attend this meeting.</p> <p><b>Discuss strategies for the 2007 Farm Bill</b></p> <p><b>Vista Room</b></p>	
3:15 pm – 5:00 pm	<p><b>GENERAL SESSION</b>  <b>Moderator: Dick Gooby</b></p> <p>Meeting with Bruce Knight, Chief NRCS          A representative(s) from each Native American Natural Resource Associations, Tribes, Tribal Conservation Districts, and Agencies are encouraged to attend this meeting.</p> <p><b>Vista Room</b></p>		
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	<p><b>NRCS Civil Rights Meeting</b>  <b>Room to be announced</b></p>		

Friday, December 10, 2004	
8:00 am – 12 pm	<p><b>RC&amp;D TRIBAL LISTENING SESSION</b>  <b>Open Public Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Sponsor: National NRCS RC&amp;D</b></p> <p>It is encouraged that a representative(s) from each National American Indian Natural Resource Associations, Tribes, Tribal Conservation Districts, Agencies, tribal member, and Conference attendees are invited and provide comments. For your convenience, the listening session questions are located in the back of this agenda.</p> <p><b>Twilight Room</b></p>
10:00 pm – 10:15 pm	<b>Break</b>
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch On Your Own</b>
8:00 am – 12pm 1:00 pm – 3pm	<p><b>Red Rock Room Available</b></p> <p><b>INCA Board Meeting</b></p>
2:00 pm – 4pm	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> National Tribal Districts &amp; Tribal Conservation Advisory  Councils Conference  Financing &amp; Closing Meeting</p> <p>OTCAC &amp; INCA Board</p> <p><b>Redrock Room</b></p>

**Conference Speakers  
Brief Biographic Sketch**



### **Key Note Speaker: Brian Patterson**

Brian Patterson is a Bear Clan representative to the Oneida Indian Nation's Men's Council, the Nation's governing body responsible for directing policy for the Nation. He serves on several Nation committees and commissions, including the Community Policing Committee, which he chairs. He also serves as head of the Nation Athletic Commission, which oversees professional boxing matches and other sporting events on Nation lands.

Patterson is active in efforts to revitalize Oneida culture and heritage to counter the effects of 200 years of poverty and displacement. He is the Nation's liaison for issues related to the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. He also has been active in government-to-government consultations on a variety of issues with local and state governments and federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Park Service and the Fort Drum Army Base.

He serves as chairman of the Culture and Heritage Committee of United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), a national Indian organization that represents some two dozen tribes east of the Mississippi River. USET's Culture and Heritage Committee is charged with influencing and advocating federal laws and policies regarding proper repatriation of remains and artifacts, the protection of sacred sites and the promotion and protection of American Indian cultural identity.

Patterson also serves as the Nation's liaison to several local organizations dedicated to educating the community about the many historical sites in Central New York. He is actively involved with the Friends of Oriskany Battlefield, where Oneida warriors fought side by side with the American colonists, and with the Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission, which aims to link sites and communities with historic and cultural significance.

Patterson is a well-known authority on contemporary American Indian cultural issues and has spoken on the topic at several conferences, including the annual American Indian Law Symposium sponsored by the St. Thomas School of Law. He has completed several continuing education and certification programs, most notably the "Leadership for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" and "Senior Executives in State and Local Government" programs at Harvard University. Patterson lives in Oneida.

### **Conference Elder: Louie Dick**

Louie Dick is a rancher/ professional speaker and Chairman of Tiicham Tribal Conservation District. He lives in Cayuse, Oregon and graduated from McEwen High School graduate, Athena, Oregon. Louie served in the Marine Corp from 1955 to 1959, from 1960 to 1967 he served on his Tribal council, and worked from 1963 to 1985 for the U.S. Forest Service as a Fire Technician. Louie is an enrolled member of the Confederate Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation. Tribes were know as "river people' and consisted about five tribes that intermarried. His mother is Cayuse and Nez Perce. His father is Palouse, Wanapum, and Umatilla. He recently received an award from the NRCS American Indian/Alaska Native Employees association for his participation in working effectively with American Indians workshop around the nation.

### **Dennis Artherton**

Dennis Artherton, Director, Delaware Tribe Environmental Programs. Dennis is a member of the Delaware Tribe, Turtle Clan. Co-Chair on the Delaware Enterprise Corporation Board. Native Oklahoman raised in Copan and Bartlesville, Oklahoma where he graduated from Bartlesville High School. Graduated from Tri-County Technology Center and received an AAS Degree from Coffeyville Community College. Area 2 Representative for(OTCAC) Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council and an(RTOC)Regional Tribal Operations Committee member. Married to Beth Artherton, a Cherokee Tribal member, and has 3 children and 2 step children.

### **Ira Adams**

### **Clara Bushyhead**

### **Angie Drewes**

### **Tex Hall**

### **Bob Drake**

### **Darrel Dominick**

Dominick holds a B.S. in Agriculture (Agronomy/Range Management) and an M.A. in Political Science (Public Administration) from OSU. Dominick is a Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Senior Executive Fellow. Dominick began his career with the NRCS as a student trainee in Atoka and Beaver. Dominick worked as a Range Conservationist in Cherokee, Mangum, Duncan, and Woodward. He served as the District Conservationist in Freedom and Mangum. Dominick worked as the Plant Materials Specialist for Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois. He then went to Area Conservationist and Assistant State Conservationist positions in Wyoming. Dominick then served as the Deputy State Conservationist for New York. Dominick was promoted to the State Conservationist for Maine in 1996, and came to Oklahoma as State Conservationist in March 2000.

Dominick has served in leadership roles, such as the Chair of the National Civil Rights Committee and on the Chief's Advisory Committee. He has served as President and is a charter member of the American Indian/Alaska Native Indian Employees' Association for NRCS. Dominick served as Secretary Glickman's Acting Director of Native American Programs during part of 1999 and serves on the USDA Working Group for Tribal Colleges. Dominick is a member of the Harmony Cadre that provides training on working effectively with Indian Nations.

Dominick has received several honors, such as the 1999 Coastal America Partnership Award for anadromous fish restoration efforts. He was honored by the Greater Boston Federal Executive Board for

outstanding individual reinvention efforts in 1999. The Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (NAFWS), Northeast Region, honored Dominick with the 1998 outstanding service and dedication award. In June, 2000, he received the USDA Award for Superior Service. The American Indian/Alaskan Native Employee Association for NRCS honored Dominick with the Mentoring Award in 2001.

Dominick graduated from Okmulgee HS and also lived in Sallisaw. He is a third generation Soil Conservation Service/NRCS employee. Dominick grew up around the family's small cow-calf operation at Hartshorne and is a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Dominick is married to Gwyn (McClendon) who is originally from Okmulgee and an OSU graduate. They have two daughters – Erin, 20 and Becca, 16.

**John Banks**

**David Elliott**

**KC Kraft**

**Matt Pollock**

**Ira New Breast**

### **Joel Clairmont**

### **Dick Gooby**

### **Kim Winton, Ph.D.**

Kim is a Native of Oklahoma. She has obtained a BS (zoology/ecology), MS from Oklahoma State Univ. (agronomy/ecology) Ph.D. from Univ. of Arkansas (agronomy/ecology) Field Biologist for Ag. She specialized in Chemical Industry 5 yr, specialized in the development of new herbicides Environmental Specialist for Ag Chemical Company for 7 yr, and studied the environmental fate and transport of agricultural products Sr. Group Leader for the Groundwater and Field Residue Team (Ag Chem. Co). She was the manager for environmental consulting group for EPA Ground-water Risk Management Lab and is currently the District Chief in Oklahoma for USGS Water Resources Discipline

### **Don Montonic**

### **Greg Scott**

Greg is a Soil Scientist/Project Leader for the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) in Oklahoma. He has been studying and mapping soils for nearly 30 years in Oklahoma, Alaska, North Dakota, Texas and Kansas. He earned his BS in Agronomy and MS in Environmental Science from Oklahoma State University. He is active in several scientific societies and works to recruit soil scientists through AISES and other groups. He is intrigued by soil as the part of the ecosystem that supports all life processes. His passion is the relationship between the soil, humans, and the ecosystem. He became involved in no-till agriculture after seeing dramatic improvements in soils within a few years, and is active in teaching producers and others how to recognize those changes. He argues that no-till allows humans to produce food in harmony with nature. He lives in rural Oklahoma with his wife Becky. They raise cattle and experiment with no-till on their own farm.

### **Mary Lou Drywater**

### **Noller Herbert**

Noller Herbert is a *Dine'* (Navajo) born to the Redhouse/Manygoats clan and for the Salt Clan from Big Mountain, Navajo Nation, Arizona. He grew up herding sheep and goats, dry land farming, and was educated through the BIA boarding school system from K-12<sup>th</sup> grade. He graduated from Tuba City High School, attended Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, and graduated in 1986 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Civil Engineering. Noller started his career in 1983 as a student trainee in engineering and later served as Project Engineer, Facility Manager for an Indian hospital, Area Engineer, Resource Support Staff Team Leader, and State Conservation Engineer for Arizona. In April 2004 he transferred to NRCS National Headquarters to be the agency's National Tribal Relations Coordinator. In this capacity he helps develop and coordinate programs and policies that benefit American Indians and Alaska Natives.

### **Carol Vallee Crouch, Ph.D.**

Dr. Carol Crouch is a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, Pablo Montana. She is employed by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), United States Department of Agriculture, in Oklahoma. She started her career with NRCS as a student trainee and she has worked for the NRCS in the areas of Water Resources, Outreach, Public Affairs, Civil Rights, Conservation Planning, and Tribal Relations. Carol was a active AISES member while she pursued her Master's degree at the University of Oklahoma, MPH degree at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and her Ph.D. at Oklahoma State University. She has been an active speaker and panelist supporting job and educational opportunities for America Indians in today's work force. She is currently serving on three advisory committees for young women in the areas of *Higher Education, Public Image of Women, and Nationwide Accountability for Educating Women* to develop initiatives for each of these three barriers that pose obstacles for women. In her research capacity she developed and conducted research that identified environmental and conservation issues and barriers that prevent delivery of programs and education that could benefit American Indians and Alaska Natives. She is committed to assisting any student reach their educational dreams and "making a difference" in the preservation and protection of our Nation's natural and cultural resources.

### **Anna Belle Ramero**

#### **Roylene Rides at the Door - Assistant State Conservationist, NRCS**

Roylene is the great great grand daughter of Rides at the Door and great great niece of Sitting Bull. She grew up on a cattle/ horse ranch on the Blackfeet Nation located in Northwest Montana. Roylene graduated from Browning high school in 1987, attended Montana State University (MSU) and graduated in 1991 with a Bachelor's degree in Range Science. She has worked for NRCS in Montana, Arizona and now Oklahoma. She has move through the agency's career ladder from Soil Conservationist to now Assistant State Conservationist. Her goal is to be a State Conservationist.

### **Bill Wilson**

Bill currently serves as President Elect of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). NACD is the voice for America's 3000 Conservation Districts, 17000 District Officials, and over three million cooperators who use resources on the working lands. Bill became a cooperator with the Haskell County, Oklahoma Conservation District on May 2, 1974. Bill was elected to the following; Board of Directors on March 3, 1980, Area V director of OACD on October 1990, Vice President of OACD on Jan. 1992, President of OACD Feb. 1994, NACD Council member in 1994, South Central Regional Chair of the NACD Board in 1998, Executive Board Member of NACD representing the South Central Region in 1999, Second Vice President of NACD in February, 2001. He signed the original MOU to form the NWC in August 1989. Bill became NACD Board member from Oklahoma in 1997. Bill was on of the original member of the NWC Steering Committee serving as its Chairman in 1994. Bill also served on NACD Water Resources committee and served on NACD Forestry Committee. Bill is married to Carolyn (Amason) Wilson and they have two married daughters and three Grand Children. Bill & Carolyn own and operate a 660 acre cow calf, horse and mule ranch in southern Haskell County. Carolyn is an insurance agent and Bill is a Registered Land Surveyor in Oklahoma and Arkansas.

### **PJ Workman, Chairman of Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council**

PJ was born 1936, Tuskahoma, Oklahoma. He graduated from Hartshorne High in 1953. Graduated Oklahoma A&M (now OSU) in 1957, He married Virginia Brunson in 1961, and we have 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren. PJ worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in various Natural Resource positions, and conducted soil surveys with the Soil Conservation Service for four years (Osage County). When I retired

in 1994, I was Anadarko Area Office Natural Resources Officer and supervised all Natural Resource Programs on Indian lands in Texas, Western Oklahoma, Kansas, Southern Nebraska and Eastern Colorado.

PJ participated in the Allotments of land to the Native Alaskans in accordance with ANCSA, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. In 1990, his focus changed disaster assessment. Following the clean-up of the Exxon-Valdez oil spill disaster, he surveyed lands affected by the spill and through soils and other tests to confirm and assure the lands was free of hydrocarbon residue. He served on a committee that worked with the Indian Agriculture Working Group in 1986 and 1987 to assess Tribal Natural Resource Concerns on Indian lands throughout the United States. An outgrowth of this working group was the formation, in 1987, of the Intertribal Agriculture Council. In 1994, after serving as an official of the National Land, Pasture and Range Judging contest for 34 years, I was named National Honoree of the event. He is currently the Chairman of the Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council.

**MERLIN McDONALD** – Regional Fuels Specialist, Oklahoma Fire Center, 2800 N. Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. Phone (405) 522-5951; email: [Merlin\\_McDonald@nifc.gov](mailto:Merlin_McDonald@nifc.gov)

Merlin earned a B.S. in Forest Management in 1974 from Northern Arizona University at Flagstaff, Az. After 3 seasons with a USFS fire crew in New Mexico he then worked as a forester for the state of South Dakota from 1977 to 1980. His experience with the BIA includes Timber Sale Officer at the San Carlos Agency from 1980 to 1983, Timber Sales, Presale and Silviculture at the Ft. Apache Agency from 1983 to 1991 and the Jicarilla Agency from 1991 to 2000. He has been in his present position as the Regional Fuels Specialist for the Eastern Oklahoma and Southern Plains Regions since 2000. Primary duties at present are to oversee the prescribed burning and mechanical treatment activities on Indian Trust Lands throughout the two regions.

## Cultural Entertainment

### **Leota Burnett**

Leota was born in Miami Oklahoma to her mother of Shawnee descent and her father of Ottawa/Shoshone descent. When Leota was 11 years of age her family moved to Colorado where she grew up. She began her career with NRCS as a WAE in Glenwood Springs, CO. In 1989 she was hired on as a permanent employee and worked in Steamboat Springs for one year then went back to Glenwood where she worked for 11 years. She then returned to Oklahoma and has worked at the Miami Field Office for the last 3 years. Leota served on the Civil Rights Committee in Colorado for 6 years and is currently the SEPM in Oklahoma for NRCS. She actively participates in the American Indian/Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS (AIANE) and serves on several of its committees. She is also an active member of the Order of the Eastern Star in Vinita, OK. Leota is married to husband, Rocky and has one daughter Chelle.

# **Conference Planning Committees**