

**FDPIR Funding Work Group
February 8, 2007 Conference Call Notes**

Attending	Not Attending
Nancy Egan (Shoshone-Paiute Tribes), representing the NAFDPIR Regional Vice President for the Western Region	Susie Roy (Leech Lake Chippewa), NAFDPIR Regional Vice President for the Midwest Region
Gale Dills (Cherokee Tribe of North Carolina), representing the Southeast Region ITOs	Tony Nertoli (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians), NAFDPIR President
Lindsay Rayon (Muscogee (Creek) Nation), representing the NAFDPIR Regional Vice President for the Southwest Region	
Mary Trottier (Spirit Lake), representing Red Gates, NAFDPIR Regional Vice President for the Mountain Plains Region	
Thomas Yellowhair (Navajo Nation), representing WAFDPIR	
Melinda Newport (Chickasaw Nation), representing ONFACT	
Elvira Jarka, FNS-MWRO	
Chris Hennelly, FNS-SWRO	
Madeline Viens, FNS-WRO	
Don DeBoer, FNS-MPRO	
Laura Castro, FNS-HQ, FDD	
Nancy Theodore, FNS-HQ (staff support) Melanie Casey, Facilitator	

Nancy Theodore reported that Red Gates was unable to participate in the conference call, and extended his apologies to the work group members. Mary Trottier represented Red in the call.

General comments from the work group members on the January meetings with Tribal and State officials -

- Nancy Theodore invited the work group members to offer their comments/impressions of the meetings. The comments are summarized below.

Green Bay Meeting

- Attended by 9-10 tribes;
- Attendees were complimentary to MWRO staff and the funding allocation process used by MWRO;
- One commenter expressed support in using participation as a criteria;
- There were technical difficulties in linking callers to the meeting;
- Some attendees were not supportive of a change in the funding allocation process;
- Comments on tribal matching rates/amounts;
- Concern that the proposal would harm smaller programs;
- Concerns about indirect cost (desire to limit indirect cost rates)

Oklahoma City Meeting

- Weather was a problem;
- 15 of the 19 tribes were represented;

- General support for the proposal;
- Comments/questions on specific features of the components;
- Comments on carryover funds;

Rapid City Meeting

- No support for the proposal;
- Good turnout;
- Comments regarding potential litigation;
- Comments regarding the consultation process;
- Tribal leaders traveling to DC to discuss this and other issues with Federal officials;

San Francisco Meeting

- 24 attendees; 33 callers;
- Comments on capital expenditures and request for clarification on provision in Component 2 to factor out capital expenditures of \$50,000 or more when determining historical spending;
- Comments on tailgating costs;
- Comments on treaty rights;
- Concern about lack of data showing specifically how proposal would impact ITOs and State agencies;
- Hesitancy regarding changes involving the Federal government;
- Tribes stated they would submit written comments;
- Some tribes brought written statements to the meeting;
- Comments on operational differences;
- Comments regarding the consultation process;
- Request to review the work group's final recommendation before it is presented to FNS Administrator;
- Request for another face-to-face meeting with senior FNS officials to discuss the final recommendation;
- Expansion of negotiations—IOTs cannot afford cut in funds; negative impact on quality of service;
- Nancy Theodore reminded the work group members that the White House Executive Order 13175 on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments was provided to the work group at the July meeting. She offered to provide that document and USDA's Departmental Regulation 1340-006 to anyone that wants a copy.
- Nancy Theodore reported that the Rapid City meeting transcript had been received by FNS-HQ and a copy had been forwarded to the NAFDPIR Board members and FDPIR Funding Work Group members. The Oklahoma City and Green Bay meeting transcripts are being edited by the Regional Offices for typos and misspellings and are expected at FNS-HQ soon. The San Francisco meeting transcript is expected the week of February 12th. Nancy will forward copies of the transcripts to the work group members when she receives them. Also, they will be posted on the FDPIR Funding Work Group. Written comments are starting to be received at FNS-HQ; they also will be posted on the website.

Request by Tribal Leaders to Balance Work Group Membership

- Nancy Theodore reported that at the Rapid City meeting comments were made concerning the membership of the work group, and concerns were expressed that the Mountain Plains Region was under represented.
- Nancy read the following quote from Roberto Salazar, FNS Administrator, in the transcript. "Let me clarify. One of the things that is probably going to delay some of this time line, because of what I've

heard here today, is that I'm going to ask this Work Group to find a way to include additional representation from this region [Mountain Plains Region] given the fact that there is not adequate representation..."

- This issue generated some discussion among the work group members, including:
 - Would FNS or the work group handle the request for nominee? (It was clarified that FNS would draft a letter to the NAFDPIR asking the Board to consult with the Mountain Plains Region Food Distribution Programs on the nomination of a new work group member and advise the work group accordingly.)
 - Would FNS or the work group decide whether a new member would be added?
 - What would be the impact on the momentum of the work group if a new member is added at this juncture?
 - Is it Tony Nertoli's role to represent all ITOs as well as the Midwest Region?
- To allow time for discussion of the other topics on the agenda, Nancy Theodore asked the work group members to provide their comments on the above questions/issues to her via email. She will forward the comments received to all work group members and this topic will be added to the agenda for the next conference call.

USDA 2007 Farm Bill Proposal

- Nancy Theodore reported that the USDA Farm Bill Proposals, which were released on January 31, 2007, would:
 - provide an additional \$27 million over 10 years; and
 - provide for a structured method for allocating administrative funds among the ITOs/State agencies.
- Nancy Egan asked where the Farm Bill Proposals can be viewed. Nancy Theodore responded that the proposals are on the www.usda.gov website.
- Mary Trottier raised concerns about the language in the USDA Farm Bill Proposals. Nancy Theodore responded that her office did not prepare the language and she did not know where or by whom it was prepared. Concerns about the USDA Farm Bill Proposals may be submitted to Secretary Johanns.

January 31, 2007 Hearing by the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee on Federal Food Assistance Programs

- Nancy Theodore reported that Melinda Newport was asked to be a witness at the January 31, 2007 Senate hearing.
- Melinda reported to the work group on her experience as a witness at the hearing.
- Laura Castro pointed out that the hearing was part of the Senate Committee's preparation for considering the USDA Farm Bill Proposals. Laura explained how to find information on the Senate hearings at the www.senate.gov website.
- [Nancy Egan](#) asked Melinda to share her testimony with the work group members. [The testimony was forwarded to all work group members after the conference call.]

Group Decision Making Process

- Melanie Casey provided some insight on decision making processes and reviewed some of the decision-making options. This was a refresher for the work group on the choices available for group

decision making; why some methods are more appropriate than others; and why sometimes the best choice for group decision making may take the most time and effort. (attached are notes prepared by Melanie that the work group members may refer to as decisions are needed by the group).

- There was some discussion among the work group members about maintaining the support of the work group members and maintaining commitment on the part of the work group members.
- Melinda Newport expressed concern that the perceived cohesion of the work group and the consensus reached at the July meeting has appeared to have fallen apart, given some comments made at the January meetings, and asked how to keep that from happening.
- Linday Rayon, Melanie Casey and Nancy Theodore expressed concern about members not fully participating in the work group, whether in conference calls or in face-to-face meetings.
- Thomas Yellowhair commented that some work group members felt they were not heard at times, but that there was improvement since a facilitator was added to the group.
- Nancy Theodore stated that written information on group decision making would be provided to the work group members and this topic will be added to the agenda of the next conference call so work group members can discuss group decision making processes.

Review of unresolved funding methodology issues

- Nancy Theodore reviewed the issues still to be resolved by the work group.

1) Development of negotiation guidelines.

- Elvira Jarka asked if examples of negotiation guidelines could be provided to the work group.
- Nancy Theodore asked the work group members to send her any examples they were aware of or suggest sources that she could explore.
- It was suggested that work group look at the guidelines used by the Regional Offices for FDPIR.
- Nancy Theodore reminded the work group that information on the budget negotiation process was collected previously. That information is attached.
- Nancy pointed out that some Regions reported that actual negotiation is limited due to the limited funding.
- Chris Hennelly and Mary Trottier reported that negotiations are conducted in the Southwest and Mountain Plains Region. Nancy will ask those Regional Offices to provide their guidelines for budget negotiations.

2) Development of guidelines for reallocating unused funds.

3) Allocation methodology for North Dakota and Montana.

- It was asked whether the issue of funding for warehousing was raised at the Rapid City meeting. Nancy confirmed that it was discussed. [Representatives from both the Montana and North Dakota State agencies spoke about this issue (see the Rapid City meeting transcript).]
- Elvira Jarka asked for a write-up on the Montana/North Dakota warehousing funding issue. Nancy reminded the work group that a write-up had been developed and provided to the work group [at the request of Red Gates]. That information is attached.
- Thomas Yellowhair commented that the gradual implementation plan should be added to the list of unresolved issues.

Other issues

- Thomas Yellowhair commented that the work group's deliberations were supposed to be "transparent" but there is no summary of the July 2006 meeting on the website. Nancy Theodore responded that she did not know exactly why there is no summary. She speculated that it was a busy period and the summary was inadvertently overlooked given her funding work group duties and regular work responsibilities. Notes have been compiled and posted for the conference calls that followed the July meeting. The notes from those conference calls confirm some of the decisions made in the July meeting. In addition the November 28, 2006 package that was sent to all Tribal/State officials outlines the funding methodology that was developed at the July meeting.

Next Conference Call

- Nancy Theodore reminded the work group members that the next conference call is scheduled for February 21, 2007 from 3:00-4:30pm Eastern time. Nancy will provide a reminder by email with a tentative agenda.

Attachments:

- 1) Decision Making Process materials
- 2) Chart on Regional Budget Negotiation Process
- 3) Write-up on Montana/North Dakota warehousing issue