



Intertribal Agriculture Council
PO Box 958, Billings MT 59103

October 1, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

The continued COVID pandemic has had far reaching implications for all of us in Indian Country, and unfortunately we anticipate that we have yet to see or even imagine the full extent of its impact. As you deal with these issues on the front lines of the pandemic, it is my hope that through collaborative efforts and clear communication we are helping to reconstruct the food systems that are so desperately needed to enhance our ability to weather this, and other challenges ahead.

While our preferred method of communication with our 574 member Tribes is through in person communication, either at regional summits or during our national event held every year since 1987 we are making changes to improve our ability to serve you effectively. We are at a critical point in the continuum of agriculture policy with the previous Farm Bill implementation underway. At the same time, the 2023-2028 farm policy discussion has already begun. A very large portion of our work in the past has been advocating for improvement of federal agriculture policy to improve our access to it, and the success of the Native Farm Bill Coalition in the 2018 Farm Bill is an indication of our capacity.

We couldn't do it without your input, and that of your communities. As you may be aware, our Annual Membership Meeting is where we put forward the initiatives we've identified as critical to our further development. While our typical format of in person caucuses and consideration of these issues by the membership isn't available to us this year, we are going to do our best to facilitate the discussion virtually. In a normal setting, dues paying members are allowed the opportunity to vote yes or no and move initiatives through the process. This year we are changing that process to make your participation easier.

Membership dues for voting are waived this year. In lieu of paying the membership dues, your governing body can instead offer a resolution with your caucus issues, and your proposed solution, or plan of work for the IAC. This resolution will also name your chosen delegate to represent your concerns in our parliamentary processes, and vote issues up or down should the need arise. We have attached to this letter the following: 1) Sample Resolution language for your Tribal action, 2) a sample caucus issue and proposed solution and 3) the 2021 Annual Conference announcement. We are offering an in-person or virtual option to respect personal comfort levels as we navigate this pandemic. .

If you have a standing resolution authorizing your delegate and alternate, and nothing has changed, you only need to submit your concerns for caucus issues, or have them register to participate in the virtual conference where they can raise issues or concerns in person.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at kari@indianag.org.

Respectfully,

Kari Jo Lawrence, IAC Executive Director

Intertribal Agriculture Council

2021 Voting Delegate Guide

Online Voting Delegate Application: <https://www.tfaforms.com/4766069>

Voting Delegates to the IAC will vote on the issues raised through our caucus process. Delegates are selected by the governing body of a member Tribe, 2021 membership dues are waived.

Tribes may raise caucus issues via resolution, or by having their representative register and participate in the virtual caucus meeting, see schedule here. These issues can be advanced through the membership meeting where a Tribe's delegate may vote on the adoption of that issue as the position of the IAC.

The right to vote on these issues through IAC processes is open to all 574 of IAC's member Tribes with an interest in the management and development of Indian agricultural and food systems resources.

HOW TO APPLY TO BECOME A VOTING DELEGATE TRIBE

<https://www.tfaforms.com/4766069>

The application process only requires a formal resolution from the respective Tribe; which includes naming the voting delegate (and alternate) to represent your Tribe's interest - see [sample resolution](#) and [letter](#). General membership on the Council is vested with the Tribes and not with any specific individual.

***The IAC board voted to once again waive Tribal membership dues.**

Once approved, the voting delegate participates in the regional caucus to bring actionable items forward to the annual Membership Meeting, both of which occur each year during the early part of December at IAC's Annual Conference.

Register NOW to participate in the 2021 IAC Annual Conference and Membership Meeting December 7-9, 2021

The 2021 Membership Meeting will be held on December 9, 2021.

Visit www.indianag.org/2021-annual-conference for conference information.

IAC Caucus Protocol

The Board Member or Alternate for your region is responsible for presiding over the Caucus meeting.

An IAC staff member will be in attendance to record the actions in our preferred format.

Staff members, unless appointed as a delegate by a member Tribe, may not offer issues for consideration, but may offer their perspective on issues raised.

It is generally accepted that all conference participants are invited to attend the meeting, and may raise issues for consideration.

Issues offered for consideration of the caucus by registered conference participants from that region; however if no duly appointed delegates move to support the issue it will not be discussed, nor included in the caucus report offered to the membership.

The Board Member from that region will present the caucus report to the General Membership for consideration for adoption as IAC Policy for the year.

Issues may be adopted by the IAC by a vote of the delegates at the membership meeting on December 9th, 2021.

Issues not receiving consensus approval at the caucus may be voted on in a manner as determined by the presiding officer, for reporting out to the membership meeting.

A majority of the duly appointed delegates attending the caucus may approve an issue, or the caucus report in its entirety.

Caucus Agenda Framework

Roles Summary:

- IAC Board Member Facilitates Meeting
- TA takes notes, offers context on USDA resources as necessary, fields pertinent questions- does not direct conversation or have the floor for any length of time

Introductions (IAC Board Member)

- Delegates: Name, Tribal Affiliation, Role/Operation/Business
- General Attendees (only if size of caucus permits and this will not take away from primary scope of this meeting): Name, Tribal Affiliation, Role/Operation/Business

Review of Previous Caucus Issues (IAC Board Member/TA)

- Present TA Accomplishments Relevant to Caucus Issues Raised Last Year

Review of Presubmitted Caucus Issues (IAC Board Member/TA Takes Notes)

- Review background
- Consider Actionable Solutions

Round-Table Delegate Discussion on 2021 Caucus Issues (IAC Board Member/TA Takes Notes)

- State name, Tribal affiliation, issue/concern, possible remedy/solution
- Review background
- Consider Actionable Solutions

Vote on Caucus Issues Raised (IAC Board Member/TA)

- Clarify notes in support of generating the caucus report

Final Thoughts (IAC Board Member) Adjourn

(Sample Resolution for Becoming a Voting Delegate Tribe with IAC)

Therefore be it resolved....Hereby appoints _____ as its delegate to the Intertribal Agriculture Council, and appoints _____ as the alternate delegate.

Be it further resolved.....hereby offers the following caucus issues for consideration in the regional caucus.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

(Sample appointment letter for delegate/alternate to the Intertribal Agriculture Council)

Dear Executive Director:

The _____ Tribal Council has designated _____ to the Intertribal Agriculture Council as the official Tribal Delegate and _____ as the alternate affording all privileges of member representatives.

Sample Caucus Issue: Less than 40 Tribes are able to utilize FRTEP due to the funding limitation to the program. Member Tribes request an increase in funding directly to their congressional representatives to \$10 M.

Proposed Solution: IAC advocacy for 2023 Farm Bill will include mandatory funding for 100 FRTEP agents.