



Intertribal Agriculture Council
100 North 27th Street, Suite 500, Billings MT 59101

November 4, 2020

Dear Tribal Leader:

The 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 frontlines 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) 2020 Voting Delegate Guide 2) Sample Resolution language for your Tribal action, 3) a sample caucus issue and proposed solution 4) the Virtual Annual Conference announcement, and 5) a copy of last year's IAC Playbook, generated from the caucus issues raised at the 2019 event.

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 call me at 605-222-3852 or email me at zach@indianag.org. I look forward to the discussions we will have in December, and beyond. On behalf of everyone at your Intertribal Agriculture Council, I thank you for your work, and offer our assistance should you need it.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office.

Respectfully,

Zach Ducheneaux,
Executive Director

Intertribal Agriculture Council 2020 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, and for 2020 the dues for the annual conference are waived, due to our inability to hold an in-person meeting.

Tribes may raise caucus issues via resolution, or by having their representative register and participate in the caucus on December 7th, 2020. 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. **Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the \$200 fee for voting participation is waived for the 2020 Virtual Membership Meeting on December 10, 2020.**

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 2020 IAC Virtual Annual Conference and Membership Meeting! The 2020 Intertribal Agriculture Council Annual Conference is happening virtually, December 7-10, 2020; Regional Caucuses will occur on December 7th; Membership Meeting Occurs on December 10th.

Visit www.indianag.org/events for conference information.

(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.

IAC Caucus Protocol

Each Region has been designated a Zoom room. See the Conference App for Zoom room assignments. The Regional Technical Assistants will also be assisting to make sure everyone knows where to go.

The Board Member or Alternate for your region is responsible for presiding over the 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 10th, 2020.

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 2019 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 2020 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