**Land Acknowledgement and Action Plan – Moving Forward**

# Training Topics

## Minnesota Tribes History

* Background on past and current tribes in Minnesota.
* Tribal government structures – all tribes are different.
* Treaties: Why Treaties Matter. Virtual Exhibit on [treatiesmatter.org](http://treatiesmatter.org/exhibit/)
* Histories and cultures of tribes (Ojibwe and Dakota)

## Consultation and Working with Tribal Nations

* How can consultants and state agencies better work with tribal nations?
* Panel discussion: Panelist include a representative from various tribes.
	+ (1-2) Dakota Representatives: Lower Sioux, Upper Sioux, Prairie Island, Shakopee
	+ (2-3) Ojibwe Representatives: Bois Forte, Fond Du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Red Lake, White Earth

## Supporting Native Communities and Organizations in the Metro

* How can consultants and state agencies support native organizations and the community as a whole?
* Panel discussion: Panelists include executive directors or representatives from various native organizations in the metro area. Each panelist could give a brief overview of their organization and what they do for the community.
	+ Minneapolis American Indian Center – programs provided for youth, adults, elders
	+ MIGIZI Communications – works with youth
	+ American Indian Family Center (St. Paul) – programs provided for youth, adults, elders
	+ American Indian OIC – high school and college
	+ Division of Indian Work (DIW) – primarily works with youth

## Supporting Tribal Communities and Organizations in Greater Minnesota

* How can consultants and state agencies support reservations in Greater Minnesota?
* Panel discussion: Panelists include representatives from various divisions (education, natural resources, housing, economic development, etc.) in different tribes.

# Cultural Programs

I think it’s also important to learn about Native American culture to have a better understanding of who we are working with. Learning about the culture, hearing stories, etc., will help WTS members become more connected to the native community.

## Harvesting Sage

* Sage can be harvested in the spring and summer.
* Program would include background on sage, its uses in Native American culture, and harvesting. Attendees would get to keep a bundle of sage and learn how to dry it and use it (smudge).

## Harvesting Red Willow

* Red willow is harvested during the winter months. Red willow can be used to make tobacco. Known as "Cansasa" to the Lakota, Red Willow Bark is a spiritually important herb within the Native American culture. It is often used during times of ceremony to show respect or give spiritual protection; socially, it can be shared with close friends and family to promote kinship.
* Program would include background on red willow and harvesting red willow. Attendees could take it home. Red willow needs to dry in order to remove the bark (which is used to make cansasa), we could bring pre-harvested and dried red willow to make cansasa.
* Could also make tobacco pouches for the cansasa – sinew and leather needed.

## Dream Catcher Making

* Can be done year-round. Use red willow from harvesting to make dream catchers.
* Program would include making dream catchers and learning the history and purpose of a dream catcher.

# Volunteer Opportunities in the Community

As we’ve discussed, actions speak louder than words. It would be a good opportunity to volunteer at any organizations so they know we are here, and we support them. Organizations include native non-profit and student run organizations/groups.

## Division of Indian Work (DIW)

* Volunteer at DIW. There are several program areas: Food Shelf, Youth, Adults, Seniors, Families Special Project
* <https://www.diw-mn.org/volunteer>

## Circle of Indigenous Nations (COIN) and American Indian Student Cultural Center (AISCC) – University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

* Organize an annual powwow. Always looking for volunteers to help.
* Reach out to see if they have additional programs.

## University of Minnesota, Twin Cities – Earth & Environmental Sciences

* They have a DEI Committee that has a working group for “Confronting Colonization”
* Partner with the department to provide programs to the community.
* <https://cse.umn.edu/esci/news/commitments-indigenous-peoples-and-their-lands>