



History & Current Environment Scan

In completing a scan of the environment, it is important to create a “snapshot” of government formulation as it currently exists in the consciousness of the communities to be involved in the effort to bring about positive changes in governance. And, to understand that this ‘snapshot’ of governance is shaped by the history and experience of the people, the community and their readiness to participate in participating in and shaping governance structures. The group generated data and information to discuss this history as it lives in the memories and stories of participants, along with the current day reality in which the vision of the group will be developed.

In this session participants shared information on the history of Ojibway Tribes in Minnesota and their experiences with ‘governance’, Basic Data, Trends that impact the 3E Team’s work, Advantages and Recent Accomplishments that 3E or the Tribes have achieved in the past 2-3 years. These discussions help set the stage for the creation of a practical vision that is grounded in the reality of 3E, the Ojibway Tribes and their stakeholder communities.

History Grounding 3E Team Vision

	1880s & Before	1900 - 1919
World		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWI
Individuals	<i>Native Ways of Knowing Not Viewed as Legitimate – Put in Box & Not Allowed to Go Back to Circle</i>	<i>Introduction of Religion and Education</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional knowledge is valued by our people, individually • All responsible to village, clan • Living a traditional way of life • Respect for traditional order 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indians as U.S. Veterans in WWI • Knowledge • Allotment/Land Stolen • Formal Education & Religion influence worldviews
Family & Community	<i>Creating Reservations, Combining Bands ~ Creates Divisions; Churches v Tradition</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Churches & missionaries taking over • Sense of belonging to Clan system • Keeping community and family balance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone knows their role within the Tribe • Respect for elders 	
Leadership (Native – Not State, Fed, etc.)	<i>Pre-Assimilation: Clan System: Clan, Council, Family; Leadership & Leaders Flourished; Societies Assimilation Era: Hopeless, Lost, Christianity, Boarding School, Split Up, Confused</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken promises • Traditional Chiefs took care of clans/families • Annuities • Traditional Culture
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governed by Clans • 1837 Treaty Land • 1854 Treaty Bois Fort, Grand Portage, Fond du Lac • 1867 Treaty White Earth • Ceremonies outlawed • Leaders informed everyone of changes • First contact with Europeans • 1855 Treaty: Mississippi, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs • Accountability of leadership 	

3E Vision Team History (Continued)

	1920 - 1939	1940 - 1959
World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Depression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWII • Korean War
Individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents begin to relinquish child-rearing responsibilities • “Dumb Indian” syndrome....if you spoke Ojibwe you weren’t viewed as smart, picked on & treated bad • Incest, child prostitution, violence – white men coming onto Rez, forcibly pouring alcohol down women’s throats & raping them • Right to vote as U.S. citizens • Individual’s feel included • Boarding schools • Running away from Boarding school 	<p><i>Parents Think Traditional Knowledge is Not Valuable, Feel Best Thing is for Kids to Receive White Education; Alcohol Means of Escape, Symptom of Spiritual Distress & Oppression</i></p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women sterilized • Kids adopted out – parents drinking • Less self-sufficiency as living/surviving becomes easier in 50’s and Beyond • Poverty & unemployment for lack of resources • Conflicting values • Kids rounded up forcibly sent to Boarding schools
Family & Community	<p><i>Increased Off-Reservation Population, Looking for Jobs, Military</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dysfunction within community and family • Poverty-limited jobs • Ignoring our old Chiefs • Punishment for speaking language, want to blend in easier way
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of family ties • Alcohol influences individuals and family structures • Belonging 	
Leadership (Native – Not State, Fed, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIA control – Constitutions were adopted • Controversial “government” changes • Anishinaabe leadership disbanded • Minnesota Chippewa Tribes (MCT) 1936 • Commodities • Miriam Report 1928 • IRA 1934 • Bois Forte leaders occupied hotel in DC • Leadership maintained language 	<p><i>Relocation Era: Angry, Hopeful, Loss of Control, Survival, Promises; Termination Era: Dislocation/Disconnect, Loss of Identity</i></p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign Government system • Leadership also lost identity • Roberts Rules of Order • 109 Reservations Eliminated

3E Vision Team History (Continued)

	1960s	1970s	1980s
World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vietnam • Dam Construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interstate built • Energy Development / OPEC • Energy Crisis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apartheid ends
Individuals	<i>Self-Determination; False Sense of Control, Broken System</i>	<i>Native Pride: AIM, Leonard Peltier</i>	<i>Taking Steps to Help Ourselves: Jobs, Healthcare. Some Did, Others Kicked Back; Welfare</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crab in a bucket syndrome • Vietnam war, Veterans service to the U.S. and citizenship • Seeking identity for individuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents choosing to send kids to boarding school • Board school enrollment at its peak • Controlled leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We were on welfare • More local clinics, healthcare • Indians going to college and not making it • Loss of language • BIE school stand still
Family & Community	<i>Blood Quantum Requirement for Citizenship – Splits Families</i>	<i>Drugs/Alcohol Prevalent; Families Need Help</i>	<i>Gaming, Corruption & Fear; Money Tied to “Indians”; Decisions on Who Is and Isn’t Indian</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocated to cities • People off-reservation being left out • Split families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) • Cultural revitalization begins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half tribe disenrolled to get control of mafia gaming machines • Families banding together • System of spoils • Ceremonies re-established
Leadership (Native – Not State, Fed, etc.)	<i>MCT Construction Revised – Language Loss, Family Votes/Favors</i>	<i>Revitalization of Language, Culture and Revitalization Governance, Resource Opportunities (‘70s – ‘90’s)</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of resources to take care of people • Committee system for resources (1040’s -1990’s) • Limited decision-making • Loss of direction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corrupt leadership • Blood quantum implemented • Indian Religious Freedom Act – 1978 • “Progressive” leaders – divided culture • System of spoils • Indian Self-Determination Act of 1974 • War on poverty & CAP programs all about \$ 	<i>Self-Determination: Revitalization, Advocacy, Control by BIA, Divide & Conquer</i>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Power” came to light • Fight for treaty (fishing) rights • Making compacts for Gaming

3E Vision Team History (Continued)

	1990s	2000s
World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet & World Wide Web • Fall of Soviet Union • Desert Storm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9/11
Individuals	<p><i>Value to Realize Potential – Individuals Feel: “I can’t do it & I don’t have time”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Younger generations experiencing ignorant racism: “You’re Indian? Can you sing and dance for me?” • Spear fishing controversy; not getting served in restaurants – blatant racism • Per capita comes with casinos • Language revitalization • Residency requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College visits – Tribal support for individuals, intuition, books, fees – priority to develop people • Increased education opportunities
Family & Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jobs created by gaming – less unemployment • Continue to pass on traditions 	<p><i>Fear of Losing Language – Big Part of Who We Are</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnesota Indigenous language symposium • Language awakening
Leadership (Native – Not State, Fed, etc)	<p><i>Revitalization of Language, Culture and Revitalization Governance, Resource Opportunities (‘70s – ‘90’s)</i></p> <p><i>Self-Governance: More to Say With Block Grants; Freedom, Competition</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casino brings change • Stone case (PL 280) 1995? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Division of services • Status quo

3E Vision Team History (Continued)

	2010 - 2015	2016
World		
Individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internalized oppression hating our culture • MCT becoming restrictive controlling with policies 	<i>Awakening Governance & Systems Not Working for Us & We Need to Do Something</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hopelessness • Oppressing culture and language • Families in power that oppress others
Family & Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual leaders, elders shunned unless government approved & paid • Reclaiming identity “Coming Home” • Referendum on White Earth constitution ignored • Money valued over culture • Tribal government supporting sulfide mining • Charter schools created 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anxiety – about being the last language speaker • Convoluted communication – exclusive, internalized racism • Purging of Tribal politics in Native Communities • Lack of knowledge • Loss of direction
Leadership (Native – Not State, Fed, etc)	<i>Developing Relationships With Other Systems</i>	

Environmental Scan: Basic Data

These are facts, measurable information and statistics about the current reality for MCT

- We are still reliant on the federal government
- 6 Bands make up the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and we know who they are
- We know our land base – Counties, acres, allotments, Trust
- We have access to our current constitution and amendments
- We know many fluent speakers we have
- White Earth population = about 18,000 and decreasing. Typical voter turnout = 10%
- Minnesota has the lowest native graduation rate in the U.S. but Iron Range has 100% for last 5 years
- Government is still our parent because sovereignty is still controlled by Federal government
- We are still considered a domestic dependent Nation by U.S. government
- MCT = Minnesota Chippewa Tribes – Red Lake is not part of MCT
- MCT is recognized by the Federal Government as a conglomerate (a number of different things that are grouped together to form a whole but remain distinct entities) that has been given sovereign authority, and, each of the Nations who are part of MCT are recognized as distinct Nations
- Growing movement around 1855 Treaty Rights
- Too many members chose not to participate elections
- 6 Different treaties created our land bases
- Between the 6 of us we are similar, yet different
- Poverty prevails based on government decisions (system of spoils)
- Members need access to information
- Approximately 40,000 members spread throughout the world
- Disproportionate shares of resources (within each reservation & among MCT)

Environmental Scan: Positive (+) Trends

Trends are shifts or changes that are occurring around us and are not done yet. Positive trends are beneficial to our forward momentum, like the crest of a wave that a surfer might ride. They provide lift and support our efforts.

- We are passing on more language & culture to our children
- More schools are teaching language and culture
- Systematic hoops/bureaucracy are increasing
- Increased interest in Tribal government by off-reservation citizens
- Increased language & culture activities organized by community
- Increased desire to take care of Mother Earth/ environment

- We are working on bridging the gap between youth and elders
- Our reservations function more independently

Environmental Scan: **Negative (-) Trends**

Trends are shifts or changes that are occurring around us and are not done yet. Negative trends present obstacles that hinder our forward momentum. They complicate and diffuse our efforts.

- Opiate abuse is on the rise & affecting babies being born
- Social media is increasing isolation in families and communities
- Noticeable disparities in Health, Education, Cancer, Diabetes, Obesity
- Constitutional amendments are eroding the power of the people but increasing power of Councils
- Dis-enrolling members
- Enrolling fewer members
- Population is decreasing
- Limiting enrollment based on monetary resources
- Systematic hoops are increasing (structure)
- Tribal Councils enforcing censorship
- We are losing our elder's knowledge and advice
- Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) granted themselves more power

Environmental Scan: **Advantages**

Advantages are strengths, resources or expertise we possess that position us to make powerful and significant strides.

- We have access to social media as an educational tool
- We have a personal interest in the decisions we have to make
- Mutual experience and understanding
- We live this!
- Knowledge of past and current
- We have a passion – really care about the future
- Experienced researchers
- We have access to resources: Tribal, funding, people, educational
- We are trusted by our communities
- Our concern for the people because we are descendants
- We are bridge builders
- We are risk takers
- We have access to natural resources
- We have access to land bases

- Ceremonial knowledge & practices
- Sovereignty & ability to exercise it
- We have great teachers and orators
- Our success and entrepreneurship is growing
- We have determination and resiliency
- We are willing to ask the hard questions
- We are willing to do the work

Environmental Scan: Recent Accomplishments (2-3 year)

Recent accomplishments give us a sense of confidence as we look toward our continued achievement.

- Referendum @ White Earth had record turnout of voters
- Red Lake has an embassy
- White Earth digital storytelling & education effort (thecwen.com)
- More people coming together – ex: Iron Range, this planning grant
- Increased media coverage of Tribal politics
- Tribal Executive Committee Secretarial Election upcoming
- We are here!
- Off-reservation Tribal offices established by: Boise Fort, Leech Lake, Fond du Lac, White Earth, Mille Lacs
- Recent elections @ each reservation
- Sovereign immunity re-affirmed via court decisions
- Land buy-backs, which increases reservation land base
- The appointment of Karen Diver to Presidential Assistant to Indian Affairs
- Vanessa Northrup election at Fond du Lac
- National recognition of American Cancer Foundation – powwow for Hope
- Establishment of language program
- Reacquired lot leases on reservation land which resulted in increased housing
- 100 new houses @ Mille Lacs
- 3 new hotels off reservation
- Immersion camps & schools
- Fond du Lac purchased Spirit Island