

Appendix C11: [Native American] Foreign Policy

*Gaaching Ziibi Daawaa Anishnaabe*³⁴⁴

TRIBAL owned land will become a larger land use issue in Wexford County. Issues of taxation, jurisdiction, zoning authority, and tribal sovereignty will be increasingly important.

Indigenous people (Native Americans) and their communities have an historical relationship with their lands and are descendants of the original inhabitants.

By treaty, dealing with indigenous peoples, other nations, and the United Nations, the United States (and thus Michigan, Michigan municipalities) has agreed to foster a partnership with Native American governments and thereby:

- A. should establish a process to empower Native Americans, in establishment of county and municipal policy, laws, programmes;
- B. Native American lands should be protected from environmentally unsound activities, lands should be protected from what Native Americans feel are socially and culturally inappropriate activities;
- C. recognize Native American values, resource management practices with a view toward sustainable development;
- D. recognize traditional and direct dependence on renewable resources and ecosystems, including sustainable harvesting;
- E. Develop and strengthen dispute-resolution concerning land use, resource-management.

This *Plan* is intended to set the stage for common and cooperative land use planning.

Historical Context

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians is the political successor to nine of the nineteen historic bands of the Grand River Ottawa people. The permanent villages of the Grand River Bands from which the Little River Ottawa descend were originally located on the Thornapple River, Grand River, White River, Pere Marquette River and the Big and Little Manistee Rivers. Those southern bands shared a hunting and trapping territory along the Pere Marquette and Manistee River systems and had close kinship ties to the northern

Grand River Bands at Pere Marquette and Manistee.

The Treaty of Chicago (1821), the Treaty of Washington (1836), and the Treaty of Detroit (1855) are all documents of the tribe's relationship with the United States.

Following the 1855 treaty, the Grand River Bands were removed from their permanent villages to permanent Reservations in Muskegon, Oceana, and Mason Counties. The nine Bands from whom the Little River Ottawa descend, established a major settlement known as "Indian Town" on the Pere Marquette, near present day Custer in Mason county's Eden Township. The other ten Grand River Bands settled on the Pentwater River near modern Hart, Michigan.

The 1836 Treaty of Washington was signed between the United States and the Chippewa and Ottawa Indians. This treaty gave all lands in Wexford County to the United States (along with much of the northern part of the lower peninsula and the east half of the upper peninsula), and reserved an Indian reservation along both sides of the Big Manistee River from Lake Michigan east to what is today the Tippy Dam backwater (see map on page 333). The 1836 Reservation on the Manistee River was, in large part, to provide the Bands with a permanent home which gave them access to important hunting and trapping territories on the Manistee River system.

That reservation was abandoned in spring of 1839 upon recommendation by Henry Schoolcraft because only a small number of Indians settled on the reservation. The United States government reservation services were moved to Grand Traverse Bay. Government Land Office surveying of section lines in the reservation did not take place until 1847.

Between the last treaty and the present, the Grand River Ottawa, now called the Little River Band of Ottawa, were known by many names, including "Indian Village" on the Manistee River, residents of the Pere Marquette Village or "Indian Town," Unit no. 7 of NMOA, the Thornapple Band and finally the Little River Band of Ottawa.

Unfortunately, the Federal government failed to protect the Grand River Ottawa from unscrupulous land speculators and many families lost title to their allotments in the Reservations in Muskegon, Oceana, and Mason Counties. Some of the Bands from Indian Town moved to settlements in Mason County at Fountain, Freesoil, and Ludington, Michigan. A number of Bands from Indian Town moved to the 1836 Reservation on the Manistee River and established settlements along the Manistee River near Brethren and Wellston.

The Grand River Bands which are now known as the Little River Band have continued to maintain close political and social ties to the remaining Grand River Bands who reside in the communities Hart, Newaygo, Muskegon, and Grand Rapids. As a result, many Little River Ottawa families also reside in these areas, as well as other Ottawa communities in Michigan.

Discussions with Tribal members during the development of the tribe's Constitution, addressed the need to focus on community development efforts within the Tribe's historic Reservations. Tribal members participating in community forums understood that the tribe's land acquisition efforts would need to focus on restoring tribal lands in and near the Manistee Reservation and the Mason County

