

AMENDED
PASSED
JUN 06 2024

CHEROKEE COUNCIL HOUSE
CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA
JUN 06 2024

DATE

*A resolution to restore the health and well-being of EBCI Citizens by developing and implementing a **Food Sovereignty Plan** to revitalize the selection of traditional food sources that result in a healthy diet*

RESOLUTION NO. 208 (2024)

WHEREAS, when the Europeans first made contact with Cherokee Lands, the Cherokee had cleared acres of woodland for villages and agricultural fields we were rotating our crop fields, utilizing particular kinds of vegetation that played complex roles in Cherokee ecosystems, such as fruit and nut bearing trees the Cherokee clans also prepared community fields to help those in need by sharing land and labor. Portions of every clan's field went into the public granary to share food as needed today, very few families continue to grow, harvest or preserve foods; a few continue to gather, hunt and fish, and fewer acres are being farmed, and,

WHEREAS, today's families have busy lifestyles and often depend on fast food restaurants or processed foods which most often are sugary, fatty, salty and low-fiber food sources that are poor in nutrients This diet results in Tribal Citizens experiencing numerous health problems and increasingly more mental health challenges, and,

WHEREAS, Food sovereignty includes more than a healthy diet. It asserts a Tribe's sovereignty to manage food production systems using Tribal land, water and seeds and includes restoring cultural knowledge, protecting our environment, managing agriculture productive systems including community gardens, as well as distribution of our food (security), and,

WHEREAS, Food security is concerned with the production and distribution of existing food systems and such, the EBCI has invested in resources to protect our food security, including the Tribal Cannery and its upgrades to include flash freezing and dehydrating, and,

WHEREAS, the EBCI has established a Department of Natural Resource, and in collaboration with EBCI Cooperative Extension, supported a Seed Bank, managed farm leases on the Kituwah property, implemented a Local Foods Procurement Assistance (LFPA) Grant, plans a meat processing plant (in the near future), and at one time, managed a tribal nursery which focused on persevering Cherokee Heirloom Seeds for growing traditional crops, and,

1 WHEREAS, a Food Sovereignty Plan would include, but not be limited to:

- 2
- 3 1. Placing Tribal Food Sovereignty as a priority in the hands of Tribal food
- 4 providers for management of agricultural land, water resources, seed/plant
- 5 resources along with grazing, livestock and fish harvesting. Food providers are
- 6 to assert their rights in the management of these resources in socially and
- 7 environmentally sustainable ways.
- 8 2. EBCI taking the lead in Food Sovereignty in Indian Country by growing,
- 9 harvesting and processing culturally significant foods for Tribal Members
- 10 3. Implementing a localized food system wherein the Tribe would set policies and
- 11 practices for community members Groups and employees would have access to
- 12 grow, harvest and process food for the Tribe
- 13 4. The Tribe would apply ecological concepts and promote farming practices that
- 14 mitigate climate change, recycle resources, and prioritize local food supplies.
- 15 5. Distributing food for Cherokee People including management of cultural
- 16 harvesting, agriculture, livestock, wildlife and fish.
- 17 6. Implementing Tribal Food Sovereignty would build on the skills and knowledge
- 18 of tribal members, develop and manage the food systems and pass the wisdom
- 19 to future generations practicing our Gadugi Traditions.
- 20 7. Evaluating existing EBCI and partner organizational capacities through a gap
- 21 analysis and determining the need for EBCI program development, staffing and
- 22 operational support to ensure the Food Sovereignty Plan is successfully
- 23 implemented.
- 24

25 WHEREAS, Parcels of Farmland could be prioritized and designated to this Tribal Food
26 Sovereignty Plan; for example, Bradley Land on Soco, Whitetree Land in Painttown, Lower
27 Coopers Creek, Griffin Land in BigCove, all purchased by the EBCI for Housing. Some
28 sections of these parcels may be deemed 'unbuildable' and possibly used for farming.
29 "Stecoah" (Ustigohi) Old Fields is already being farmed, grazed, and the hay harvested.
30 The Kituwah Property can be prioritized to increase acres of land to farm by the Tribe.

31
32 WHEREAS, the government of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the North
33 American Women's Association, Inc. have common purposes of promoting among Indian
34 People the betterment of Health, Education, Community and Cultural Awareness; all of
35 which would be the resolve of a Food Sovereignty Plan.

36
37 WHEREAS, the EBCI's 2024-2028 Strategic Plan identifies the need for "Growing Tribal
38 Health and Healing" with a goal to "increase the utilization of natural resources by FY2027"
39 (Goal C.1) and an underlying objective of "Creating sustainable methods of food
40 sovereignty" (Objective C.1.1)

41
42 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of
43 Cherokee Indians in Council assembled at which a quorum is present that the Tribal
44 Council directs BIA Realty and the Attorney General's Office to provide an inventory of
45 current land available for food sovereignty efforts and Tribal Council shall designate land

1 for food sovereignty efforts including land for meat processing facilities, community
2 gardens, a Tribal Nursery (to grow culturally significant plants) and other food sovereignty
3 efforts by September 30, 2024. The EBCI Tribal Council (through Timber and Natural
4 Resources Committee) shall develop a Tribal Agricultural Resource Management Plan (as
5 part of the larger Tribal Food Sovereignty Plan) to include management policies and
6 practices to support EBCI Tribal Food Sovereignty by May 31, 2025. The Chief shall
7 designate the EBCI Cooperative Extension Office to manage and implement the Tribal
8 Food Sovereignty Plan

9

10 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall become effective upon ratification of
11 the Principal Chief

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14 Respectfully submitted by: Carmalita L. Monteith of the Cherokee Chapter, North American
15 Indian Women's Association

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17

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AMENDMENT TO Res.. No. 208 (2024)

"A resolution restore health and well-being of EBCI Citizens by developing and implementing a Food Sovereignty Plan to revitalize the selection of traditional food sources that result in a healthy diet"

-In the 3rd from last, "WHEREAS," "Land" add "Consider any available lands in Snowbird and Cherokee County and in addition to "non-trust lands" and any purchased in the future"

-Add, "NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED" that the Tribe shall consider a fund as we move forward for land purchases and think of "food sovereignty" when we make land purchases

-"amend, "perserving" to "preserving"

-Submitted by: Betty Maney, Carmaleta L Monteith, Hope Pheasant, Mary Thompson, and Lucille Wolfe

The attached Resolution/Ordinance 208 dated JUNE 6, 2024 was:

PASSED (X)

KILLED ()

and ratified in open Council on June 06, 2024 by 94 voting for the act and 0 members voting against it as follows:

| VOTE | FOR | AGAINST | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-----------------|-----|---------|---------|--------|
| Richard French | X | | | |
| Perry Shell | X | | | |
| Boyd Owle | X | | | |
| Bucky Brown | X | | | |
| Tom Wahnetah | X | | | |
| David Wolfe | X | | | |
| Adam Wachacha | | | | X |
| Mike Parker | X | | | |
| Bo Crowe | X | | | |
| Jim Owle | X | | | |
| Dike Sneed | X | | | |
| Michael Stamper | X | | | |
| | 94 | 0 | 0 | 6 |

Mike Park
TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Michelle Thompson
ENGLISH CLERK

Michael Park
PRINCIPAL CHIEF

APPROVED (✓) VETOED ()

VETO UPHELD () VETO DENIED ()

DATE: 6-25-24

I hereby certify that the foregoing act of the Council was duly:

PASSED ()

KILLED ()

and ratified in open Council after the same has been interpreted by the Official Interpreter and has been fully and freely discussed.

INTERPRETED ()

OMITTED ()