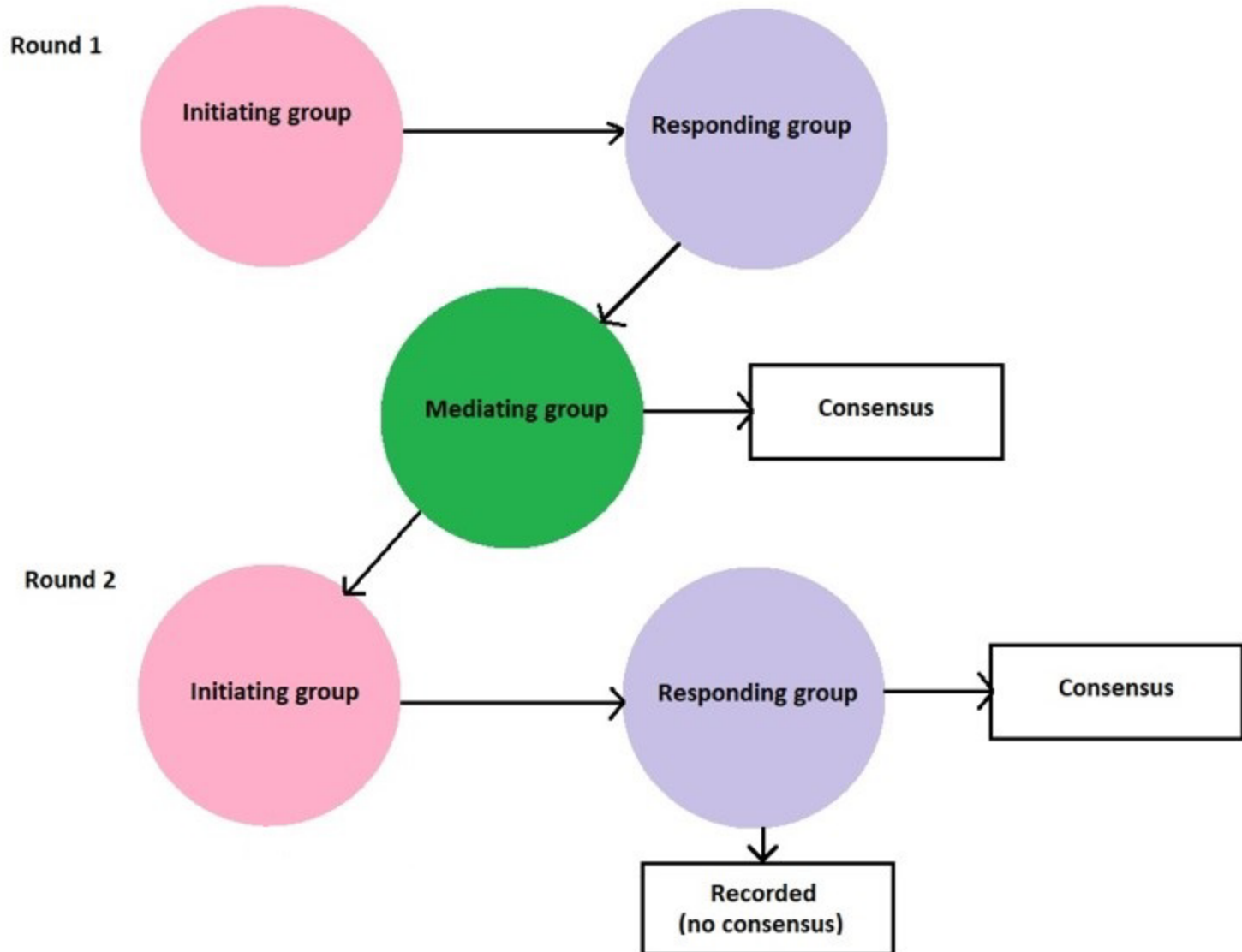


Mediation using large group consensus

*for the Pacific Green Party
Fall and Winter 2023-24*

3-group, 2-round process



Demo: New mediation request

<https://airtable.com/shrbatdWxmFWK4mWI>

Demo: Join a discussion

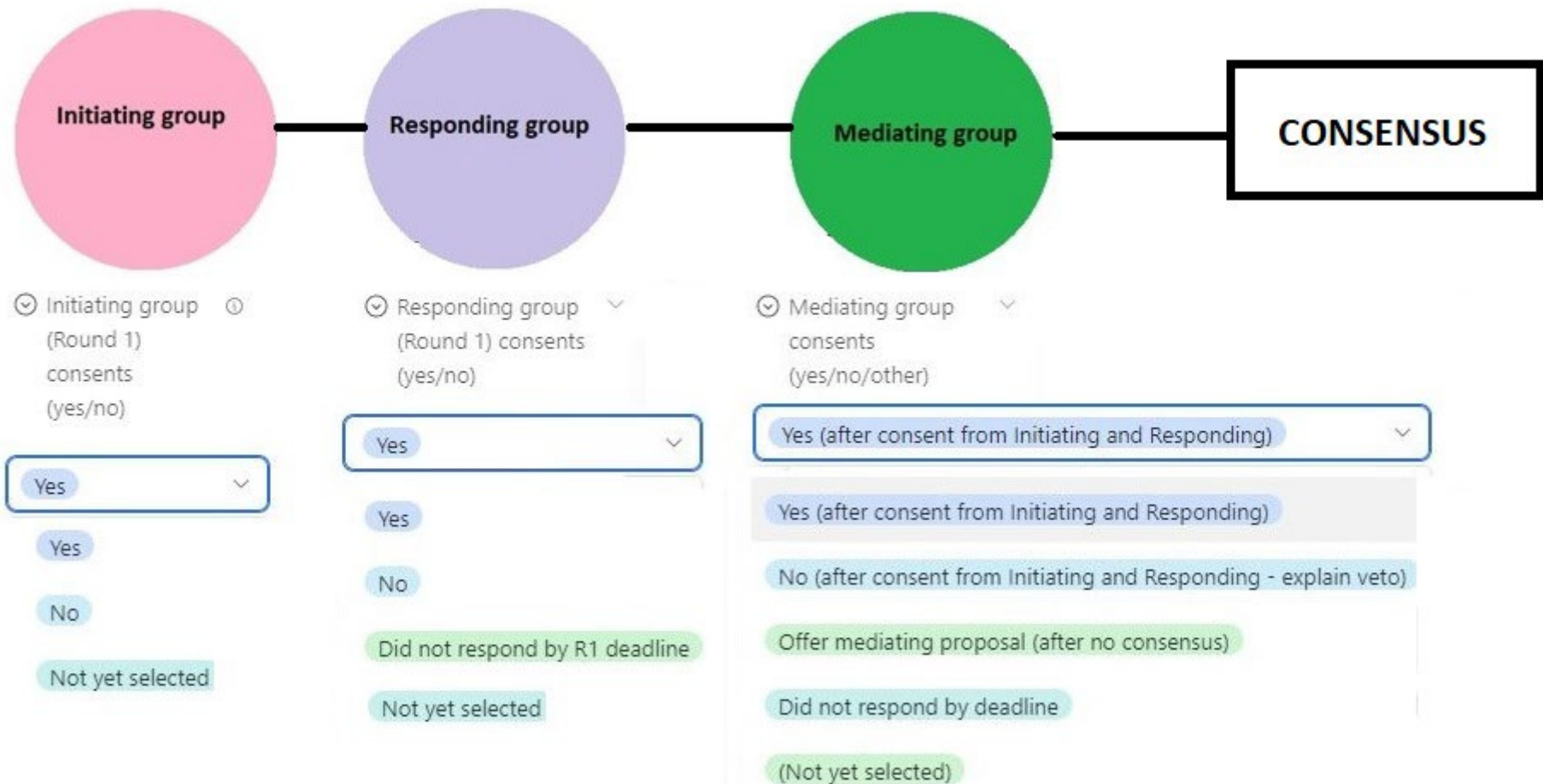
<https://forms.gle/6pUXLRw28MVwSdAo9>

Demo: Excel spreadsheet

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/...>

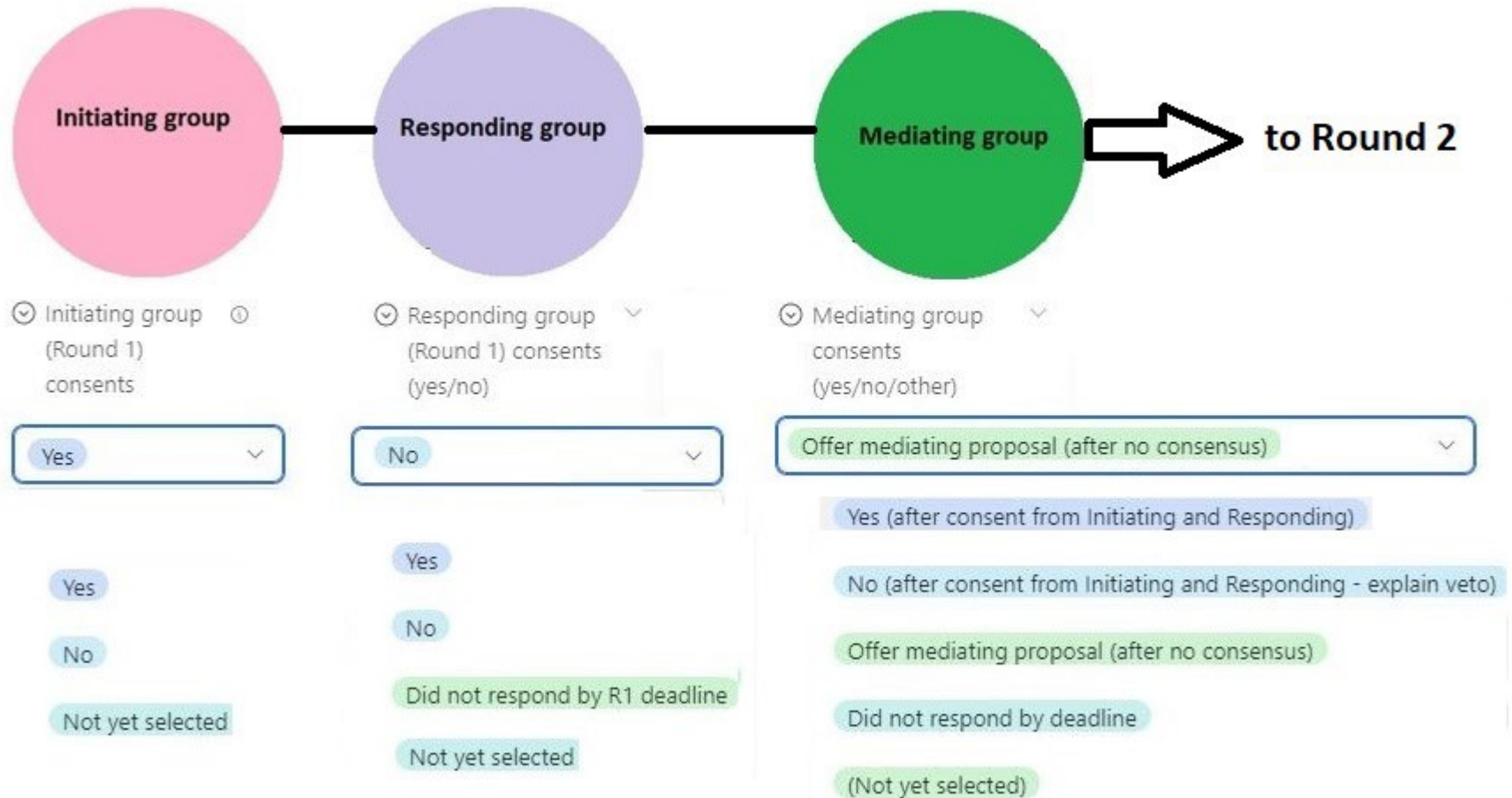
Simplest case: All agree

Round 1



Mediation: Built into 3-group process

Round 1



Agree to mediated proposal

Round 1

Initiating group ⓘ

Yes

Responding group ▼

No

Mediating group ▼

Offer mediating proposal (after no consensus) ▼

Round 2

Initiating group

Responding group

CONSENSUS

Initiating group
(Round 2) consents

Yes, consent to Mediation group position

Responding group ▼
(Round 2) consents

Yes, agree to Mediating group position ▼



Group veto power

- Absolute – like U.N. Security Council
 - Initiating group
 - Responding group

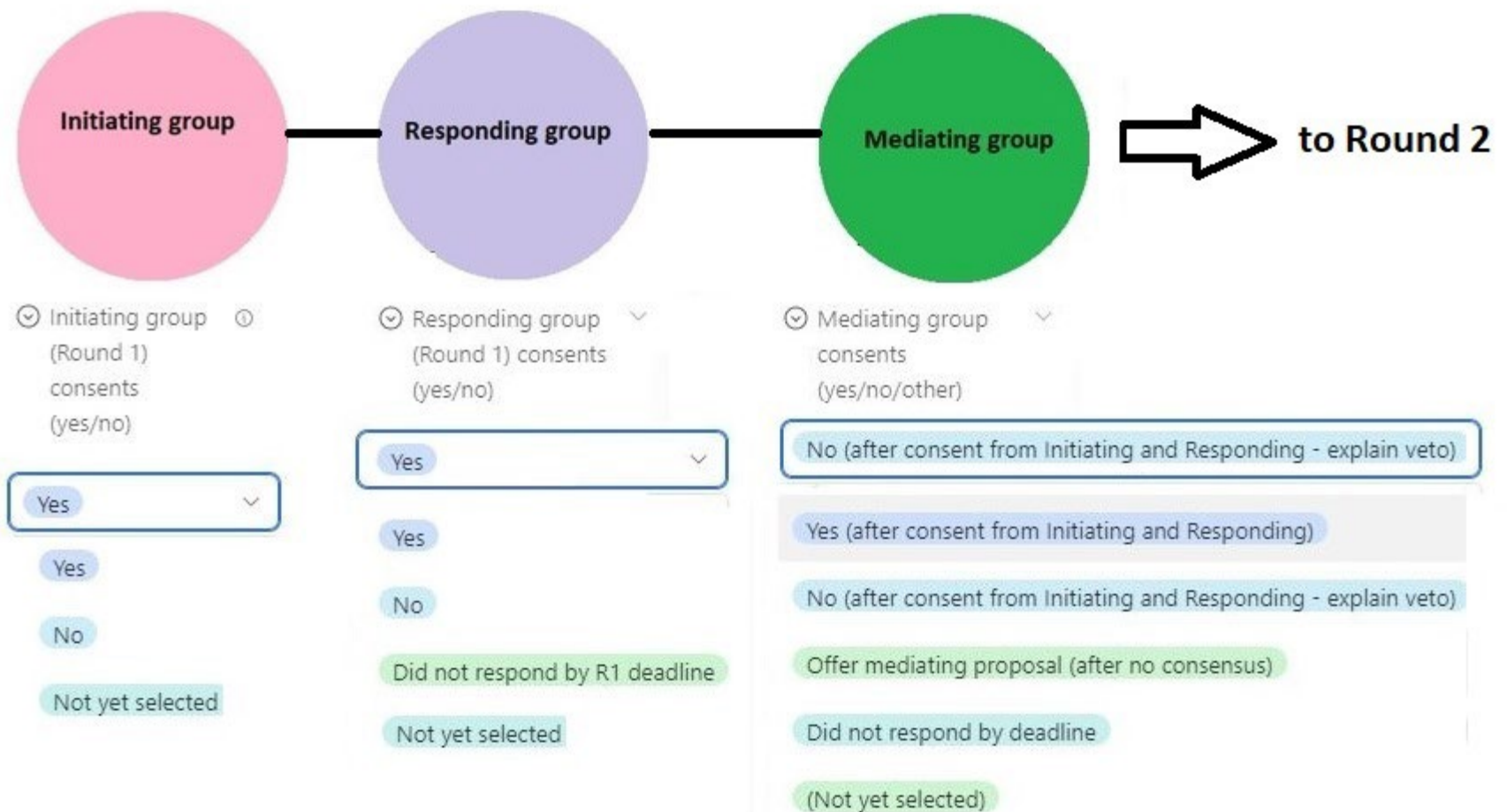
#12 ...He shall refuse to confirm a decision if it is not unanimously agreed upon by both sides...

- Weak – like U.S. presidential veto
 - Mediating group

#11 If the Firekeepers...render a decision at variance with the Two Sides, the Two Sides shall reconsider the matter and if their decisions are jointly the same as before...the Firekeepers are compelled to confirm their joint decision

Mediating group 'veto'

Round 1



Veto overruled

Round 1

Initiating group

Yes

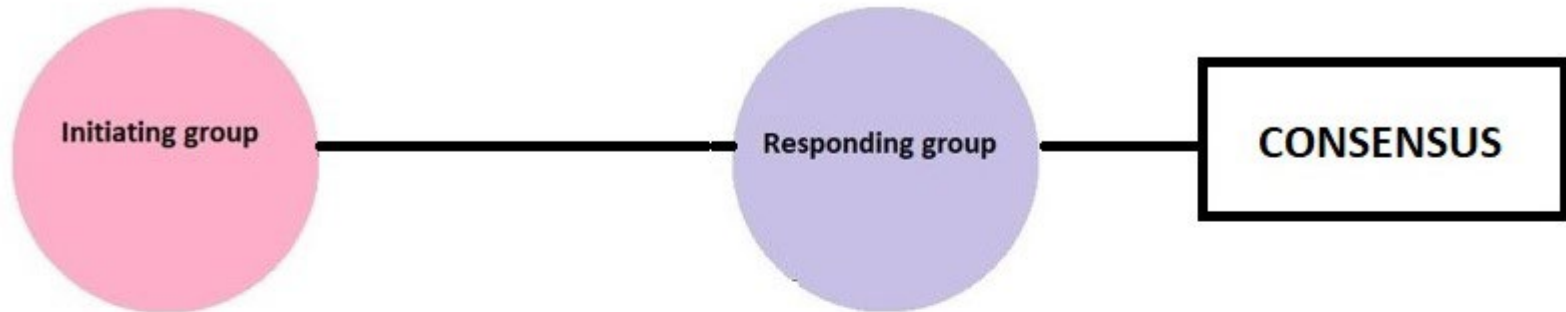
Responding group

Yes

Mediating group

No (after consent from Initiating and Responding - explain veto)

Round 2



Initiating group
(Round 2) consents

No, stay with Round 1 group position

Yes, consent to Mediation group position

No, stay with Round 1 group position

Not yet selected

Responding group
(Round 2) consents

No, stay with Round 1 group position

Yes, agree to Mediating group position

No, stay with Round 1 group position

Did not respond by R2 deadline

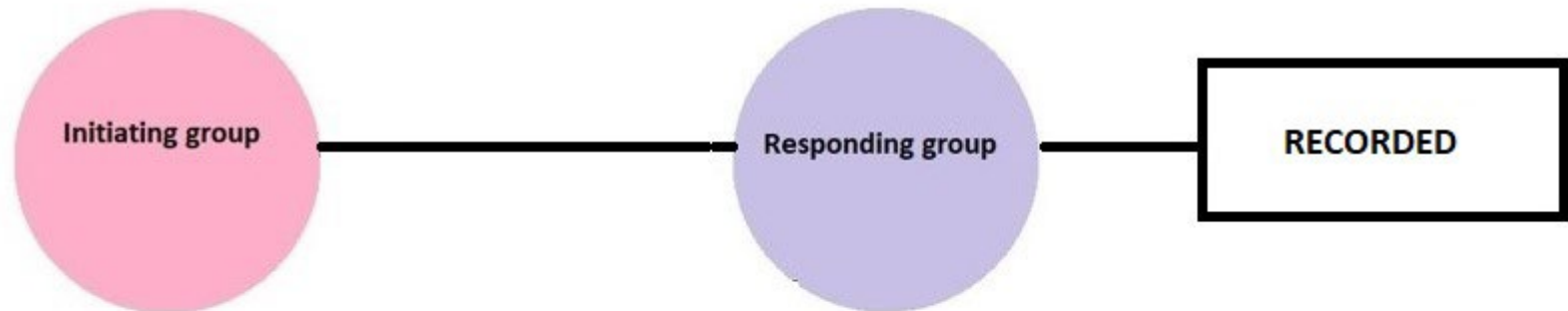
Not yet selected

Weak veto upheld

Round 1

Initiating group	Responding group	Mediating group
Yes	Yes	No (after consent from Initiating and Responding - explain veto)

Round 2



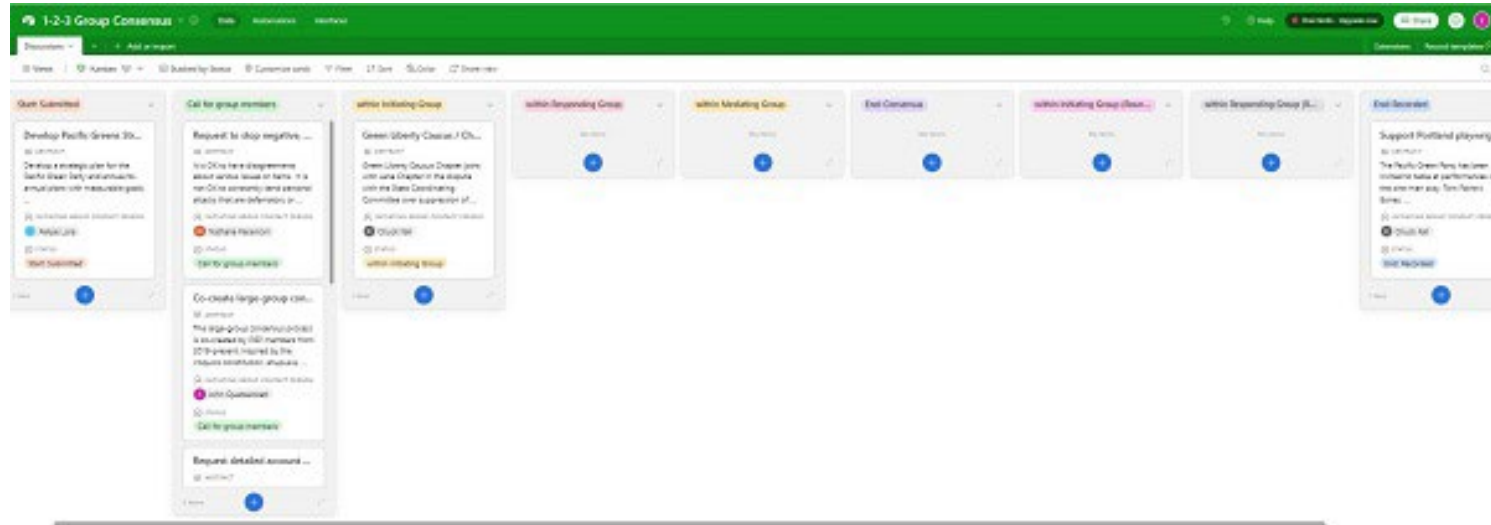
Initiating group (Round 2) consents	Responding group (Round 2) consents
Yes, consent to Mediation group position	No, stay with Round 1 group position

OR

No, stay with Round 1 group position	Yes, agree to Mediating group position
--------------------------------------	--

Airtable (no code) implementation

Items move from left to right, from start to end



Start: Submitted

Call for group members

within Initiating Group

within Responding Group

within Mediating Group

End: Consensus

within Initiating Group (Round 2)

within Responding Group (Round 2)

End: Recorded

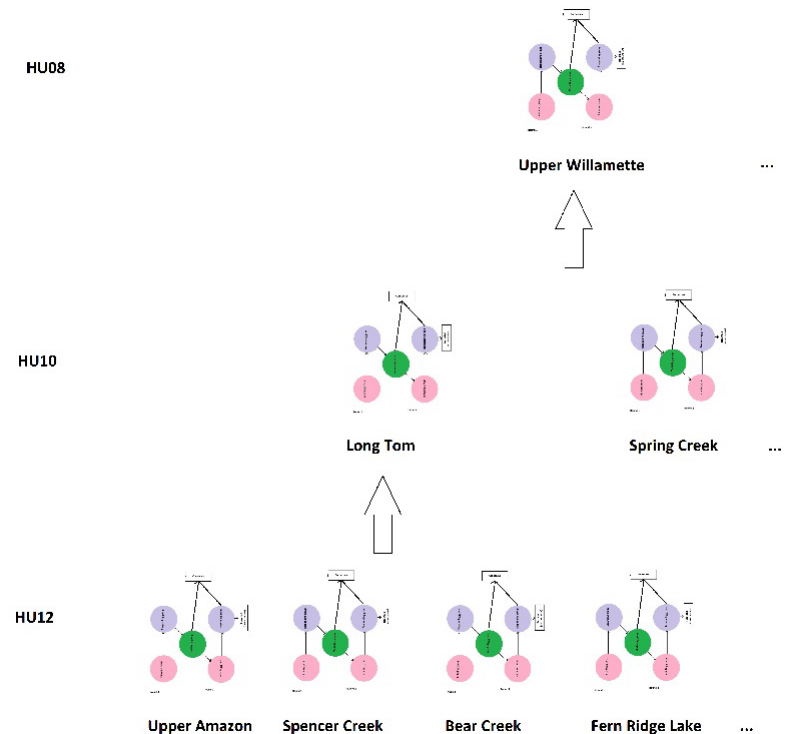
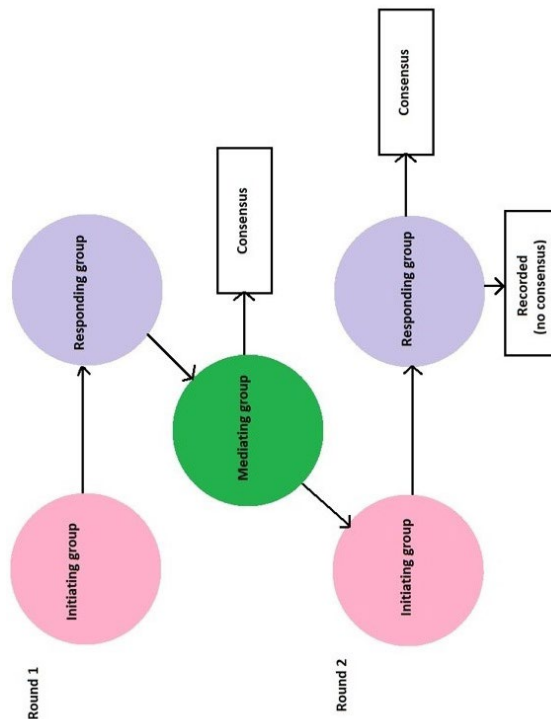
- Start: Submitted
- Call for Members
- within Initiating Group
- within Responding Group
- within Mediating Group
- within Initiating Group (Round 2)
- within Responding Group (Round 2)
- End - Consensus
- End - Recorded

Software support - Airtable

- [Link to Airtable data](#)
- Automation and reporting
- Reduce burden on org members/volunteers
- Status tracking
- Links to artifacts / records of discussion items
- Summarize best arguments from each side
- Quality level: Like Supreme Court opinions
- Dissents can be more significant than majority opinions
- Next: Address to watershed geocoding

Scaling to 11K org members

- Top-down
- Bottom-up



Bottom-up



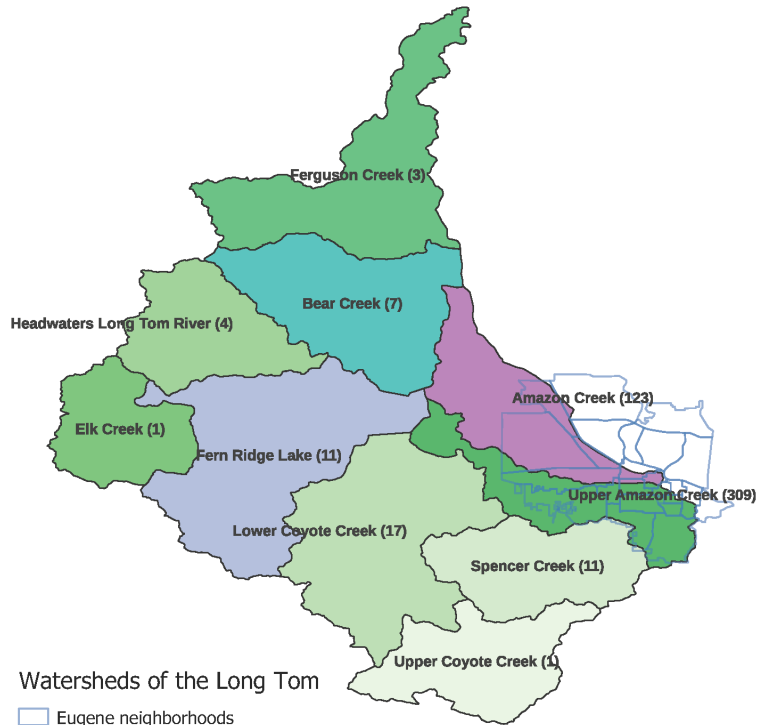
- By watershed
- J. W. Powell, 1890
- Administrative boundaries based on watersheds

Bottom-up: Watershed democracy

All activity starts at the most local level and upon approval moves to the next higher level
For urgent issues, each HU12 watershed can leapfrog four times each year

Long Tom River watershed (HU10)

Counts of active Pacific Green Party members



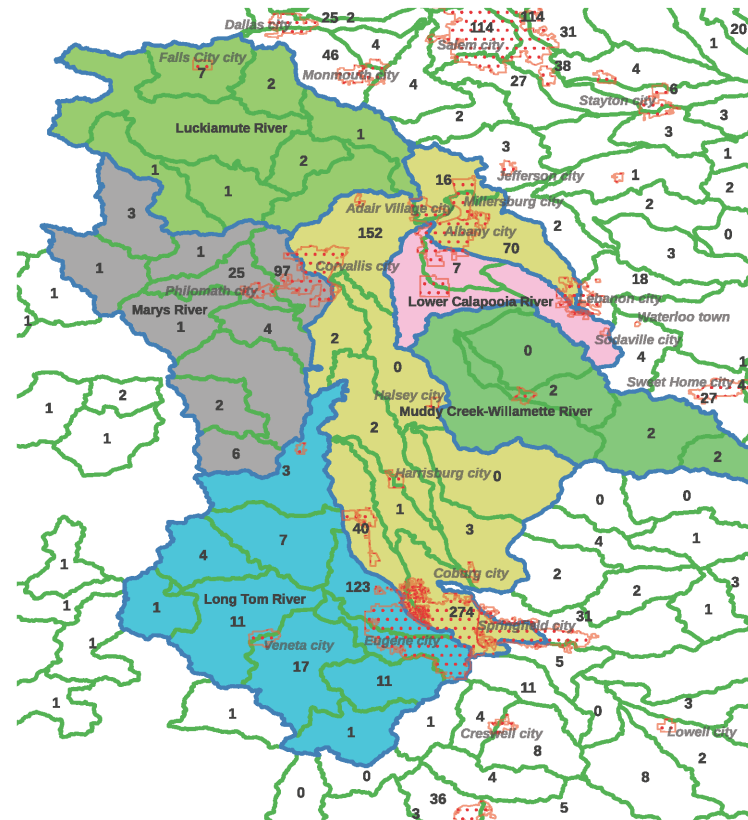
HU12 - Long Tom

- 170900030101
- 170900030102
- 170900030103
- 170900030104
- 170900030105

Consensus 1-2-3 participatory democracy
Data: Watershed boundary dataset
Pacific Green Party membership, Oregon Secy of State
John O. Murray, Whole Community Support

Upper Willamette watershed

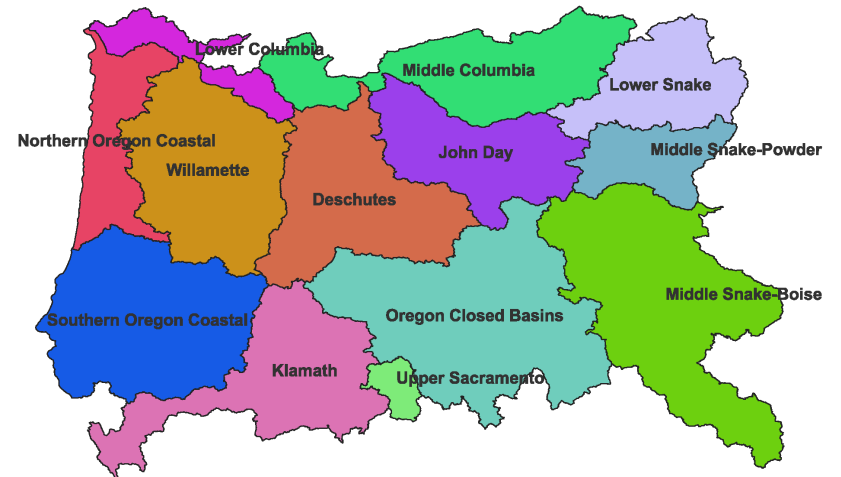
Watershed names at HU10; Active PGP by HU12



HU12 to HU10 to HU08 to HU06

Willamette River watershed
Twelve HU08 watersheds

Oregon watersheds (HU06)



2628 Lower Willamette
1237 Upper Willamette
912 Tualatin
573 Middle Willamette
151 Molalla-Pudding
112 Clackamas
109 Yamhill
77 Coast Fork Willamette
67 South Santiam
49 McKenzie
35 Middle Fork Willamette
19 North Santiam

Pacific Green Party members by HU08 watershed
Version 0.1 - Feb. 19, 2023
Data: Watershed boundary database
Secretary of State active members list



Top-down: Recursive subgroups

#5 The Council of the Mohawk shall be divided into three parties...

- The third party is to listen only to the discussion of the first and second parties
- If an error is made or the proceeding is irregular they are to call attention to it
- When the case is right and properly decided by the two parties they shall confirm the decision of the two parties



Data design

Enumerations

Example: “Membership restricted” enum

The image shows a UI mockup of a dropdown menu. On the left, there is a label "Membership restricted by identity" with a circular icon containing a checkmark. To the right of the label is a dropdown button with a downward arrow. The dropdown menu is open, showing a search bar with the placeholder text "Find an option". Below the search bar, there are three options: "Yes", "No", and "Not selected". The "No" option is highlighted with a light blue background. The "Not selected" option is highlighted with a light green background.

Enumerations and states

- “Round 1 mediating group consents” field
- Well-defined relationship with status

⌵ Mediating group consents (yes/no/other) ⌵

(Not yet selected) ⌵

Find an option

Yes (after consent from Initiating and Responding)

No (after consent from Initiating and Responding)

Suggestions (after dissent from Initiating and Responding)

(Not yet selected)



Data design: Enumerations

Status

▼ Status

Find an option

Start: Submitted

Call for group members

within Initiating Group

within Responding Group

within Mediating Group

End: Consensus

within Initiating Group (Round 2)

within Responding Group (Round 2)

End: Recorded

Round 1 consensus

Yes

No

Not yet selected

Round 2 consensus

Yes, agree to Mediating group position

No, stay with Round 1 group position

Not yet selected

History: Convention request

- Mediation
- Multiple alternative approaches
 - Legal system
 - Binding arbitration (certified professional)
 - Non-binding arbitration (pro or volunteer)
 - Large group consensus
 - Based on [2021 CAS discussions](#)

Complex Adaptive Systems

December 2021 session convened by Brian Setzler

Brian quoted Wendell Jones's 2003 example of [a murmuration of birds](#):

"One of the simplest adaptive systems is a flock of birds. We have all watched in amazement the graceful and coordinated movements of a flock of birds. Yet there is no bird-in-chief directing the action. There is no script distributed to each bird prescribing the actions of the flock. However, this collective behavior can be modeled very nicely. In these models, individual birds have a degree of decision-making capacity, but all the flight decisions must follow the simple rules. Each must:

- 1. avoid hitting neighbors or obstacles,*
- 2. align flight to match the neighbors, and*
- 3. fly an average distance from the neighbors.*

From these simple rules, very complex flocking behavior proceeds."

What rules are needed that would allow individual members to act together?

Murmuration

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uV54oa0SyMc>



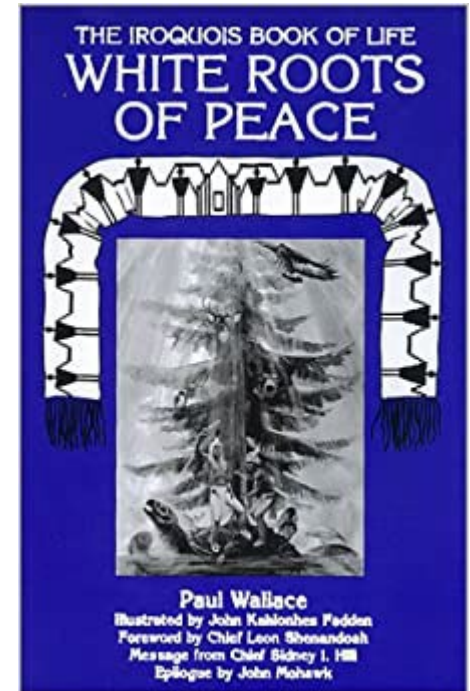
Starling murmuration 2020 #Geldermalsen

Haudenosaunee

- Iroquois confederacy, Five Nations (then Six Nations)
- “People who build a house”, “People of the longhouse”
- Consensus-based federation
- Supports “local” sovereignty
- From time immemorial / 1000 A.D. to 1450 A.D.
- One of the 1st, longest-lasting participatory democracies in the world
- Influenced U.S. constitution

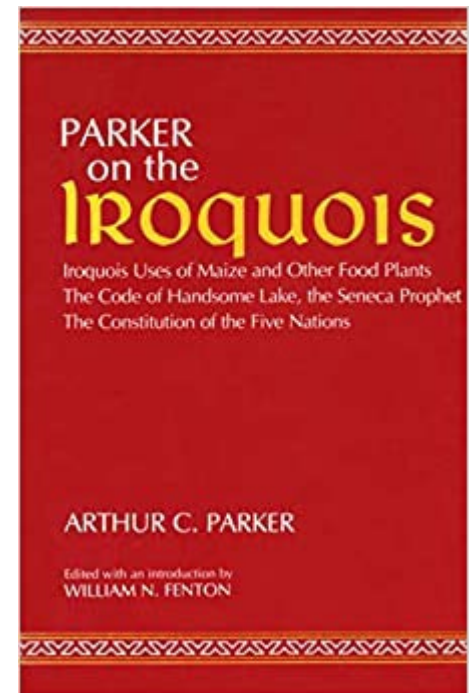
Renée Jacobs, *The Iroquois Great Law of Peace and the United States Constitution*:

How the Founding Fathers Ignored the Clan Mothers, 16 Am. Indian L. Rev. 497 (1991), <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/ailr/vol16/iss2/5>



The Great Binding Law

- #9 First the question shall be passed upon by the Mohawk and Seneca
- Then it shall be discussed and passed by the Oneida and Cayuga
- Their decisions shall then be referred to the Onondaga Lords (Fire Keepers) for final judgment



Haudenosaunee framework

Structurally, three groups with specific roles:

1. Initiating
2. Responding
3. Mediating

In adapting for the Greens, substitute these three group names for the named Six Nations in the Haudenosaunee (Seneca, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk, Cayuga, and Tuscarora). This organization is recursive, using the same structure and consensus methods at all watershed levels. Minimum chapter/group size is 3.