

## MINUTES

### MCT Constitution Reform Meeting via Zoom

May 21st, 2021 (every third FRIDAY) 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CDT

Hosted by White Earth Nation at Shooting Star Casino, Facilitator Char Ellis

Note: email from [carriedaspinwall@gmail.com](mailto:carriedaspinwall@gmail.com) Thursday, May 20, 2021, 9:04 CDT contains documents discussed at this meeting.

#### Attendees:

9:00 am Welcome, breakfast, Delegation Roll Call, 29 via Zoom: Carrie LL, Sandra Borden GP, Millie Holmes BF, Muriel Deegan BF, Lyz Jaakola FDL, Michele Beeksma GP, Mike Davis ML, Maureen Jones, Al Olson ML, Nicky Rousseau GP, Perry Skinaway MLB, Philip Brodeen MCT Legal, Steve Thomas FDL, Sybil Gund WE, Marcie McIntyre GP, Ellen Olson GP, Michaa Aubid, Marie Castello, Defoe, Travis, Michele Palomaki MLB, Donita Odden, Elaine Fleming LL, Gen Hanks, Tracey, Phoenix 4, Dawn Paro, Nanci Glenn Stone, Patty Straub WE, Jolyn Donnell WE, Rose Robinson LL, Walter Reese LL, Ray Bellcourt WE, Debra Storbakken LL, Cheryl Edwards FDL, Joy Annette WE, Jennifer Cross LL, Wally Storbakken LL, Lynn Heisler WE, Shannon Heisler WE, Lew Murray WE, Char Ellis WE, Sally Fineday LL, Angel Stevens WE, Celeste Cloud WE, Anita Reyes WE, Douglas Lee WE, Michaa Aubid SL, Veronica Skinaway SL, David Niib Aubid SL. In person attendance approximately 22.

9:10 am Invocation, Lew Murry

9:20 am Housekeeping Reminders- Carrie Aspinwall

- Voting/Census Building Protocol

- Strategic Process

- Limit comments to 3/5 minutes so that all have a turn to provide input

9:30 am TEC Committee Report Out on TEC Meeting of April 29/30, 2021

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 we presented our quarterly progress report to the TEC. See Separate document in above email. The MCT is supposed to post our documents on the MCT website.

The individual band Enrollment position papers were read. They had been submitted via email to Carrie who consolidated the papers into one document which was an attachment to the above email.

9:35 am to 10:45 am Break - requested by White Earth to reorganize to deal with the in-person attendees that had not planned on being in a Zoom meeting.

Ray reported out on White Earth's position on Governance. Power in numbers, Stay together as one tribe with six bands so we are not divided and conquered. More protective, especially for the children. We are setting up community meetings to decide the issue. Read a statement of past history.

Ray read a document of historical legal reviews of the MCT Constitution and governance.

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Cheryl of FonduLac gave a report on April 2021 TEC Report- Alan Roy resolution, MCT website updated, Interpretation. (could not hear well via Zoom).

A concern was presented on the 30% vote requirement for approval of changes to the constitution; i.e., does this include children because of the way it is written. It was clarified: 30% of eligible voters. We need to educate our constituency on the importance of voting.

Sally Fineday: Interpretation that Alan Roy has proposed was unexpected. "Blood Quantum" is a racist term and we need to get rid of the term. Let's discuss what will be on the ballot.

Mil Holmes (chat): "30% is the minimum I am working towards with as many above that number as possible. Yes, 100% is preferred but not realistic. Most surveys usually only get 10-25% of all sent out returned. So we still have our work cut out, so let's not change the pattern yet. These would be things to consider if we ever get to the point of actually changing the Constitution."

10:20 am to 11: 40 am Mille Lacs legal questions were asked by Mike Davis and attendees; with answers by Phil Broden, Legal Counsel to MCT who prepared a statement which was presented to the MCT (Memorandum of April 19, 2021) and sent via email to delegates.

Cheryl Edwards FDL: Asked Phil why we haven't seen the memorandum. He stated it was in the TEC packet, which we don't have access to. No one has emailed the memorandum nor has it been posted to the MCT website. (Still isn't there today.)

Note: Discussion of 2022 Ballot Priority- Tabled to a later meeting after we have a consensus of blood quantum

- 1) Move only Enrollments to 2022 Ballot / General Election vs entire Constitution
- 2) Move one / two Enrollment options to 2022 Ballot See attached list of discussed options/solutions

11:45 am to 12:55 pm- Lunch

12:55 pm Presentations by Cheryl Edwards, FDL Delegate

- Project Summary- mailed out covering Jan 2018 to Apr 2021.
- Original Timeline Review (not discussed)

1:00 pm Discussion on Enrollment

Leech Lake does not want any other tribe involved in their enrollment decisions and it must be a fair process.

Grand Portage (Marcie via chat)- "Descendants of the 1941 enrollment. Yes, we have Red Lake descendants and descendency from other reservations. Grand Portage discussed these issues 16 yrs ago and people decided on 1941 enrollment. But I don't think this is written in stone. We used to be hunters/gatherers. So many of these "constitutional" issues are foreign."

Also, need to be able to go back to earlier generation. 1890 allotment lists.

Thoughts on the impact on resources. Give voice to nature.

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Chanda (?) who is in enrollment and worked with BIA. Used genealogists to trace family history. Most of members are 55 years or older.

Who should be able to vote?

Are we taking people with Ojibwe lineage outside of the 6 bands?

Mille Holmes BF: if we get rid of blood quantum, we only need to know parents and prior generation (vs. which band). Must be verifiable.

Sally Fineday: enrollment should be made by our own council and perhaps have a court/judges make decisions. It's a Nation's issue.

A Supreme court would not be political.

1:45 pm Break

2:00 pm Committee Reports

-TEC Committee (moved to top of Agenda) – Carrie was the presenter at the TEC meeting.

-Finance Committee — Reviewed the Bush grant provided by Jason Burnett. There is an old budget that needs to be updated. Grant is in the area \$200,000.

- Education Committee- Trying to start weekly sessions. Thinking of making videos. Did not address the agenda topic: Education Committee an Analysis of Traditional Ojibwe Civil Chief Leadership

-Drafting- no one available to give it.

-Survey Committee -Drafting Committee – Steve Thomas FDL reported that he came up with some questions which he emailed to the delegates. He had reviewed earlier survey. The word “Secretary of Interior” is in the Constitution 36 times and has influence in 25 ways. Needs a contact list with addresses to send out survey after the Education and Drafting Committees review the questions.

**MCT survey** ([migizimakwa@gmail.com](mailto:migizimakwa@gmail.com) email dated Friday, May 21, 2021, 02:08:45 PM CDT)

1. What would be the best way to get you involved in this reform process? (Select one)

1. Facebook
2. Band/MCT/delegation websites
3. Band newspaper
4. In-person/video conference

2. Should MCT be disbanded and each band to be recognized on their own? (Select one)

1. Yes
2. No

3. Should we change the name of MCT to be more representative of us? (Select one)

1. Yes

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2. No

4. What do you think the standard for membership in the MCT should be? (Select one)

1. Retain the current standard of  $\frac{1}{4}$  Degree MCT Blood Quantum
2. Adopt descendant standard at MCT level with additional requirements at the band level
3. Adopt descendant standard

5. TEC RESOLUTIONS: Please select resolutions you would vote for if MCT retained a  $\frac{1}{4}$  Degree Blood Quantum. (Select none or more)

1. Include verified First Nation Anishinabe blood (Resolution 32-15)
2. Include verified federally recognized Anishinabe/Ojibway/Chippewa blood (Resolution 32-15)
3. Restore all individuals on the 1941 Base Roll to full-blood status (Draft Resolution)

6. How should we determine who is on the TEC? (Select one)

1. Bands are required to have a Chairperson and a Secretary-Treasurer to serve on the TEC as defined within the MCT constitutional statute
2. Each band decides what 2 people will serve on the TEC

7. Who should determine how a band governs itself? (Select one)

1. Keep band government as defined within the MCT constitutional statute
2. Each band governs itself at the band level (Band Constitutions), MCT concerns itself with inter-band affairs

8. Should we create more separation of powers, like the US? (Select one)

1. Yes
2. No

9. What should we do with absentee voting? (Select one)

- (1) keeping absentee voting as is
- (2) doing away with absentee voting
- (3) limiting absentee voting to those who cannot make it back to vote

10. Which of the Secretary of interior roles should be delegated to newly-formed oversight bodies within the tribe? (Select one or more)

1. Approve/Deny appeal of enrollment rejection
2. Regulating the powers of the TEC & RBCs
3. Be advised by the TEC & RBCs about appropriation estimates and federal projects
4. Approve/Deny advancements of tribal credit from the US treasury
5. Approve/Deny the TEC's and RBCs' ability to borrow money, when required by Federal statute
6. Approve/Deny TEC's and RBCs' ordinances for non-members and non-tribal organizations

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7. Approve/Deny bonding of tribal officials
8. Approve/Deny removal from office appeal
9. Approve and Call for special election for ratification
10. Call for special election for amendment or revocation of constitution. Approve/Deny amendments
11. Approve/Deny resolutions and ordinances by the TEC or RBCs
12. Inspect tribal accounts and conduct audits

11. Should Congress' role in Majority voting and ability to revoke the constitution be taken out of the constitution? (Select one)

1. Yes
2. No

Need to prepare question for the next election, 2022.

PLEASE SEND YOUR DELEGATIONS COMMITTEE REP NAMES TO CARRIE/CHERYL FOR UPDATE

**Next Zoom meeting date Next meeting host, Invocation, and meeting minutes – Friday June 18 hosted by Minneapolis.**

2:30 pm Adjourn