

MCT FDL Delegate meeting minutes 03/26/2019

5:00PM-7:30PM

Facilitator: Lyz Jaakola

Delegates Present: John R, Lyz, Ricky, Joyce, Cheryl

Community Members present: Archie, Jacob

Who is taking minutes tonight? John R offers to audio record the meeting to help create minutes and complete within a few days. All OK.

Greetings and Archie shares an impressive list of accomplishments for our community. He would like to start an Anishinaabe stock market among other things. He is running for council.

Lyz: addresses delegate process for Archie and Jacob's benefit.

I, II. Approve agenda, review minutes... check. Additions.

III Individual Delegate updates since last meeting.

LYZ: Missing member updates. Sherry is active at a line 3 event. Wayne and Janis are healing. John D and Jason and Robert were in Minneapolis and could not attend tonight. Tara is out of town. Jeroam is absent. An announcement is made that Jean DuFault has resigned her delegate seat and submitted notice to Kevin Dupuis and 2 others.

Thank you for your tireless commitment to serving your community Jean. I would be remiss to not thank Lorraine Houle as well who resigned her delegate seat in February. I'm sure you will both continue serving your community in other desperately needed areas. Chi miigwech!

Lyz continues, The next meeting of the MCT Delegates to the constitution reform will be in Walker, MN at Northern Lights, APRIL 15, 10AM-4PM. Hotel rooms are available for \$40. Stresses we are to discuss Article one and not so much the hot topics. Process since 1934, As delegates we have no "power" we represent the community only. We all agree we need to revise but not agree on how to get there. Were trying to build consensus before touching hot topics.

Archie: First touch on the constitution process.. Presents many ideas including that the US Constitution is in need of change. Why are Anishinaabe charged taxes? Descendency should be inclusive and we should be full bloods all. Red lake has a model. There should be statutes of limitations for felonies to be counted against and after restitution the felony label should be dropped. Chiefs were historically the ones who brought back the most plunder to the community. We don't utilize what we have.

Lyz: these are the hot topic issues.

Cheryl: We have a lot to do one by one. Our current constitution is too wordy. We need to assure the document we help craft is representative of the people. We must not wait for the affirmation of our oppressors. We must assert our sovereignty. It's not given to us. They gave us nothing.

John: In Canada, in 2017, The 1<sup>st</sup> nation Anishinaabe of one province redressed their treaties with France. An agreement was reached that returns all sovereign lands to the Anishinaabe after 3 years. I have been reached out to by a facebook friend who practices common law and interprets legal matters who said he helped in their process. He has agreed to come in to one of our future meetings via a technical remote method of our choosing to offer a presentation and answer questions. He is active also with the Utes in their process. Also a trusted friend offered her awareness of a doctoral thesis on the Clan System. She offered to share it with me for our benefit if we would like. I should have it soon. I personally endorse a return to the clan system as our FIRST governmental model to replace the DOI, SOI in our system.

Archie: working on a lawsuit to take over the MCT

John R: DOI approached the BIA to request us to change our constitution eliminating the SOI and replacing our checks and balances 8-10 years ago. It's their directive. MCT has been dragging feet on the process just reopening it for discussion and further revision.

Jacob: Relates how he has returned to the Fond du lac community after a couple decades. He is a nursing graduate with a strong personal sense of responsibility to his family and community. His Grandma was on RBC. Since returning to the community, He's waiting to see if the community is responsive and how he envisioned it. He sees the need to address Blood quantum as an important issue.

Joyce: Joyce relates how she has heard these discussions since Camp Promise in the 80's. The process has taken so long and she sees the need to do it now and complete the process successfully. Promotes Zaagibagaang as an explanation on clan system by John Morrin of Grand Portage.

Ricky: Born here, moved away. back 20 years now. We must address where our allegiance lies. How do we see ourselves? Zaagibagaang is a great resource for Constitution. By holding on to the current constitution it is furthering colonization. There is fear of the unknown. We need to retain our strong voices. His history is critical of the system. We can look to the history to see who voted how and why. Does not agree to "tweaking" the document. The treaties. I dissent. This system. It must be set up for our children and grandchildren.

Lyz: In Minneapolis, Attendees were listed. (See Minneapolis video), Miigwech Amanda Linden for your participation and 2 community members. We talked about the survey. We must link our future videos for the public in the cities. We must use our traditional knowledge. Predates these institutions. Promotes the Arizona institutes presentation speaker as a strong speaker. Enough people know who we are, the constitution does not tell us who we are. We need to put out the new old way we do things. Moving the process forward is significant. Moving forward 5 yards or to the end zone will be progress. The RBC stays hands off in our process. The TEC meetings are hard to watch. Dysfunctional. Out of destruction comes new growth. Agenda.. Article one.. we

need something to contribute there. Zaagibagaang will have a new presentation on Sunday, David Degrote March 31, 2PM at the college. Facebook live. Rather than having watch parties. Which are imperfect as they don't comment to the original feed. Travel reimbursement. We have nothing set up.

Cheryl: With the resignation of Jean, that leaves Tara as our sole financial contact to the MCT and FDL. Is there a conflict of interests? We have been reimbursed for nothing. The MCT has no approved budget to reimburse our gas or lodging for monthly meetings and since Tara replaced Wayne our FDL budget hasn't produced the approved gift cards or food budget for our bi-weekly meetings.

John: Our submitted budget approved weekly meetings for two gift cards and 100 a week for food. We are not even using half our approved budget.

Ricky: Tara has the gift cards. We need to contact her and have her get our budget right.

Cheryl: If Tara needs help she only need ask. We need to advertise the food and gift cards.

Lyz: I can contact Tara. Our meetings are only planned through May 28, We have to plan further now.

Cheryl: We need to add Minneapolis and Duluth to our meeting lists.

John: Perhaps we can keep what we have and use weekends for the cities.

Lyz: Challenging in the summer to get participation.

Joyce: Call Amanda to get best times and days.

Ricky: Need to add a return address to the bottom of the existing and future surveys. We must gain awareness in the cities. No one knows what's going on. Not fall victim to procrastination.

Archie: It's in the US constitution, we should pay NO taxes. Those people shall be taxed no more referring to us.

Lyz: Read the treaties.

Joyce: spoke of Bryan at Leech Lake, Grand Rapids on an legal issue of no taxes paid for a trailer or the land it set on.

Ricky: We have the power to Regulate our gambling as a sovereign nation.

Archie: Use the casinos and gambling as a trojan horse. Add Online gambling to increase revenue and make us all Millionaires.

Ricky: Let's get back to roles and responsibilities. (all laugh)

Lyz: Will be in Finland for the next meeting. We have been a bit frustrated in the process and need to focus on specifics.

Cheryl: Separate flyers are needed for each meeting. More interesting than our current list of days and places. More appealing to the eye. GRAB ATTENTION. Advertise food and gift cards. John had individual flyers for our meetings.

Archie: John. Can you do that?

John R. Sure.

Jacob: I could do it. Anybody could.

Joyce: Mel can make flyers and distribute them easily. She offered to personally distribute the flyers for each meeting. Chi miigwech!

Jacob: We need to make this less overwhelming and simplify the verbiage and presentation. This week we will talk about... instead of some big task.

Joyce: We should list what we want on the flyer. Change the info on every date.

Cheryl: We can ask Mel. Whoever is facilitating needs to contact Mel with the info for that next meeting. She can plug that into a template. Add we have food and drink and want to talk with you.

Ricky: We need to agree what we will do. We're supposed to work on article one and preamble. Organization and purpose.

Cheryl: We shouldn't do the preamble until we have a document to sum up.

Ricky: Yes, I've heard that. Like putting the cart before the horse.

Joyce: For the flyers. Date, Time, place, speaker?

Jacob: The flyers are good but then you must produce. If there's supposed to be a meal and there's just a few cookies... the public will be skeptical.

Ricky: We need an agenda by the 5<sup>th</sup>.

John R: I can contact Thomas Whitefeather to set up a presentation if it'll help plan for the agenda. (Goes to contact Thomas)

Cheryl: The template for the FDL website is easy to update and can be updated easily. We just change the date and location, but we're being put farther down the list as it's not a new flyer being submitted every time. Survey monkey can field 10 questions but one could abuse the system and log in from multiple emails, polluting the results.

Jacob: If you put a survey out soon you can have results before your next meeting.

John R: Contacted Thomas Whitefeather who has agreed to join us remotely for a 6PM presentation with us on our April 9 meeting. We set up so we can get an hour roll prepared before Thomas joins us for a half hour to an hour depending on how it goes. (He admits not everyone will like what he has to say. I know he enjoys the common law system and works to promote it. I believe it is intended to assert sovereignty in a more correct way. I would like to

know more of how the re-brokering of the Anishinaabe/France treaty and the implications of that).

Jacob: Write it down, I'll look forward.

### **Hall noise as short discussion on article one is presented and discussed.**

Jacob: His grandmother worked and wrote letters to people of influence and received answers. wishes he knew where they were.

Archie: Church formed the RBC. His grandmother started in it.

Ricky: We have to overcome the history of the landgrabbers and fur traders. We must put forth our values for over 4100 Chippewas in MN. Be united.

Archie: Bush smash grabbed us. The tribe sued the dept of agriculture for 750 million and settled. I'm suing Carlton county. We should sue everyone. Take them to court for everything their doing.

Jacob: That's how they live in California. SUE each other to survive.

Lyz: presents a drawing representing an umbrella where the "legal" constitution is only one spoke of the umbrella frame holding the larger fabric of the Anishinaabe tenants of who we really are. We aren't represented by the small portion (corporation) but the larger whole. We can keep the corporation part to retain the business aspect. But not be defined by it. Not a lawyer but maybe.

Jacob: Why do we call our tribal govt. a business committee instead of council.

Archie: The RBC is supposed to take care of the members who are starving.

Jacob: Why do we settle for "Chippewa". We are mis identifying by a mispronunciation.

Lyz: That's the English branding.

Archie: And not only that, we have Savages on the council. (laughter) That was a joke, (more laughter)

John R: I just want to re-iterate, and I will keep it brief. We are in our sixth mass extinction event on Earth taking place right now. I also know this is the time of the end of the Anishinaabe 7<sup>th</sup> fire prophecy. I think these things go together, right now. We are at the end of the seventh fire prophecy. If you read the end of that prophecy, It doesn't say we go to war. It doesn't say we write a new constitution. What it says is that we wake up our elders. And be Anishinaabe. And save the sick world. Be a blessing to the whole world. We're a nation. The biggest on the continent. We need to be that strong nation, and then reach out to the other strong nations on this continent. As Cheryl said earlier we need to assert our sovereignty. We cannot accept their perceived "plenary power" as they've been bad business partners for hundreds of years now. There science says we are going extinct. Their science tells us we have 12 years. 3 years ago.

Archie: I was in a church before they kicked me out, and one guy said this won't be a reservation but a preservation in the future. Holding as a memorial to us.

JohnR: That's kinda my whole point with that. We don't have time. We don't have time to write a constitution. It's going to do us no good. The colonized things that we're dealing with are what's killing us. The Anishinaabe have a good way of life that was working for ten thousands of years. It only stopped working when we all stopped being Anishinaabe and assimilated and colonized over to their system. We're still Anishinaabe but not like 500 years ago Anishinaabe. But we can be again. We can reclaim THAT. We have to learn these things again.

Ricky: What you're speaking of is part of colonization. Steering us to certain things.

JohnR: I'm not sure we can be a corporation any longer. That way is killing us. We certainly have a better way.

Ricky: A corporation is actually people. We're community but we are a corporation. The Minnesota Chippewa tribe.

Joyce: Someone asked Kevin, Why are we still getting govt handouts through grants and funding. He said without those we would dry up and go broke.

Ricky: Certain pieces of the programming..

Joyce: We could never get away from it.

Ricky: They oppress us essentially. Our institutions are failing because they're replicated from theirs.

Lyz: Talked to Tara and she said we can ask for a PO for reimbursement.

Jacob: isn't a PO for like a super one or a business to get merchandise with a signature without paying the cash?

Lyz: Oh you're so picky.. (laughs)

And the meeting ends.

Miigwech for everyone's respectful input and conversation.

Looking forward to another productive meeting as we move this process forward some more next time..

Respectfully submitted:

John Roterman

03/29/2019