

MCT Constitution Reform Minutes  
ZOOM Meeting, April 16th, 2021,9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Hosted by Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
Prepared by Sandra Borden, GP, and Birdie Roberts, MLB

Provided through Chat and Email: Mille Lacs Delegates Talking Points & Recommendations document.

9:00 am: Delegation Roll Call (and attendees); Carrie D Aspinwall, Sandra Borden, Lee Staples, Rose Robinson, Wayne Dupuis FDL, BF Muriel Deegan BF, Char Ellis WE, Danielle Smith MLB, Louie Johannsen WE, Lyz Jaakola, Maria Costello MLB, Maureen Jones, Michele Palomaki MLB, MLB Al Olson, Cheryl Edwards, Maureen Jones, Connie Saaristo, John, Michaa Aubid, Jason Decker, Joy Annette, Elaine Fleming, Michele Beeksma GP, Jason Burnett GP, Sally Fineday LL, Jolyn WE, Shannon H WE, Perry Skinaway MLB, Ava Carpentier, Raymond Bellecourt, Wally Dupuis FDL, Birdie Roberts, MLB.

9:05 am Invocation by Lee Staples.

9:10 am Housekeeping reminders- mute your speaker, Maria keeping track of raised hand, mindful of the time you use to speak, there is a time keeper, Al Olson, if we are running over the agenda, request to speak longer, mindful of invocation, be respectful to the ones speaking. Any other housekeeping rules that should be mentioned?

9:30 am – Started the agenda.

Voting/Census Building Protocol: We agreed to go through this every meeting, MLB Birdie requested input if everyone wanted to review it again or we can skip it. Michele/Birdie posted the voting/consensus document. Birdie reviewed the document. Carrie commented on the priorities for the agenda item 2020 Ballot Priorities. Why piece meal amending the constitution, what do we need people to respond to and we need to make sure we do engagement with our people.

MLB Birdie: We understand we need to prioritize. The question out there about the ballot priority is, do we set a deadline for 2022 just for enrollment or is the 2022 date for revising the constitution. To keep conversation going, let's open discussion on talking about enrollment and at the end we are going to take a vote. Take turns as bands and take a position on what we want to do to address enrollment. We have the April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting with the TEC and are doing a presentation piece on our position on enrollments. MLB worked on this and created a document. MLB Talking Points for document for discussion. We have two topics, enrollment and self-governance.

MLB Al commented should we start first and review our position. Group agrees to let MLB go first. Al reads off our document. MLB recommendation: Art II must be abolished. MLB only band recognized in constitution. If a citizen of your band, you are already a member of the constitution. Birdie commented that in the preamble, some think MCT is a government but we think is it an organization. Who is rolled under the MCT? What it states is ,5 bands are recognized as reservations but MLB is listed as a band. What's a reservation? A reservation is a geographic location, it is not people. In the constitution MLB is listed a tribe. We can't make assumptions with what is in the constitution. MLB believes each band should make their own decisions and not the MCT. We want to protect our sovereignty. We don't want to give any governmental power to an organization. We also don't want to be under the thumb of the IRA.

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We want to put more weight to our sovereignty and not give it to an organization. What does everyone think? LL Carrie commented that was a lot of work and think MLB may be on to something.

Michaa commented. The Constitution was worded that way because the Mille lacs reservation was considered to not exist at the time of the constitution. Thus, the language is worded to refer to specific people who remained there at that time! It's just a hiccup in the language. He believes everyone determines their own membership now. Goes through the process as he understands it. Used the moratorium as an example of the bands making their own decisions concerning enrollment. Quarter blood is the issue. Ability to transfer in from other bands is determined by the bands.

- One sovereign Nation (currently) vs. Individual Band Sovereignty
- Enrollment (based on above)

Citizen Engagement/Education is the most important priority.

Wayne submits a comment on chat. MLB agrees we want to see the blood quantum description removed from all language. We looked to the CFR for the language. This was sent to LL Jason Decker. We are in agreement with everyone, we want to see it taken out but we have to figure out legally how we can do that.

LL Carrie – How do we do that? We need an attorney to tell us how to do it right?

MLB Birdie: What is the MCTs lawyer role in this? We could use our own lawyers to confirm what to do. We use our own lawyers to help us find our documents. Do we use MCT lawyers or our lawyers. We still have not received a response for our questions from the last TEC meeting. We know we are not 100% certain on our accuracy. We are going to ask our lawyers to validate our findings.

WE Joy Annette: We are not horses, dogs, or slaves. We should not have a blood quantum; it is greed that is holding us back-how will our resources be allocated. We need to protect our resources; each band can determine how their resources are going to allocated. We can have application and grants. Hunting, band citizens then everyone else. The blood quantum is not the issue, its our resources. They don't have a voice, they used to. How are we going to use and allocate our resources; how will each reservation manage it? What needs to be included in our constitution is how we recognize our resources and we should speak on their behalf. Used to be done that way.

MLB Birdie: Speaking of funding, the government basis funding is for basic services and it's based upon enrollment numbers. Can we get to a place where we don't need to rely on the funding from the government? The Federal government funding is only available to members with the blood quantum.

LL Jason Decker: Indian Reorganization Act has the definition of Indian. You do not have to be organized under the IRA. Definition of an Indian. He reads the CFR. It's interpreted from his understanding. Native living outside a reservation or no reservation. Like St. Croix, they were allowed to organize outside the reservation. There are no blood quantum requirements for tribes that organized under reservations.

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Steve Thomas FDL: has a few ideas. What is our charge when we first started? Are we supposed to get this done by 2020? Has there been some distinction amending the Constitution vs a new Constitution? If we are operating outside our charge and outside our time limits, this may destruct our whole process, we need to know what our boundaries are.

Sally Fineday LL: The original MCT Constitution does not represent us and was not written by us. Each nation gets a vote. Stop using the terms bands and reservations. We are NATIONS since the beginning of time. We should remember the document was not written by us. Continue to say this is who we are. This document has nothing to do with us. We are the Anishinaabe of ". We need one document that says Anishinaabe but really titles are titles. All the six nations were together. We were forced to separate. Happy someone is looking at the legal aspect of our project. We want respect from others as to who we are.

Jolyn WE: Concern with whether all items discussed would have support. There are ongoing field solicitor opinions regarding tribes being recognized. Do we take in consideration all these things that are going on? We need to gather that other information too and put it all together because certain parts will not be accepted.

MLB Birdie: requested do we want to go through tribes and hear their recommendation?

LL Jason Decker: Process, we will have to call a Secretarial Election, meaning we will have to get feedback with the Secretary. There is a process to start asking the Secretary. How do you think this will impact our relationship?

MLB Maria: There are some comments in the chat box.

Nookomis Debra: how is Red Lake able to maintain themselves without 'government funding'?

WE Joy: We were "charged with constitution "REFORM" not constitution re-wording. We as a delegation were not given a deadline.

Debra: Burn the constitution since we didn't write it.

MLB Birdie: Let's continue to go through enrollment recommendations.

LL Sally: Can we do breakout rooms.

LL Carrie: John and I will set up breakouts.

Muriel Deegan BF: wants to join any breakout group since she is the only member of her band presented. Thanked MLB for their work, she also feels that we have the right to decide our membership. Not pro blood.

GP Marcie: we will accept Muriel in Grand Portage break out.

GP Michele Beeksma: Breakout room- vote by delegate or the wider group?

LL Sally Fineday: we are voting with feedback and we will go through this cycle.

Birdie Roberts MLB: we are compiling options.

Michaa Aubid: we support what we heard. Hundreds of our people want to come home. There is a group on this Zoom.

10:40 am Breakout Rooms.

Delegates return from break outs.

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FDL Cheryl: we should be discussing these topics at our own meetings and eliminating breaking out in groups to have our conversations as a band during this meeting. Talked over agenda, we changed the schedule, we will talk enrollments until 12. After lunch we start at 1 for the governance. MLB is done. FDL next.

Michaa speaks. Wolf Child case. Court ruled the bands can do their own membership. Shakopee had won that case. Court doesn't intervene with enrollment cases. Believes no one is going to interfere. SEC of Interior. Doesn't remember them interfering with MCT enrollment issues. Talked of someone being denied enrollment. Legally the bands can do what they want. MCT is more of a mechanism to protect.

FDL presents recommendations. They stated overall idea is we see the decisions should be made at the band level, eliminate blood quantum. No one else can challenge another band's enrollment. Believe whole system is inconsistent. Appeal process. Reduce Article to what is happening today.

LL: We are the only deciders of our enrollment. This constitution is not valid and ultimately draft an alliance. LL should have its own constitution.

GP: We want the idea of being sovereign and make our own rules. We support each band doing it. We want safeguards in place so new officials can't come along and undo all our work. No blood quantum, make sure we are not eliminating federal funding at the same time. Big impact. We really don't have full control of who is being enrolled. There is some control but not complete control.

WE: We agreed we want to stay together. Keep MCT but revamp TEC and RBC. We went to the model constitution and want to re-structure to something like that. Instead of five people making all the decisions for all the people, we want to bring the power back to the people instead of the five officials.

BP: I can't make a determination by myself. Wants to table until next meeting.

MLB Birdie: You can submit your options to TEC, do your homework and then give to TEC subcommittee to record. Covered MLBs position again.

Michaa: Our group agrees with WE position. Also support everyone and will back all these positions. We are here and think we should be counted as the 7<sup>th</sup> delegation.

LL Jason – It makes sense that each reservation submits their position to the TEC Subcommittee. Give it a week. Deadline is by the 26<sup>th</sup> of April because we go in front of the TEC on the 30<sup>th</sup>. It's on enrollment and it's a recommendation. Joy but we don't have a consensus right now. TEC are discussions only.

LL Carrie: The theme is we want to determine our own enrollments. Another theme is self-governance.

WE: Wants to stay as an MCT Tribe and not individual tribes.

FDL explained why we need a deadline and a consensus.

LL Wally: We have to figure out are we one nation or individual nations? We are full circle again and recognizing that. MLB is the only one recognized. We are the only people who is spread

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out on six reservations within the U.S. We still have members all over the U.S. We as Ojibwe need to reunify with other Ojibwe tribes. Happy we are having this discussion.

WE Ray: Separate reservations. What is the process with individual reservations? MLB, we don't know that answer, that's what we are pursuing? WE, is it then we should disband and go our own way. We can go our own way and still stay together as one nation and still be able to control what we do on your own reservation. We need to settle those issues. I'm just confused right now on those issues.

LL Jason: There's good in our model for consensus. We are saying here where we are right now, but we could change our mind. We are setting our baseline.

FDL Steve: One issue we ran into was a lot of oversight issues. I respect the traditional values of things. And if you decided to switch village's they took you. We need to focus on this issue and figure this one out and then move on to our other issues. I think we are not as far apart on this issue as others may think we are.

MLB Birdie – We concluded the enrollment discussion, let's go to lunch and come back at 1pm.

12:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm Committee Reports

Mille Lacs Governance document was read. An "organization" (MCT) does not need a constitution. We want to minimize the authority of the BIA over the Mille Lacs Band. Sandy Lake and East Lake Bands were integrated into Mille Lacs. Also, there were 25 villages merged into six bands.

LL Sally Fineday: We have existed before the Europeans arrived. We here before the Europeans came here. We supersede everything. How do we recognize that legally?

MLB Birdie: We are looking at this too and we have to continue to do the research to find that answer. Even looking at our six treaties. We agree with being here before the Europeans. There are three sovereigns in the U.S. National, state, and tribal. That makes us quasi-sovereign. Our opponent is U.S. and we don't know how to do it yet.

LL Carrie: MLBs position is clear but question if we are getting into the nuts and bolts of this and it feels legal. Do we bring in someone who is an expert and help us with this?

MLB Maria: Where do we get the funding for this.

LL Carrie: Our govt has committed to contribute funding to help us. This person would be of our choosing and LL will cover the cost. Are we getting to a place where we need that? What MLB created drives a lot of questions. There's a lot to be weighted in here. Do we now need legal eyes on this thing?

LL Jason: Keith Rechauld wrote a book on a constitutional process. HE was asked if he wanted to help us move along on this. We don't want to use the MCT lawyer. He is in an odd position to answer these questions, we need someone independent to clarify for us. Red lake when they talked how they worked on revising their constitution.

FDL: Agrees to bringing someone in to help us look at this from a legal sense.

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LL Sally: The Indian Bar Assn. We can ask them to assist us pro bono. Jason spoke about the lawyer he knows

MLB Al: We need a law professor or a historian to help us with this.

LL Carrie: I'm hearing we need to bring in other resources. Putting together a panel or give Keith a call he could chime into zoom? She would volunteer to reach out to him.

GP Marcie wants to speak.

GP Sandra: Could we create a parking lot to put together our legal questions so we know what we want to ask. Carrie, recommending you call out your legal questions.

GP Marcie: We need to get this sovereignty right. We have the right to live under our own laws. We need to exercise our sovereignty. We need to write our constitution and stop asking for permission. She wants to write the constitution and then asked for a review. Lawyers give opinions. Do our work as our best and stop doing this piecemeal.

FDL Cheryl: Agrees with Marcie.

MLB Birdie: Asked BF to present. BF not present so we lost our delegation. We can keep going. We can't get any consensus now.

GP Marcie: WE structure, thought it was good, we wouldn't use all of it. We should start with it and not reinvent the wheel. Document was posted. Carrie to also email. Go to FDL webpage and its posted there. Would we be writing different constitutions?

[https://146a1cc6-3e12-47f8-98d4-013d2ab604f4.filesusr.com/ugd/5aaad0\\_e231a4e732294b76a7593c35b3c53bef.pdf](https://146a1cc6-3e12-47f8-98d4-013d2ab604f4.filesusr.com/ugd/5aaad0_e231a4e732294b76a7593c35b3c53bef.pdf)

MLB believes the MCT is not a government, it's an organization. We don't believe MCT should be structured as a government. We have our own structure of government. We are against the MCT being formed into a government-like organization. We don't want to give our sovereign powers to an org. We support an alliance, there's value in working together. We could even consider eliminating the MCT altogether. Minimize powers under U.S. law. The theme is maintaining our own sovereignty and fall under a confederacy/alliance instead of the MCT. We got pieces to put this into place.

MLB Maria: We don't want to give any sovereign powers to the MTC.

GP Jason: If we decide to eliminate the MCT, would the services they provide we would take care of by tribe?

MLB Maria: what does MCT do for us? They exist because of us,

WE Ray: Doesn't want to eliminate the MCT but re-structure the TEC and RBCs. Joy we are a tribe; we are buying into them separating us. WE believer's we are one tribe.

MLB: Stated we are just expressing another option to consider. Our job is to create options and we are not authorized to make the decision on behalf of the entire tribe.

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FDL Steve: Where is it that we do it by villages. We are all one Ojibwe nation. Respect to our ancestors. Wants to get other bands in. Allow for autonomy. We have the ability to decide what it is. If you want to pave the road for autonomy, get moving and say what you want to do. MLB and LL want to be sovereign and that's where we are leaning. LL wants to manage more of their services instead of the MCT.

MLB Maria mentioned MAST. There are so many things we can do.

WE Louie: If we give all the sovereignty to each tribe, what happens to all the other enrolled members off reservations, what govt. do they have.

MLB Maria: It doesn't change anything they would stay with their own tribe.

WE Ray: Thinks it's a bad move, U.S. Government wants to divide us and conquer us. We need to stick together and be one people. We should stick together.

Michaa: Seems like it hamstringing us but we can work through it. We are the only tribe where we are allowed this structure by the US govt. We should think about how good it is to be together.

FDL Lyz: Each person has sovereign rights, its not an absolute. Carrie observing themes there are still questions are we going to be separate. The tribe remains intact. Only making decisions about our own people in our villages and bringing to the larger umbrella when needed.

WE Ray: govt thinks they are handing out privileges, that not true. Govt can't give that or take away. Born with that sovereignty.

MLB Al: Why would we want to organize under the U.S. law that believes they are giving us those privileges?

WE Ray: Take away that power from the MCT. Structure so we all have a say. We need to structure the MCT the way it is in our communities. We still need the umbrella to stay together and then become independent financially. We are one. We want to stay together but change the role of MCT. Citizen Act was a fraud. Naturalization and born in their own domain. That's not us.

WE Joy: Commented on treaties. That's why we have reservations we need to be under one umbrella that we control. Ray, exclusion is what protects us from them. Wants to present this idea to the group.

MLB Birdie: We want to get out from under the IRA and create those alliances. We are all over the country. Talked about treaty to treaty and connect together. Birdie used the example of the MLB Treaty rights on hunting, fishing. To have the flexibility to determine who a tribe should align with based on the needs of the tribe. We need to reshape the MCT.

WE Roy: The MCT was created to distribute the funding. It's another thing to change

Michaa: We should be like water, where we need help, we can get the help from others. 1963 took away our representation. Delegations came from each village to bring forth the local issues. There's not enough representation for the people. LL and WE 1855 treaty as an example.

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WE Joy: Enrollment indicates blood quantum, what happens to the enrollment office. We need to disassociate ourselves from the blood quantum issue. It goes back to each reservation to take care of their resources. It's simple, I don't know why everyone can't see that. Other tribes don't have the problem of blood quantum. We just need to do a census of who is part of the reservation. Take it down to the simplest level. Ray: Enrollment was intended to eliminate us.

LL Carrie: it sounds like we are leaning to direct lineage and take away the fractional system. This is what the people are thinking they don't come right out and say that but that is what I'm seeing. We still need to get everyone's position on governance. Let's continue on governance. Go ahead with Boise Forte. We can continue with this topic later. Carrie lets go through the other bands but they might not be ready but keep going to get what their thoughts and positions are on governance. I'm hearing we determine what the MCT does for us.

BP Muriel: Right now, Mille is trying to update who is currently on their committee. Goes through the current members. No meetings have occurred lately so we have no position on the topic today. BF is in process on governance.

LL Carrie: Asked Rose, Elaine to give LL position on governance. Rose - for some us this process is cumbersome but needed. We have to be able to have the time to talk together and figure out what we support. The governance piece, the MCT, the function and responsibility, there can be a lot of changes. Traditionally, we had more delegates with more representation. We don't have enough representation at the TEC level. That needs to change. Maybe the MCT provides other functions but not authority over the tribes. An example is elections, may not be necessary. We need to be thoughtful as we move forward. MCT should be an organization that supports our tribes, MAST is more technical assistance, lobbyist such as child welfare. Discussion focuses on child welfare and social issues. Rose - I'm aware of the timeline but sometimes we need to go over the times.

MLB Birdie: In the 1980's we created a 3-branch government for MLB. She is against MCT be made a governmental entity; minimize the authority of MCT or eliminate it.

Carrie: There is one Anishinaabe tribe. We are under an umbrella or (Liz) under the wings of an eagle.

Joy Annette WE: We need to reorganized the MCT until we become economically independent.

Note: Wisconsin has *Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes*

<http://m-a-s-t.org/directory/gaming/wisonsin/>

LL Sally Fineday: **Henry Flocken Presentation** defines what we were/are before the constitution and we need to try to get back to it.

[https://146a1cc6-3e12-47f8-98d4-013d2ab604f4.filesusr.com/ugd/5aaad0\\_cdfcb3c7114e45069c2423768a257e3b.pdf](https://146a1cc6-3e12-47f8-98d4-013d2ab604f4.filesusr.com/ugd/5aaad0_cdfcb3c7114e45069c2423768a257e3b.pdf)

LL Carrie listed the current options: keep it like it is, revise it because they are an org and not a tribe, do away with it all together, create an alliance.

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WE Joy: MCT needs to be revamped, stay as a nation. Raymond Bellcourt- we need to restructure, stick together as a nation and a people. Each tribe keep their own autonomy but set up something that the money is distributed based on that tribe's needs, handled by each tribe.

2:45 pm Committee Reports

- TEC Subcommittee: FDL Cheryl: Has done a program summary of all the meetings except October and November 2020 because the minutes are missing. Carrie requested if anyone has their own minutes send them to Cheryl or her. MLB does not have last month's minutes, March. Carrie has edited Sandra's March 2021 minutes and will send out to everyone. Would like to hear what everyone wants to share in the MCT quarterly report. TEC Committee- want comments/feedback on reports by April 26 or sooner; found on MCT Constitution/Bylaws page and FDL website announcement page. Next meeting at Northern Lights Casino. Discussion of last TEC meeting and lack of accommodation for us. COVID rules limited participation for 40 chairs. If you want to attend to next TEC meeting, send your name to Carrie so that she can request that TEC accommodate the intended attendees. Any replacement, additions, deletions of the committee send names to Carrie. Carrie will prepare a one-page report.

FDL Wayne Dupuis: Get statistics/data from the MCT actuaries, request that people make a list of data needed. Mattie- The Zoom/Webinar link needs to be sent out. TEC was supposed to set up a meeting with us, hopefully monthly, before our meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month. Cheryl – we suggested inviting the TEC to our meeting. Birdie- Mille Lacs wants a response on our legal memorandum. The TEC should make sure that the District Rep's getting community input. Mattie- Can we ask TEC members to commit to help set up meetings between their tribes' constitutional reform delegates and their respective tribal council district representatives? As a means of discussing community outreach or perspectives.

- Finance- tabled
- Education- no updates, will add legal and training.
- Survey - Steve Thomas sent an email regarding a summary document and asking for major topics that we have yet to tackle, especially governance process. Wants Drafting committee to create documents to send out for informing people. We want more committee members, not all bands are represented. Hope to have the survey this summer, that means that a document needs to be provided to this group for review. Education and Drafting need a deadline. Multiple choice might work. Wayne Dupuis FDL- perhaps we present each of the proposals on membership and ask for a Likert type survey ranking from 1-5 for their response. Steve wants the contact information at each band for sending out the survey. Would like the Ed and drafting committee create something that is educational. Maybe we can have something by summer. Do a marketing campaign to get a good turnout. To get the votes we need. Get this more organized so we can ask the communities what they want. There were questions about this survey. We need to have a direction and determine what we are doing. LL Carrie, we need a document to respond to fairly soon if this is going to get rolled out by summer.

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Joy and Annette get their document to Steve. Put together what you can and take a cut at it. Get it to us by May. Have to access funds to do this. Google has survey app. Survey can reach out to Carrie for assistance. We got to get everyone engaged. Talked about emails, need to continue to update the emails.

- Drafting- Jason Decker is not aware of any meetings. There haven't been any meetings. Carrie will send out reminders that they have to provide updates each meeting. We have to re-center the drafting subcommittee. FDL if they can draft a document so survey can annotate how to get a hold of their drafting representative. Carrie we might be at a place to keep our own website instead of relying on FDLs website. FDL Cheryl advised there are many things posted on their website and each committee needs to ensure they have their information included and updated.
- Facilitation- Jason Decker- We will stay with the formula of meeting on Friday two weeks before the scheduled meeting. FDL wants to do the agenda process sooner than that. Agenda is needed sooner, and use a standard time for meeting. Next Facilitation meeting April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Make sure if you are not able to attend, contact Carrie so the committee doesn't wait for you to attend.

The TEC does not have many of our minutes posted.

FDL has decided we were going to allow descendants to participate if we do not have enough enrolled members. We are working on an SOP that doesn't take away any enrolled member's vote. LL Carrie, young and all people are welcomed at our meetings, their voices should be there with us. Must be a delegate to vote.

Cheryl Edwards will send out a summary document of our minutes.

Wally - There is an 1855 treaty meeting at Sandy Lake, anyone is invited.

**NEXT ZOOM MEETING DATE: May 21, 2021, 9 am to 4 pm CDT**

**NEXT MEETING HOST, INVOCATION, AND MEETING MINUTES- White Earth**

3:54 pm Adjourn.

**Chat documentation:**

Wayne Dupius

he last sentence in your recommendation "as long as the Mille Lacs Band remains associated with the MCT and the MCT constitution maintains a blood quantum requirement. Does this counter the idea that the use of blood quantum is a colonization or racial construct?

Joy Annette

A band is not a tribe. The tribe is the Anishinabe. Bands include ML Pillager, Red lake Pembina, Mississippi..etc.

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Michaa Aubid

It was worded that way because the Mille lacs reservation was considered to not exist at the time of the constitution.. thus the language is worded to refer to specific ppl who remained there at that time!

Perry Skinway

so the mct existed before the constitution?

Joy Annette

MCT must verify and accept membership applications and one is not a member until MCT puts a "stamp" of approval. So they do determine membership that reservations bring forward to be accepted.

Wayne D.

I think the blood quantum requirement is contrary to the 14th amendment to the constitution of the United States.

Deb Nookomis

how is Red Lake able to maintain themselves without 'govtmt funding'?

Joy

We were "charged with constirution "REFORM" not constitution re-worded. We as a delegation were not given a deadline.

Deb

Hence! the reason I've said we need to just burn the current constitution, as 'we' didnt write it!

Gaawiin

Joy Annette

traditionally, if someone is talking no one interrupts them and gives them a time line. What was meant to be said was said.

Iphone

It's the moratoriums that are in effect that determined that.

From LL Sally Fineday to Everyone: 12:07 PM

I am always going to bring about the fact that blood quantum is racism and we need to recognize this fact and move on.

From FDL Cheryl Edwards to Everyone: 12:08 PM

I agree, Sally. Miigwech!

Wayne Dupuis FdL to Everyone: 12:08 PM

gegate! Sally

CarrieD Aspinwall to Everyone: 12:53 PM

Here is the document of the DRAFT timeline that we discussed this morning. Nothing in stone, just a template we can use and edit as we see appropriate

My email to send each band's position for the TEC progress report scheduled for April 30th. I need responses by the 26th in order to get our materials on the Agenda carriedaspinwall@gmail.com and Cheryl Edwards' email is: cedwards1@css.edu

MCT Constitution Reform Minutes  
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Hosted by Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
Prepared by Sandra Borden, GP, and Birdie Roberts, MLB

Joy Annette WE to Everyone: 01:05 PM

sending anything to the TEC other than stating that the delegation did not come to a consensus is against the rules we as a delegation came to when we first met.

CarrieD Aspinwall to Everyone: 01:06 PM

acknowledged and if you/White Earth can place in writing we will include in our report update to TEC

Cheryl Edwards to Everyone: 01:14 PM

No minutes only agenda for

October 2020

November 2020

Does anyone have these? March 2021 also.

CarrieD Aspinwall to Everyone: 01:16 PM

Sandra Borden drafted our March 2021 minutes, can you share here in the chat and I can also send via email to all

Wayne Dupuis FdL to Everyone: 01:24 PM

request for qualifications

I mean if this is the route we go we should put out a request for qualifications, we would need someone experienced in constitutional law

At one time there was a FDL descendent that has extensive experience in constitutional law that was interested.

Jason Decker to Everyone: 01:24 PM

<https://americanstudies.unc.edu/keith-richotte-jr/>

Wayne Dupuis FdL to Everyone: 01:28 PM

we could put that in the chat as well, and we can save this individually or use this as a repository (the chat)

Elaine Fleming to Everyone: 01:30 PM

Wouldn't we be writing individual constitutions and not one?

Maria to Everyone: 01:33 PM

Mille lacs does have their own laws and statues.

From FDL Cheryl Edwards to Everyone: 01:34 PM

[https://146a1cc6-3e12-47f8-98d4-](https://146a1cc6-3e12-47f8-98d4-013d2ab604f4.filesusr.com/ugd/5aaad0_e231a4e732294b76a7593c35b3c53bef.pdf)

[013d2ab604f4.filesusr.com/ugd/5aaad0\\_e231a4e732294b76a7593c35b3c53bef.pdf](https://146a1cc6-3e12-47f8-98d4-013d2ab604f4.filesusr.com/ugd/5aaad0_e231a4e732294b76a7593c35b3c53bef.pdf)

Maria to Everyone: 01:36 PM

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WORDS MATTER! it is not a government

We don't want to give away any of our sovereignty MCT is not a tribe!

Joy Annette WE to Everyone: 01:37 PM

Mille Lacs is still recognized as being part of MCT and the TEC

Ilyz Jaakola to Everyone: 01:39 PM

A while ago I had suggested this sort of an idea, as well. The MCT is a business/organization, so it can still be that and do business on behalf of each band when we want that to happen. But each tribe takes their own stand as an individual sovereign. MCT would become a "division" maybe

Joy Annette WE to Everyone: 01:39 PM

We are the Anishinabe TRIBE, by buying into separation, you are buying into what the federal gov't has been trying to do in divide and conquer

Ilyz Jaakola to Everyone: 01:46 PM To clarify my statement, sovereign isn't only for large groups or governments... each person has sovereign rights, each family, each clan, each village, (each city, each state)... and nations, as well. Sovereignty is defined, it's not an absolute.

Wayne Dupuis FdL to Everyone: 01:55 PM

I would hope we can put together some type of confederacy among all Anishinabe tribes. Our government should be as local as possible, for example each Band. But also have the connection to all for some things we need to represent the whole.

CarrieD Aspinwall to Everyone: 02:00 PM

I gotta leave for a bit BRB

ok back

I see ya Michaa, your next

Maria to Everyone: 02:01 PM MARIA TEXT THIS WAS FROM JAY

"Sovereignty" is the pathway to true Self- Determination! Sovereignty means one does not rely on the laws of another jurisdiction!!

delegate@fdlconstitution.org to Everyone: 02:01 PM

A centralized bank for native organizations?

Ilyz Jaakola to Everyone: 02:02 PM

Geget!

Maria to Everyone: 02:03 PM

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<http://m-a-s-t.org/directory/gaming/wisonsin/>  
Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes

Wayne Dupuis FdL to Everyone: 02:06 PM  
I must sign off for a while. Be back in a bit.

CarrieD Aspinwall to Everyone: 02:26 PM  
I see you Joy, short comment

Iyz Jaakola to Everyone: 02:30 PM  
Yes, miigwech, Rose

Wayne Dupuis FdL to Everyone: 02:30 PM  
Miigwech Rose, for sure.

Michaa Aubid to Everyone: 02:30 PM  
Miigwech Rose

FDL Cheryl Edwards to Everyone: 02:33 PM  
[https://146a1cc6-3e12-47f8-98d4-013d2ab604f4.filesusr.com/ugd/5aaad0\\_cdfcb3c7114e45069c2423768a257e3b.pdf](https://146a1cc6-3e12-47f8-98d4-013d2ab604f4.filesusr.com/ugd/5aaad0_cdfcb3c7114e45069c2423768a257e3b.pdf)  
Henry Flocken Presentation

Elaine Fleming to Everyone: 02:35 PM  
How do you make an organization a nation/tribe?

CarrieD Aspinwall to Everyone: 02:36 PM  
Elaine, I don't think you can make an organization a tribe, there are requirements (federal) that you meet in order to be a recognized tribe.

Elaine Fleming to Everyone: 02:38 PM  
I was asking because MCT is an organization. Miigwech.

Rose Robinson to Everyone: 02:42 PM  
Cheryl, can you email Henry Flocken presentation or email the link. I don't know how to copy and paste from this chat. Miigwech!

FDL Cheryl Edwards to Everyone: 02:45 PM  
Yes, I can.