

MCT Constitution Convention
Hosted by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Constitution Reform Committee
Northern Lights Casino & Convention Center
Walker, MN
April 19, 2019
10:00 a.m.

Michael Smith, Sr., Spiritual Leader, conducted a prayer and story.

Jason Decker presented the agenda.

CONSENSUS VOTING

LLBO	REQUEST CHANGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VOTE BY BAND 1 VOTE EACH • NO CONSENSUS • EACH DELEGATE WHO DISAGREES WILL HAVE 3 MINUTES TO SPEAK ON ISSUES • VOTE BY BAND • NO CONSENSUS • BREAK INTO CLANS FOR DISCUSSION • VOTE BY BAND • NO CONSENSUS • VOTE BY DELEGATE (1 VOTE EACH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VOTE BY BAND 1 VOTE EACH • NO CONSENSUS • EACH DELEGATE WHO DISAGREES WILL HAVE 3 MINUTES TO SPEAK ON ISSUES • VOTE BY BAND (COULD BE BY MAJORITY) • NO CONSENSUS • BREAK INTO CLANS FOR DISCUSSION • VOTE BY BAND • SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE BY THE BANDS/DELEGATE (1 VOTE EACH) • CONSENSUS BETWEEN THE BANDS IS REQUIRED FOR THE TRIBE

Discussion took place about Consensus Voting:

ML – yes - clarified they are not voting on the constitution at the convention meetings; they are voting on how to work together with this group; Mel Olson – let’s get our networking in place; shout out to urban to use our resources no matter what band we are from; come see him to get information.

FDL – yes

GP – yes

LL – yes – then described the way manner of doing things are 1) hold two meetings each month where Delegates are selected; and the second meeting is to provide information so all people are going to be informed; many people don’t know what the constitution means to them; we need to ask them first; consensus should come from all of us; community education is critical; Chairman Jackson “Council members were advised to stay out of this process so the membership may come forward; Council are still members too; respectful contrary dialog should take place; different bands/reservations must be respected; a lot of people are educated with constitution reform for many years; LL has 10k members; people are concerned for constitution reform; delegates have an important role to play; we all want to see changes; how we proceed with it is going to take time and commitment; to get the message to 40k MCT members is difficult; we want them to come to the meetings; we minimize what we don’t like from the State; we respect differences; we need to meet in the middle; we need a constitution that will be improved; it will be changed over time; ongoing respectful conversations must carry on; community

voice must be represented by the Delegates". Many appreciate inclusive of our people; important to have this conversation; community education sometimes need to knock on doors; we are about referendum votes of the people; when we band together we stand together as MCT our treaties still matter; many wary of voting on constitutional changes; there's a lot of education that needs to happen; meeting minutes must get out to the people;

BF – yes

WE – no – based on we are different on each reservation not band; we vote by districts; we have to have a consensus; how many months are we going to do this, let's go with majority;

AFTER LUNCH

FINALIZE THE VOTE BY CONSENSUS

OTHER PROCEDURAL ITEMS

TIME LIMIT FOR SPEAKERS

WHAT IF A BAND ISN'T PRESENT (already gave that courteous; should be agreed upon)

Break come back at 1:00 p.m. to take a vote on the consensus voting.

BIG PICTURE

Lunch break then more Discussion took place:

FDL – represented by each of their districts at their table; so we can get things done;

GP – what if we don't know our Clan? Caribou Clan; speak Ojibwe; here to honor everybody; very proud to live by the great lake. Jason Burnette – education training; could we participate with Mille Lacs educational procedures with sending their delegates to join them and report back to them. Difficulty reaching band members; want a questionnaire example; Leech Lake will send them a copy of their questionnaire.

LL- Seek an elder or spiritual person; an exercise; okay to join the group you feel comfortable with as it's an exercise. Carrie – Reside in urban area 2500 Leech Lakers have monthly LIC, education is important, there is no budget, as a Delegate does this for her people. Seek out resources, like Zaagibagaang, 37 showed interest in the educational piece, must do the work, voting is valid. We need to figure out who we are; its not going to happen overnight; community engagement is critical. Lets keep coming back to this group; Frank – MCT and LL follow Roberts Rules; foreign to us; we should do the way we used to.

FDL – recalls difference of people – city, Christians, decendants, use a majority, but at consensus at that level; agrees that Roberts' Rules is foreign; FDL understands the assumption that we are ok with the MCT will go along with what we say at this meeting; in a spiritual way we need to keep coming back; we need to articulate the procedures; there's always conflict; have discussed the difficulty in coming to consensus; we have to look at the notes the procedures will be ours Ojibwe way.

ML – education is most important; no way are they separating or making themselves separate; have to speak for their members (Michelle wrapped it up); focus our efforts and continue on; education pieces; finance committee; some have funding; some don't; help each other; moving forward is good too; shared site rather than doing piece by piece; meeting monthly;

White Earth – Miigwech to all other bands to accommodate for them with the loss of their Chairman; White Earth has a lot of members; focus more on educating people before making any decisions; WE is currently conducting a quiz about how their government works; skimming the constitution and what it means to them; they need to focus on education and how to fund their participation; how to keep this process going. WE wants MCT to mail out to all MCT members a questionnaire to be developed.

BF – encourage many ways to do education; before it was Zaagiibigaang; it was empowerment and engagement; website has many materials; links to other constitutions as well; they need to finalize an education plan; already fewer people than at prior convention meetings; we need to keep coming back until finished.

Nonmember from Leech Lake – issue not enrolled; still helps people; we don't do this for money; we do this for the people; all people are concerned about us and we either work together; it's hurting us and our children; constitution with Rick entering into the process; our own spiritual law; natural law; must be our foundation; the power is the people; keep coming back; education/training one hour a week is good too.

MCT (Jane) – Requested a contact representative from each Reservation; no information from any of the bands; responsible person must give her a main contact for your band.

WE – no due to no fair representation of delegates; for those who don't know their clans go to shake tent;

BF – yes - why not simple count off, no shaming with those who don't know their clans

FDL – yes

ML – no – based on the Clan clashes

GP – no – studied how council and boards meet; consensus only works at Grand Portage; cooperate to make community better; belief consensus doesn't work that well, community has changed, casino brought problems, disagreements, misunderstanding; doesn't agree to wait until figure out their Clans; discussing between bands is good, random selection may be a good way for now;

LL – yes - review why Clans are on the deck.

Consensus Vote after changes:

MCT Delegate Consensus Voting with Changes

- VOTE BY RESERVATION 1 VOTE EACH;
 - IF NO CONSENSUS;
 - EACH DELEGATE WHO DISAGREES WILL HAVE UP TO 3 MINUTES TO SPEAK ON ISSUES
 - VOTE BY BAND 1 VOTE EACH (COULD BE BY MAJORITY AT THE BAND LEVEL);
 - IF NO CONSENSUS;
 - BREAK INTO SIMPLE NUMBERING OFF FOR DIVERSE FOR DISCUSSION
 - VOTE BY RESERVATION (SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE BY THE BANDS/DELEGATE (1 VOTE EACH))
- CONSENSUS BETWEEN THE BANDS IS REQUIRED FOR THE TRIBE (all 6 Reservations)

Consensus Voting with changes

WE – yes

ML – yes

FDL – yes

BF – yes
GP – yes
LL – yes

Time limits for speaking – 3 minutes Delegates and others – designate a time keeper (Another three minute extension is allowable)

WE – yes
ML – yes
FDL – yes
BF – yes
GP – yes
LL – yes

BF – keep it same; if a reservation isn't in attendance we cancel for tragedies;

FDL – Go ahead with meeting but no vote

WE – No major issues, continue conversation, but no vote, have to have received the minutes in a timely manner

ML – ditto

GP – No major issues, continue conversation, hold all votes until the next meeting

LL – 1825/1826 treaty discussions; same protocol; go ahead and meeting and at the next meeting ratify with the absent reservation voting at that time

Meet; discuss; no vote; vote next meeting when all are present

WE – yes
ML – yes
FDL – yes
GP – yes
LL – yes
BF - yes

Public Comment:

GP – Still need a clarification could we have a go to person to go to contact the next meeting facilitator
Nijjii Radio thanks – is there a good live broadcast, so hooked into each sound system, important to speak into the sound system

Delegates should be able to tell you what happened at each meeting; Delegates need to keep sharing;
Live is the best

FDL – FB page; FDL; MCT; LL pages information is shared

FDL – Education is a form of indoctrination; education is to get to the fundamental why we are here; if we have power and give it to the MCT institution then the people have to demand it back; letter from Mille Lacs say they don't have the power to vote on the constitution; what is the MCT looking for? Or where are we going with this? Revolutionary thought or action? Or tweek the current? What are we being educated on?

LL – Difference between amending and/how; what we are doing to get the history out;

BF – Education about what could be and what are the possibilities, what have other tribes done; they have done some things that are remarkable; sparks intellect

GP – Formal education; FB; native nations volume; revolutionary; this process is an education

Perpetual Agenda Education item and/or decision up to the facilitating tribe; opening with short Informational videos available

WE – yes

ML – yes

FDL – yes

GP – yes

LL- yes

BF – yes

Secure how minutes are distributed – one week the host must supply the meeting minutes to Jane MCT; then Jane sends it out

Scheduling our next meetings at least three months out – May is GP, June is Twin Cities, July is WE

How do we get it on the agenda - Get the input at least a week ahead to the facilitating band

ML – yes

FDL – yes

GP – yes

LL – yes

BF – yes

WE – yes

Finances - \$60k set aside to handle food and meeting rooms; we will put together a grant to assist travel and lodging for Delegates

Ask TEC for if they will mail out Convention Delegates' survey to the 40k

BF – yes


ML – yes

GP – yes next meeting is Wednesday at GP

BF – yes

LL – yes (what is the survey context, important for each of our delegations)

Meeting adjourned 4:00 p.m.


4-26-19

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List of names needed for Grand Portage meeting for labels

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NAME	Reservation	Email
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Claircy Gonzales	Leech Lake	
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Faith Ahlgræn	White Earth	
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Dotty Straub	White Earth	on file
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Tami Jackson	LL	tamijackson2003@hotmail.com
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SIGN IN SHEET

Dorothy Holmes *on file* *Beisford*
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