

# MCT Constitution Delegate Meeting Notes

## 11/8/18

### OPEN MEETING NOTES

Delegates will run each meeting by themselves. Gary's just hear to provide some information. He was advised just to kick it off. All meetings are open to the public. Recommended that wherever the meeting is held that reservation will have a chair to host each meeting.

Today we want to set an agenda, timeframe, so we can request money from BIA to ask for funds.

Mike – At the TEC meeting, we hoped to have something by December.  
Gary – Wanted to know how many meetings will be held.

Moderators – Leech Lake – First thing today we will do introductions.

Terra Kimal – From Fond Du Lac

Eugene Summers – White Earth – District 2 – Chairman of White Earth delegates

Roll Call -Leech Lake, White Earth Fond Du Lac , Grand Portage, Mille Lacs, Bois Forte

White Earth – Notified districts of candidacy , community members could come out to announce their candidacy, community chose delegates. Each delegate chose their own alternate.

Bois Forte - Corey Strong – had public meetings at each other seeking delegate input, goal was to have reps from each area, we have about 13 people interested and willing to put in time, each delegate put in a letter of why they wanted to attend.

Elwood Sina? - Zaagibagaan member – working on constitution – put together a toolbox of resources for what other people have done for how we should proceed. A good resource as a starting point. Once the delegates are selected we should have chairs selected to run meetings along with alternates. Recommends no meeting in December because delegates should gather information about constitution reform from community after that is complete meet in January to set timeline.

?? - Recommendation to have monthly meetings at different tribal centers.

Jason Burnet – Grand Portage – had a series of pre-constitutional meetings, had facilitators and workshops, they accumulated information on what they did well and didn't to well in their community. Could use that as a starting point to reform constitution. They have copies of those meetings.

Mike Swan - District 3 Rep – was hoping to get out of meeting today – feeling of where each reservation wanted to go. Will host different meetings in each community. Issues with separation of power, enrollment, secretary interior removal from constitution.

Tall guy?? – Develop a format for running each meeting. Wants to set up structure.

John Morin – Grand Portage – We need to understand history of how we got here. Back in 1986 their used to be a paper for MTC called ourselves, secretarial election, will there be public meetings about that, heard there will be no meetings. Inquired about first TEC meeting on why there was no meetings. Started asking questions, found out there was no public meetings. Tribal leaders did not explain why they were doing this and they were met with resistance.

Arcey Macintire??? - Set up future meetings for funding from BIA. We have to look at workload. Funding will depend on how many years, budget for child care for members to participate , it is not a mother issue but a human issue. Wants child care funding available. Categories to work on : Pre-Amble .Separation of powers needs to be looked at .Grand portage wants to be four branches of government, membership, civil rights, sovereignty, term limits. Tribal council only has sovereignty over their own people we only have quasi sovereignty. Children's rights could be a topic, secretary of interior doesn't provide for any due process. When you write to them about complaints they will send complaints to Minnesota agency, sends it to staff person on reservation who thee think is appropriate, then the person doesn't know what to do then sends it to tribal council then the complainant never gets a job on the reservation anymore.

Tall guy – Take a break and chose speakers for people, get some visual aids up, make groups, add structure, set some dates.

Mike Davis - Mille Lacs – Years ago his mother chief exec. , told solicitor general to write their own constitution. Suggests we all write our own constitution and bring them back to our meetings and see what changes are. Maybe we don't want MCT.

Wally Storback – Leech Lake – make it clear that the four people here are here from Leech Lake and are not delegates, note takes, observers, will bring back to Leech Lake. Leech Lake does not have official delegates. We should have overall constitution (federal) and local constitution (local)

## **BOIS FORTE GROUP NOTES**

Bois Forte – Present – Maddie , Corey, Miranda, Sharon, Millie , Tracey, Darren

First questions is do we want to be part of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. First we need to find out the pros and cons of being in the MCT.

Sharon – Make change to tribal government maybe we can have more members such as a finance committee instead of just one secretary treasurer.

See how many signatures we need to remove secretary of interior.

We need to educate people about constitution maybe with ZaagiBagaang, issue of no environmental protections in the constitution.

Corey – talk with red lake about their constitution reform process. Hold meetings at Duluth, Cities, Vermilion and Nett Lake about reform.

Milli – Knows people interested in reform if we bring info to themselves

Madi – We need to have meetings before next meeting.

Milli – utilize survey monkey

### **OPEN MEETING NOTES**

Tall guy – we need to finalize meeting frequency

Patty Straw – White Earth – Suggestion, delegates are important, ask all reservations to have everyone's input. Let's invite everyone to our meetings and set date for having delegates.

Louie Johansen – White Earth – we have about a year to get something together before we . Right now we have TEC members behind us. Next meeting is a year in a half, we could have changeover and new members could say this reform is out the door. We need to have something on the table before the next table. Secure ideas in case new members do not agree with the reform.

Comment about frequency - using streaming and technology for meetings and information sharing.

Ricky Defoe – We cannot pledge our allegiance to a flag or constitution that has failed our people for present and in the future. If we continue the road of bureaucracy it is a form of oppression. Why would we want to replicate a system that doesn't work for our people. We have our own values and instruments as a culture. We need to go back to our past and see what happened. We need to start a new foundation with indigenous thoughts and spirituality.

Janice Fairbanks – Feb April June August December - We need time to include community and plan things right.

White Earth – We were pushing delegation to get everyone together, main purpose to get organized , the more power we got. So TEC members know we are organized and have less chance of disbanding us.

Madi – February meeting and every other month, we need to agree on a focus. Do we revise, rewrite. Other issue if we are rewriting a constitution how much power does the MTC have vs each tribes constitution or bylaws.

Marci Macintire – doesn't want to doddle around, impatient elder, working in 2000 for Grand Portage , wishes crowd would decide on a format so we can apply for funds. Some elders are running out of money.

Sharon Day – has difficulty accepting the most important issue is setting the date.

Facilitator – we need to decide on a frequency to propose a budget

Facilitators - Mille Lacs volunteers - will host @ Hinkley on 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> week in January. Chosen date will have a 3 day window. – Reform length will be 4 years. The purpose of the reform length and dates are to set a budget to request money from BIA but we can change our minds whenever we want.

Each tribe needs to have 10 delegates by the end of the year. 3<sup>rd</sup> week of each month.

Facilitator Lady – re-write , revision , and preamble recommended for next meeting?

Special Message from Gary – BIA will cover conference room and light lunch, will work on travel and maybe a 100 room voucher for delegates.

White hair brown shirt guy - Create a document who defines who we are, where we want to go, and how we do the job. It will lay ground work for preamble. Second thing it would do is give us a road map or direction as we stay in as we go on with our work. It will give us direction.

Clint Fairbanks – Leech Lake – delegation was to educate and inform, membership would vote on overall direction of what we should do.

Mike – Poll communities and get feelings from them on what we need to bring back to convention. It would be hard to look at rewriting or looking at constitution without feeling from communities.

Mike – Has a sheet of paper of questions to ask?

Young guy with hat and swag – should we chose to rewrite and reform – should we ask our community which one they should do.

Mille Lacs guy – has many districts with different thinking, don't all tribes have their own agenda and thoughts on constitution.

Sharon Day – we need to decide on , what is the responsibility of a delegate, our job is to come together educate community and put things together that will frame a new constitutions.

Unknown - One of the challenges is the language we use day in and day out such as english and constitution cringe when we use them. Constitution and delegate should be replaced with Ojibwe words to decolonize us.

Anooshz – delegate , Anoonog ? Also the number of delegates is oppressive, when we go to our communities and additional people come they might be excluded. So we are starting out with a bad spirit with the people. We should bring whoever we want.

Sandy Skinaway – If we separated from the MCT does that mean we would be considered an unrecognized tribe. As of right now we are recognized because of the MCT.

MCT is founded on Indian reorganization act. Recognized through IRA as a corporation. We might have to consider reorganizing back to the treaties. Such as Mille Lacs who was jumbled together by the government for it to be easier to be manager. If we separate will separate into many different local governments for each tribe or just one main tribe.

January 18<sup>th</sup> at the community center of Mille Lacs is the next meeting.