

In person attendance-

Patty Straub, WE, Sybil Gund WE, Emily Annette WE, Michelle Keezer WE, Frank Reese LL, April Greene LL, Marcus Woods LL, Debra Storbakken LL, Sharon Shuck FDL, Louis Johanssen WE, Bernadine Roberts MLB, Clair Gonzales LL Delores Fineday LL, Cheryl Edwards FDL, Mykee Brown WE, Fawn Roy WE, Sally Fineday LL, Arron Fineday-Voight LL, Tara Fineday-Voight LL, Missay Plemel WE, Marilyn Wind LL, Areigha Fineday LL, Shontel Isham LL, Wayne Dupuis FDL, Christina Bowstring LL, Michele Hakala-Beeksma GP

On Zoom-

Sandra Borden GP, Marci McIntire GP, Danielle Smith MLB, Londo

Delegates: Review the 27-page Federal Recognition draft created by Carol for discussion at the next meeting

Delegates: Schedule a full-day meeting specifically to review and complete the election ordinance details

Sally F.

TEC Subcommittee: Meet to develop and prepare materials for the upcoming quarterly meeting regarding the election ordinance progress

Drafting Committee: Finalize and send the revised letter to the TEC Subcommittee for review

TEC Subcommittee: Review the letter from Drafting Committee and provide feedback before the next convention meeting

Finance Committee: Review recommended language for the Bush Grant application and prepare final draft for convention approval

Education Subcommittee: Consider revising curriculum to include more in-depth information about current MCT structure

TEC Subcommittee: Schedule and hold meeting to review letter before the April 2025 Convention for approval to report at the April 28-29 TEC meeting at White Earth

Cheryl Edwards: Create and distribute a consolidated PDF of all MCT Constitution flyers to committee members

Effective Team Players and Collaboration

Michele leads a team meeting, discussing the characteristics of effective team players and teams. She emphasizes understanding individual roles, welcoming collaboration, accountability, flexibility, positive attitudes, and commitment. Michele shares personal anecdotes about active listening and encourages open-mindedness and compromise. She acknowledges the group's long-term efforts and recent challenges, suggesting they may need to reaffirm their direction. Michele plans to review handouts from Carol Janick and discuss the team's goals and concerns in the next part of the meeting.

## Governance Priorities Survey Results

Michele presents the results of a survey on governance priorities. The group's responses are varied, with averages mostly falling in the middle range. There is a notable discrepancy in the priorities for creating new governing documents versus modifying the current constitution, both averaging around 7. Michele expresses concern that the last four options, which relate to the direction of governance reform, are all rated as low priorities by the group. She emphasizes the need for the team to align on common goals and priorities to make progress.

## Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution Challenges

The group discusses the challenges and progress in developing new constitutions for individual bands within the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT). Leech Lake representatives report they are nearly finished drafting their own constitution, which will replace their current 5-person business committee structure with a more representative government. There is debate about whether individual bands can adopt their own constitutions separately from MCT, with some arguing this conflicts with federal regulations while others believe bands have the sovereign right to govern themselves. The group also discusses the role of the proposed alliance document in potentially replacing or supplementing the current MCT constitution. Overall, there are differing views on how to balance individual band autonomy with collective governance through MCT.

## Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Landholdings History

The group discussed the history and organization of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) and its landholdings. They explained that the MCT acquired land that was left over after allotments were given to individual band members, and later claimed additional land outside the reservation boundaries. The MCT map from the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe website was viewed. The group also mentioned the formation of the MCT in 1938 and the ongoing disputes over land ownership. The conversation ended with a discussion about the MCT's landholdings along the Saint Corey River and the Snake River.

## Restructuring Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Organization

The meeting focused on the restructuring/reengineering of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) and its staff organization. The participants discussed the need for a more productive and collaborative structure, with a focus on minimizing the MCT's administrative functions. They also considered the implications of dissolving the MCT staff organization and the potential impact on the land and other services. The idea of creating a Grand Council with elected representatives from each band was proposed as a potential

solution. The Grand Council elected members would potentially have to meet certain qualifications before being considered for election. The participants also discussed the need for a risk management plan and the importance of communication and explaining the implications of decisions. The conversation ended with a review of different models for restructuring the MCT and its staff organization.

#### Carol Janick's Document Discussion

Michele introduces the next section of the meeting, which will focus on documents sent by Carol Janick. She encourages everyone to read through the extensive research material, even if done gradually. Michele has extracted relevant points from these documents to discuss, particularly regarding recognition and related topics. The discussion will continue after lunch.

#### Tribal Sovereignty and Federal Recognition

Michele provides an overview of tribal sovereignty, federal recognition, and related concepts. She explains that tribal sovereignty originated from treaty-making with the U.S. government, which recognized tribes as existing governments. Federal recognition formalizes the government-to-government relationship between the U.S. and tribes. The Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) codified how the federal government would acknowledge tribes. Michele emphasizes that tribes retain rights, such as hunting and fishing, rather than being granted them. She notes that federal recognition is difficult to lose, requiring an act of Congress to terminate. The 1994 List Act reaffirmed the U.S. government's responsibility to recognize tribes and maintain government-to-government relationships. Michele clarifies that state recognition is different from federal recognition, with the latter providing access to federal funding and programs.

#### Tribal Election Ordinance Drafting Committee

Michele discussed the removal requirement for a secretarial election and the need for a new tribal election ordinance. The group mentioned that the TEC has authorized an ad hoc committee to write the new election ordinance. However, the committee has been on hold due to the resignation of Beth and the need to focus on education. The group also mentioned that the TEC has proposed to take the Secretary of Interior out of the amendment section, which would require a new election ordinance. The group suggested that the delegates should be on the drafting committee for the new election ordinance. The conversation ended with a discussion about the interpretation of the 30% voter threshold and the need for the TEC to use their authority and power to take the referendum through the proper constitutional process.

## Drafting Letter and Grant Application

The group discusses the status of a letter they are drafting, which needs to go through several steps before approval at the next convention meeting. They review the process: The delegations will be provided with a Word document of the letter and will insert their suggested revisions to the drafting committee, the drafting committee will finalize it, then send it to the TEC subcommittee for review, before presenting it to the full delegation for approval. The next convention meeting is scheduled for April 18th at Leech Lake(needs to be confirmed may be the 17<sup>th</sup>). The group also discusses a grant application they are working on, with the Finance Committee responsible for finalizing the draft before bringing it back for full approval. They note that the Education Committee needs one more video for their curriculum and consider adding a section on the current MCT structure.