

# MCT CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM DRAFTING COMMITTEE

Date: 6/27/23 Time: 6 PM

Facilitator: Carol J.

Present: Marcie M., Julie H-C., Rita E., Wally S., Raymond B.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Constitution Alliance

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Tax Exempt Status-Write into our Alliance that we maintain our Tax Exempt status. "The Power to Tax is the Power to Destroy." This right is because of who we are. Come up with wording in the alliance document to take back, but the long to us taxation is unconstitutional. Put language in the alliance document, either in the rights of citizens or a separate article regarding the no-taxing of our citizens.

2. Safeguards and Enforcement

- If there is a successful election to amend the current Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the MCT and the Grand Council replaces the Secretary of Interior, this will be the Supreme Tribal Law.
- Article X Vacancies and Removal Section 2 (e) states a cause for removal of Office is a "REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH ANY PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE TRIBE." Article X also outlines the process of how to remove a member.
- Specific roles and responsibilities the Grand Council will do, including a plan that provides education on different concepts. (see items in the following work chart.)
- The Bands must set up a system to communicate with the community, which will give the Grand Council Representatives direction.
- The Grand Council will be independent of all the other governing bodies, held to a strict standard of ethics and behavioral norms that include active listening and focus on the decision-making process by weighing the pros and cons of the competing values and interests while following their roles and responsibilities and adhering to the articles in the Constitution.
- Get a commitment from the TEC and RBC that they will cooperate with the oversight function of the Grand Council.

3. How do the RBC and the TEC get out of contracts? It takes 30 days to restore the contracts to the people. Currently, THC receives kickbacks from the state which they made contracts with and who taxes everyone on the reservation, Indians and non-Indians, RBC gets four cents on the dollar, and they place it in their personal account general account and do what they want with it there's no accountability.

4. Research the issue of any laws about certain people (race) that are illegal and unconstitutional.
5. We need strong language in the alliance document stating that removing someone from office "Shall" occurs quicker. Develop a strategy that is easier than a petition. Then shall be determined by the grand council.
5. Need conversations about off-reservation voting.
6. Include a larger number of representatives on the grand council. Amend the bylaws to state this number will be determined later.
7. In the future, the grand council shall be weaved into the court system, each to collaborate.
8. There shall be no retaliation against the delegates and tribal citizens. The grand council Shall review and evaluate programs and occasionally do a needs assessment of the bands' citizens. We'll have a role in the citizen councils because they will be assessing the needs of their constituents.
9. There is a need for a mechanism for enforcement of the rules and regulations in the Alliance document. Suggestions include a Warrior (Ogichidaa) Society, a Sergeant at Arms, a Diplomat, an Ombudsman, or a Whipman.
10. Should start meetings out traditionally, with a drum. Also, identify the social norms to be used in the meetings.
11. Discussed the format for the education to the TEC be a short introduction by Carol and a PowerPoint presentation on the history, followed by the video by Wally explaining what an alliance is, followed by Marcy, who will discuss the first eleven articles of the alliance document and the tradition and culture aspects last Carol will explain the additional articles of the alliance document.

**Actions:**

Raymond will send papers on taxation to Carol

**Next meeting:** 7/11/2023 at 6 PM