

MCT CONSTITUTION CONVENTION
HOSTED BY THE LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

APRIL 21, 2022

CEDAR LAKES CASINO, CASS LAKE, MN

Attending (in person)

Danielle Smith, ashleeains0904@gmail.com
Perry Skinaway Jr., oshkinaway78@gmail.com
Michele Palomaki, bmpalomaki@soicable.com
Tracey Dagen, traceydagen@gmail.com
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John Herrera, John.Herrera@llojibwe.net
Cheryl Edwards, cedwards1@gmail.com
Sally Fineday, sally.fineday@llojibwe.net
Louis Johannson, louiejohannsen@msn.com
Michael Smith, Jr., happyeggs200@yahoo.com
Natalie Wickner, LL
"Dude" Wakanabo, LL
20 people on zoom
Carol Janick, FDL
John Roterman, FDL
Carrie Day Aspinwall, LL
Sandra Borden, GP
Marcie Mcintire, GP
Raymond Bellecourt, WE
Patty Straub, WE
Michelle Beeksma, GP
Patricia Smith
Joy Annette, WE

Introduction by Sally Fineday, Facilitator

Invocation by Michael Smith, Jr.

Zoom hosted by Michael Smith, Jr.

Roll call was conducted by Sally Fineday; all six nations present.

Question on subcommittees was reviewed; discussed and voted:

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

Each abstain were provided opportunity to respond why; ML – need to bring to their full Delegation; WE – rescinded yes and moved to abstain with need to bring to their full Delegation; and GP – technical difficulties prevented from bringing to their full Delegation.

Attempted another vote; decision to table until the next convention.

Origin of the motion was discussed.

Michaa Aubid stated wants to strike the last sentence; each Delegation should decide for their own Delegation.

Marcie Mcintire stated that their delegation had technical issues. They will discuss and vote at the next convention.

The motion was tabled until the next convention in May.

Project Plan by Bernadine (Birdie) Roberts

Discussion took place.

Frank Reese, LL, says the plan document is confusing. Jason Decker had presented a procedure to follow.

Birdie Roberts, ML, explained she did not change the procedure but was adding to it a step process that will lead to an objective statement. Birdie Roberts reviewed the document line by line.

Jason Burnette, GP, stated the GP Delegation agreed to each Band developing their own constitution. There appears to be no common issues, we've started talking about government structure and its unclear with the project plan.

Birdie Roberts, ML, stated there is no formal agreement on how we move forward. We must decide on each item. We need to decide if we are all on the same page by agreeing with the project plan. The possible solutions are listed and then encourage others to speak their minds.

Jason Burnette, GP, their delegation will complete the work plan by the next convention.

Michaa Aubid, SL, Process is good but write the constitution, the drafting committee has drafted documents, lets let the drafting committee do their presentation.

Referendum Ballot by Cheryl Edwards

Cheryl Edwards, FDL, presented the work thus far with the TEC Committee on the Referendum vote. Volunteers from each nation are needed to answer questions about the non-binding referendum vote. List of volunteers and tele. numbers will be listed on the educational material going out with the ballot:

Michaa Aubid, 218-260-7690

Millie Holmes, 218-757-3493

Cheryl Edwards, 218-499-5259
Carol Janick, 414-690-1891
John Roterman, 218-348-2527
Frank Reese, 218-760-1449
Jason Burnette, 218-475-2470
Carrie Day Aspinwall, 612-597-0267
Danielle Smith, 612-207-0067
Louis Johannsen, 218-929-0725
Sally Fineday, 218-368-1766
Tracey Strong Dagen, 218-780-1478
Michael Smith, Jr., 218-407-1668

A physical sample of the ballot will be made available at the TEC meeting on the 29th. A review of the non-binding referendum and the secretarial election took place.

Wally Storbakken, LL, stated he doesn't like question no. 2 and that it should have been to get rid of the Secretary of State.

Finance Committee Report – presented by Cheryl Edwards, Sally Fineday, and Jason Burnette

The Bush Foundation grant is nearly ready for a review by the full delegation. It will be roughly 1.2 million dollars over 3 three years and the work is based upon the existing Project Plan.

Education Committee Report – presented by Birdie Roberts

Working on re-establishing the Education Committee. New members are needed. Lacking BF and LL. Currently are Birdie Roberts, ML, Michelle Beeksma, GP; John Roterman, FDL, and Celeste, WE.

Survey Committee Report – presented by Sandra Borden, FDL

Draft survey is ready and will go to the Education Committee to develop a document to introduce the survey.

Drafting Committee Report – presented by Carol Janick, FDL and John Roterman, FDL

Three documents have been reviewed:

1. White Earth draft constitution – offers grand tribal council and middle is the RBC
2. Alliance document – offers rights of nature and a description of the alliance; need to add responsibilities and high court
3. Falmouth model – presented by Carol Janick – offers a good format and common ground

Raymond Bellecourt, WE, remarked the WE model needs a Preamble and Article I.

John Roterman, FDL, reviewed the Alliance document and Carol Janick reviewed the Falmouth model.

Raymond Bellecourt, WE, reminded that to take out the SOI there must be good oversight before it is done. Also, the WE model may be used as a common ground model for other tribes.

Michael Smith, Jr., LL, stated set stipulations with criteria, must have a degree in the field, have a clean record, no felonies.

John Roterman, FDL, stated not just lawyers.

Carol Janick, FDL, reviewed the Falmouth model.

Sally Fineday, LL, recommends, "We the people," add in an Alliance of Nations, and If take out SOI, then 30% of eligible voters to change the constitution.

Oneida nation is willing to present their use of the Falmouth model.

Jason Burnette, GP, questioned do we have to do the constitution first and the other document before we present to the people.

1. Enrollment
2. Why omit SOI? And if necessary anything going forward based on band or band elections
3. Develop or clarify

Carol Janick, FDL, asks for a list of suggested items to be added to the preamble.

John Roterman, FDL, the alliance document leaves a lot of work to be done at the local levels. Need to work on local constitution.

Joy Annette, WE, stated refer back to need to keep the federal law in the document. It is only through those treaties "consistent with treaties".

Marcie Mcintire, GP, stated get rid of the federal law, otherwise go back to the quasi sovereign status. Federal law and SOI, will have to toss off chains of oppression. The current is like the bylaws to a glee club. MCT is an organization. We can reform a government is we want. Satisfy in legal ways. We need to protect ourselves, we need rights of animals, sweet grass, etc.

John Roterman, FDL, stated need to be consistent with federal laws, consistent with maintaining our treaty obligations of the federal government.

Add in tradition and culture to the Falmouth model.

Discussion of federal recognition and its meaning.

Jason Burnette, GP, suggests rights of band members and responsibilities like learning our culture, language, visit the homeland. Promote what people do for the tribe and cultural competency.

Joy Annette, WE, Falmouth is a colonial piece of paper, absent is our culture, clans, clan mothers, elders, children, ceremonies, and clan system.

Raymond Bellecourt, WE, proposed the WE model that is very cultural. Sovereignty is native people are the only sovereign here.

Carol Janick, FDL, any documents or information may be forwarded to the drafting committee at delegate@fdlconstitution.org.

Next meeting is May 20th, hosted by Mille Lacs.

Notes by Sally Fineday, LL Delegation