

AGENDA/MINUTES
FDL CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM DELEGATE COMMITTEE

Date:1-5-22

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Cheryl Edwards

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne D., Debra T.

GUESTS PRESENT: Wendy S., Carol J., Destiny B., Janis F., Michael M., Lorri A., Juanita R., Victoria M., Theresa M., Carol J., Phyllis S., Randy A., Sky N., Jessica, Melissa, Wally S., Greg P.,

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. EDUCATION - Powerpoint on Rights of Nature

B. FINANCIAL - Writing grant request for additional marketing funds.

C. SURVEY - No meetings but need to finalize and mail survey.

D. FACILITATION - Update;

E. TEC Subcommittee - No additional meetings held since December 14, 2021

OLD BUSINESS

1. What is the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe?

Developed in 1934 IRA.

1962 - Revised enrollment criteria

FDL recognized in Treaty of 1854.

We have resources to govern ourselves.

Money, human services, finance, education, administration responsibilities of MCT

Historical research - Sandy Lake; were Mille Lacs people moved from St. Croix? Then how can they be Mississippi Band?

1785, 1825,

2. Referendum on Enrollment (discuss wording)
3. Council Updates - Meeting dates/times - Tabled for next meeting
4. Discussion on Letter to Educators -
How does FDL want to proceed?

We need to develop education on the parts that the letter describes.
Request volunteers - Committee for this?

5. In-person committee meetings need to be small - 5 or less (COVID-19)

6. Education Activity - Giveaway Game recap

NEW BUSINESS

1.

2.

NEXT MEETING DATE: 1-12-22

FACILITATOR:

What is the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe?

An **Entity** that met the criteria to be a Federally Recognized Tribe under the name “**Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.**”

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (Six component reservations: Bois Forte Band (Nett Lake); Fond du Lac Band; Grand Portage Band; Leech Lake Band; Mille Lacs Band; White Earth Band)

From:

REVISED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA TRIBE, MINNESOTA

We, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, consisting of the Chippewa Indians of the White Earth, Leech Lake, Fond du Lac, Bois Forte (Nett Lake), and Grand Portage Reservations and the Nonremoval Mille Lac Band of Chippewa Indians, in order to form a representative Chippewa tribal organization, maintain and establish justice for our Tribe, and to conserve and develop our tribal resources and common property; to promote the general welfare of ourselves and descendants, do establish and adopt this constitution for the Chippewa Indians of Minnesota in accordance with such privilege granted the Indians by the United States under existing law.

Section 1. The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe is hereby organized under Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), as amended. Sec. 2. The name of this tribal organization shall be the "Minnesota Chippewa Tribe." Sec. 3. The purpose and function of this organization shall be to conserve and develop tribal resources and to promote the conservation and development of individual Indian trust property; to promote the general welfare of the members of the Tribe; to preserve and maintain justice for its members and otherwise exercise all powers granted and provided the Indians, and take advantage of the privileges afforded by the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984) and acts amendatory thereof or supplemental thereto, and all the purposes expressed in the preamble hereof. Sec. 4. The Tribe shall cooperate with the United States in its program of economic and social development of the Tribe or in any matters tending to promote the welfare of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe of Indians.

From Wikipedia:

The Fond du Lac Indian Reservation is an Indian reservation in northern Minnesota near Cloquet in Carlton and Saint Louis counties. Off-reservation holdings are located across the state in Douglas County, in the northwest corner of Wisconsin. The total land area of these tribal lands is 153.8375 square miles. It is the land-base for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Before the establishment of this reservation, the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa were located at the head of Lake Superior, closer to the mouth of the Saint Louis River, where Duluth has developed.

From MN Indian Affairs Council: Nah-gah-chi-wa-nong / Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

The Anishinaabeg (an Ojibwe/Chippewa word meaning "The People") of the Fond du Lac Reservation are primarily members of the Lake Superior Band of Minnesota Chippewa. The Chippewa Nation is the second largest ethnic group of Indians in the United States.

Archaeologists maintain that ancestors of the present day Chippewa

have resided in the Great Lakes region since at least 800 A.D. They are members of the Algonquin linguistic family, which also includes the Ottawa, Potawatomi, Fox, Cree, Menominee, and many other smaller tribes.

From LaPointe Treaty of 1854

4th. For the Fond Du Lac bands, a tract of land bounded as follows: Beginning at an island in the St. Louis River, above Knife Portage, called by the Indians Paw-paw-sco-me-me-tig, running thence west to the boundary-line heretofore described, thence north along said boundary-line to the mouth of Savannah River, thence down the St. Louis River to the place of beginning. And if said tract shall contain less than one hundred thousand acres, a strip of land shall be added on the south side thereof, large enough to equal such deficiency.

ARTICLE 8. It is agreed, between the Chippewas of Lake Superior and the Chippewas of the Mississippi, that the former shall be entitled to two-thirds, and the latter to one-third, of all benefits to be derived from former treaties existing prior to the year 1847.

Referendum Wording

Delegate Assignment: Resolution - Delegates to take the Resolution back to their own communities for input and then to bring back to

the group information gathered from communities to the Delegation for possible discussion in October 2021. Ultimately, the Delegation will have one question that will go back to TEC to be added to the Resolution. The question will go on the ballot in 2022.

Addition from last TEC meeting on enrollment

We need agreement prior to printing ballot. Due date for printing is prior to February 24, 2022. That is the date of Notice of Primary and Posting for primary.

Therefore be it resolved, that MCT TEC does hereby authorize a referendum to be conducted on the following question:

Should Article II of the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe be amended through a Secretarial Election to remove the current membership requirements, including the one quarter blood degree requirement, and replace such membership requirements with authorization to the individual Bands to establish Band specific membership requirements through Resolution or Ordinance.

Delegate Recommendations:

~~Question 1 Should the Secretarial Election requirement be removed from the current MCT Constitution?~~

Question 2 Should the blood quantum requirement be removed from our current MCT Constitution membership requirements?

Question 3 Should the six-member bands be authorized to make their own membership requirements provided they follow the MCT Constitution?