

MCT CONSTITUTION REFORM MEETING ON JULY 16,2021

Hosted by Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Northern Lights Casino Hotel – Walker, Minnesota

9:00 AM Welcome by Chairman Faron Jackson Jr.

Invocation - Mike Smith Sr.

Roll call: Leech Lake, White Earth, Fond du Lac, Bois Forte, Mille Lacs, Grand Portage, and Sandy Lake were on site. Zoom attendees.

Blood Quantum questions were brought forth from each band – (Sally reminded all to give written statements to note taker.)

FDL – Should we transfer enrollment criteria activity from MCT level to Band level?

Mille Lacs- Do you support or not support a change for each of the six band to adopt their own enrollment criteria?

Leech Lake- Should we eliminate blood quantum?

Grand Portage did not submit statement

White Earth did not submit statement

Bois Forte did not submit statement

Sandy Lake – Should the Secretary of Interior be removed from our constitution?

Micha comment, Sandy Lake, timeline of delegates and TEC joint action, 2 questions, vote on secretarial election first? Should Sec’y of Interior be removed from our constitution?

Stan Day, Bois Forte, Comment, “take back our land”

Doug Lee, WE, comment, food for thought, 30% enrollment/ vote to eliminate Sec’y of Interior

Micha reminded all that a letter and resolution supported a Sandy Lake delegation (letter and resolution dated Jan 2020 and Feb 2020)

Urban folks band members - Carrie Day

Wally Storbakken, “We are All Anishinaabe,” either Mississippi or Pillager. Sandy Lake included.

11:00am Joy Annette – group activity with three (3) questions, 1) Who determines citizenship?

2) How far back do we go? Lineage?

3) Who should make decisions on enrollment? Current process is each RBC/ band does their own which has been problematic and even divisive.

Question #1

LL - The people should determine, follow treaties of 1837, 1847, 1854, 1855, 1864,1867. No RBC, business not governance.

GP- lineage

BF - parents/grandparents determine who is member or citizen

MLB - Community, parents, grandparents, treaties, RBC, back to citizens

Sandy Lake, Elder/Community approval 1889 treaty

FDL - Elders decide - they know who is related to who

WE - Grandparents, parents, community determine.

Ms. Annette comments- most important resources are:

1. Children
2. Elders; as keepers of culture and knowledge
3. Sovereignty
4. Land base, water
5. Medicines, i.e., sage
6. Housing
7. Education
8. Hunting and fishing
9. Trees, maples
10. Health, IHS services, who gets to use the service.
11. Support and protect our urban citizens/residents

1:00 PM Education - **Each Band summarized a chapter or section in Henry Flocken's dissertation on Traditional Leadership**

Bois Forte- Chapter One- Ethnographic Study, Interviews. Background on current government system, that corruption in current leadership due to colonization, current structure is not serving the people. To decolonize, and improve Ojibwe leadership, we must know our history.

FDL- Chapter two- Leadership

Recommend that everyone read the dissertation as it covers the clan systems and values, The great spiritual migration, vision quests and many other important Ojibwe ceremonies. This section also lays out the structure of a traditional governing system, and the roles of different types of leaders within a band or tribe.

Grand Portage- Chapter two B-

Traditional Ojibwe civil chief leadership, Evolution of leadership changes,

DEFINITION OF COLONIZATION,

Discussed differences between Ojibwe model of leadership - European model of leadership

US Federal Government through various policies changed how our leaders communicated and lead our people, i.e., using Indian Agents that basically spoke for tribes, and manipulated and controlled resources. BIA, had complete control over the lives of the Anishinaabe, limiting spiritual, cultural ways. The Indian Organization Act changed this; however, our traditional governments had already disintegrated. Tribes moved to a constitutional government with a popular vote. US defined our constitution and conditions for approval. The 70's and Tribal Self- governance Initiatives gave tribes more fiscal and decision-making control over federal dollars.

Leech Lake - Chapter three

Purpose of study was to know about traditional Ojibwe civil chief leadership.

Methodology of gathering information – Open ended questions with single interviews. Discussed importance of protocol when approaching elders.

The 7 questions -

- 1-What is traditional Ojibwe civil chief leadership?"
2. What does a traditional Ojibwe civil chief do?
3. What must a chief know?
4. What must civil chiefs have in their heart?
5. How does a civil chief behave?
6. How is the community supposed to behave towards the chief?
7. Do you have anything else you want to add?

Mille Lacs - Chapter 4.

Section 4 addressed 4 major topics

1. Geographical background of survey sample and introduces the respondents in sample
2. Identifies the research questions and conducts a review of those questions
3. Explains the curriculum path of the report
4. Reports finding and unexpected findings and summarizes these findings

Mille Lacs also summarized data into narrative form.

White Earth – Chapter 5.

Traditional Leadership

Discussed Anishinaabe Constitution and how it helped better understand leadership. Anishinaabe Constitution is not a written constitution, it's a worldview understanding of all creation and how everything is connected. It's a spiritual view, includes language and tobacco offerings. Clan systems responsible for well-being of community. Seven values as guiding principles.

Recommendations- need to change entire system of government, all members should have a voice, a bottoms-up system of government, decentralization of power. Leadership training on traditional government.

Other audience comments:

Dale recommended read Rites of Conquest -author John Lang

Sally Fineday Reminded all delegates to take the Resolution developed by Phil Brodeen, MCT attorney, back to their own communities for input and bring forth discussion to full delegation. Ultimately, the delegation will have one question that will go back to TEC to be added to Resolution. The question will go on the ballot in 2022.

Reports:

Finance report-

Bush grant in progress

Each committee determine dollar amount to complete task and send to Jason Burnette

Need Bois Forte Rep for finance committee

Education—No report at this time

Survey Committee - Steve T submitted draft survey. suggest mail to all MCT members

Next meeting at FDL on August 20, 2021.

September meeting in Bois Forte

Meeting adjourned at ... 4:30 p.m.

Round dance..

SIGN IN SHEET

MEETING OF THE MCT CONSTITUTION REFORM

DATE 7-16-21

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18	Annette Bedrow	qkby57@yahoo.com	218 969 6938

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SIGN IN SHEET

MEETING OF THE MCT CONSTITUTION REFORM

DATE 7/16/2011

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SIGN IN SHEET

MEETING OF THE MCT CONSTITUTION REFORM

DATE 7-16-2021

	NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE #
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RESOLUTION NO. XX-21

- WHEREAS,** the Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Executive Committee is the duly elected governing body of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, which is comprised of six-member reservations: Bois Forte, Fond Du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and White Earth; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Executive Committee is comprised of the Chairpersons and Secretary/Treasurers from the six constituent bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; and
- WHEREAS,** Article II of the Revised Constitution and Bylaws governs membership in the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and provides that the following categories of individuals are eligible for enrollment: 1.) persons of Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood whose names appear on the annuity roll of April 14, 1941 ("1941 Base Roll"); 2.) children born between April 14, 1941 and July 3, 1961 whose parent or parents are listed on the 1941 Base Roll; and 3.) children of at least one quarter (1/4) Minnesota Chippewa Indian blood born after July 3, 1961 to an MCT member who are not enrolled in another tribe and who are American citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** the basic power of a tribe to define its own membership and to grant, deny, revoke, and condition membership has been consistently recognized, *See Santa Clara Pueblo v. Martinez*, 436 U.S. 49 (1978); *Smith v. Babbitt*, 100 F.3d 556 (8th Cir. 1997); and
- WHEREAS,** enrollment related matters are presented to the Tribal Executive Committee by the individual Bands who have a prominent role in reviewing applications and making recommendations to the Tribal Executive Committee but the final decision on enrollment related matters are made by the Tribal Executive Committee; and
- WHEREAS,** blood quantum in enrollment has been a topic of constant discussion before the Tribal Executive Committee and it is generally understood that the blood quantum system, which was set up by the federal government, will lead to diminishing tribal membership over time; and
- WHEREAS,** the recent constitutional reform efforts undertaken by the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe have highlighted the diversity of opinions regarding current and potential tribal membership requirements; and
- WHEREAS,** at the Special Meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee held on June 22, 2021, the Tribal Executive Committee discussed narrowing down the enrollment related issues and obtaining direct input from tribal members through the Referendum process

contained in Article XIV of the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; and

WHEREAS, Article XIV of the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe provides that the Tribal Executive Committee can submit questions to the eligible voters of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe for a referendum vote; and

WHEREAS, Article XIV of the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe provides that a referendum can be initiated by an affirmative vote of eight (8) members of the Tribal Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Executive Committee finds that it is in the best interests of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe to conduct a Referendum related specifically to tribal enrollment requirements; and

WHEREAS, such referendum, which is separate from the constitutional amendment process provided in Article XII of the Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, would further inform the Tribal Executive Committee regarding potential amendments that could be made to Article II of the Constitution through a Secretarial Election.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Tribal Executive Committee 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.

We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and acted upon by a vote of ___ For, ___ Against, ___ Silent, at a Special meeting of the Tribal Executive Committee, a quorum being present, held on July 12, 2021, at Onamia, Minnesota.

Catherine J. Chavers, President
The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

ATTEST:

April M. McCormick, Secretary
The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

MCT Constitution Reform Convention

July 16, 2021 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

HOSTED BY LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE

NORTHERN LIGHTS CASINO HOTEL

6800 Y FRONTAGE ROAD, WALKER, MN

844-544-2646 ASK FOR MCT CONVENTION BLOCK OF ROOMS

AGENDA

9:00 am	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe - Leech Lake Delegation Welcome - Chairman Faron Jackson Jr.
9:10 am	Invocation – Mike Smith, Sr.
9:25 am	Delegation Roll Call & Housekeeping Reminders
9:30 am	The BQ Question – each Band will bring forward an example BQ question for the 2022 ballot
10:30 am	Break
11:00 am	Structure – What Happens Next presentation by Joy Annette
12:00 Noon	Lunch
1:00 pm	Education – Flocken Dissertation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each Band summarize the chapter assigned.• Present their summary. 10 to 15 minutes each. Each summary will include -• How your bands' chapter is aligned with the MCT Constitution and the work we are doing.• Specific to your assigned chapter, identify what is still applicable to what we still practice or utilize today, to be more specific, how we function today.
	Chapter Assignments Chapter 1 – Bois Fort, 2 A– Fond du Lac Intro/World view/Leadership, 2 B – Grand Portage Colonialism/American Oppression/Indian Reorg.Act, 3- Leech Lake, 4 - Mille Lacs, 5 - White Earth
3:00 pm	Committee Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TEC Committee• Finance Committee• Education Committee• Survey Committee• Drafting Committee
3:30 pm	Open Discussion
3:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Next convention date, host and meeting minutes Adjourn

