

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution Reform

A Citizen's Movement

January 18, 2019 - Convention Highlights

- First Meeting - January 18, 2019
- Delegate Introductions were made
- Financing Convention Expenses discussion; Committee formed.
- Meeting Minutes discussion; Request MCT take minutes
- Assignment: Preamble and Communication/Education
- Meeting location: Rotation to include Urban & 6 reservations

February 15, 2019 - Convention Highlights

- Grand Portage absent - No decisions were made. Discussions took place
- Consensus
- Self-determination; each reservation will decide for itself
- Convention voting
- After all discussion, it was agreed if a Delegation cannot attend then Convention should be cancelled.

March, 2019 - Convention Highlights

- Meeting cancelled due to death in community.

April 19, 2019

- Consensus Voting Steps
- Time limits for speaking
- Perpetual Agenda Item: Education
- Ask TEC if they will mail out Convention Delegates' survey to the 40K members

May 17, 2019

- John Morrin - Treaties
- Education updates from each reservation
- Develop survey
- Motion passed to create a survey subcommittee Passed 5 - 1
- Motion to create education subcommittee. Passed 6 -0

June 21, 2019

- Education -Tools for Successful Community Engagement
- Delegation may use Zaagiibagong as a resource
- 5 priorities set:
 - Enrollment
 - Governance
 - Culture and Language
 - Education - elections, changes, revisions
 - Natural Resources and Land
- Why Treaties Matter? Discussion at least once per quarter.

July 19, 2019

- Red Lake Constitution Reform Committee presented
- Preamble discussion
- TEC Committee established
- Bois Forte presented a timeline for our work
- Conduct subcommittee meetings before each convention

August 23, 2019

- Indinawemaaganidog (How do we consider who is MCT?)
- Designate Delegates to attend TEC meetings
- Issues to bring to TEC -
- Lines of communication must be clearly defined
- Constitution Reform Delegates shall be standard TEC Agenda item
- Clarify TEC agree to consult with Delegates on enrollment
- Clarify TEC agree to consult with Delegates on reform timeline

September 27, 2019

- Education - Value of MCT meetings
- Enrollment Discussion
- Delegation meets one day/month and two days/quarter (flexible on days of week)
- Education Committee will develop a timeline to bring to the full Delegation for ratification, then bring to the people.
- Discussion: Blandin Grant Opportunities

October 25, 2019

- Drafted the Introduction/Preamble
- Set the process for Structure of the new Constitution
- The first structure priorities were identified as:
 - #1 Structure
 - #2 Enrollment

November 14, 2019

- Discussion on traditional councils for oversight of TEC/RBC/RTC.
- TEC meeting update; Action items that were heard and decided upon by the TEC; MCT as fiscal agent was approved; and standard hotel rates was unofficially approved.
- Consensus on how to present written documentation to the TEC - The Delegation shall approve written documents going to the TEC the month before the quarterly TEC meeting. GP - yes BF - yes LL - yes ML - yes FDL - yes WE - yes

December 18, 2019

Preamble Update and Home Rule Discussion

Example:

<u>Alliance</u>	<u>Home Rule</u>
• Elections	• Enrollment
• Civil Rights	• Land
	• Licensing

- GP - Jason presented Financial Report.
- Structure Proposal discussed. Vote tabled to next meeting.

January 25, 2020

- TEC attended: Q&A Session
- Secretarial Election discussion
- Structure of Government discussion
- Individual Rights Presentation

February 21, 2020

- Facilitation Committee created
- Drafting Committee created - Assignment - Preamble
- Sandy Lake discussion
- Article XII
- Process Proposal discussed
- Have a continuous spot on the agenda regarding presentation on structure of the government (TEC)

March - August 2020

**Convention Meetings were cancelled
due to COVID-19 pandemic.**

September 11, 2020

- Delegation reports:
- Fond du Lac - Motion - Revise voting from consensus to super majority; April 2019 convention established consensus as 6
- Leech Lake - Marketing discussion
- White Earth - Advocating for in person meeting of delegates
- Mille Lacs - Will participate in this process but will not vote until they are comfortable. ML is willing to commit to 3 months of the virtual meetings to hopefully be ready to vote.
- Bois Forte - Working on inclusion for the band members in the group process

October 2020

No minutes were produced for this month.

A copy of the Zoom meeting recording can be emailed by request to delegate@fdlconstitution.org

November 2020

- Despite due diligence, the delegate group has been unable to obtain minutes or a copy of the Zoom meeting recorded by Carrie Day Aspinwall.
- We are so sorry for this tragedy of omission due to technical difficulties.

December 18, 2020

- Sovereignty Discussion: Make some treaties with each other to demonstrate our sovereignty.
- Created Declaration of Sovereignty
- **Drafting Committee Assignment: Preamble**
- **Education Committee: Assignment: glossary for terms**
- Article XII Secretary of Interior: Take out the Secretary of Interior from Article XII. Missed the General Election and therefore, lost its priority. It can wait.

January 21, 2021

- Education Committee gives assignment -
Provide a Historical Timeline by each tribe.
- Draft summary for TEC shared and opened for editing.
- Proclamation of Sovereignty presented, discussed.

February 19, 2021

- Enrollment resolutions 31-15 and 32-15 were read aloud.
- Proposed resolution regarding 1941 Base Roll was read aloud.
- Question raised regarding why we are being asked by TEC to discuss this issue now, what are motives? It was stated that we asked the TEC not to make any changes without consultation with us and that is what they are doing with this meeting.
- Mille Lacs presents questions and asks for TEC to send answers in legal memorandum. Questions will be added to TEC meeting materials.
- Ray Bellcourt presentation of White Earth Constitution draft

March 19, 2021

- Summary of resolution options from March 4, 2021 TEC meeting:
Each band on its own will solve membership; treaties with each other.
Remove blood quantum.
Direct Lineage
Any one born 1941 are full blood
All full bloods from July 1971
- It appears that we have agreed to reforming the Umbrella Constitution and each Band needs to work on their Constitution. Why not write the Band Constitutions at the same time?
- MCT Constitution: Proposed Enrollment Solutions/ Goals (Each Band decides its own citizenship.)
 1. Each Band decides their own membership
 2. Establish treaties between each Band
 3. Direct LineageThe 3 above Goals/Recommendation should be treated as one Goal (Direct Lineage) with three parts.

April 16, 2021

- Enrollment Discussion: Citizen Engagement/Education is the most important priority.
- How are we going to use and allocate our resources; how will each reservation manage it?
- Can we get to a place where we don't need to rely on the funding from the government? The Federal government funding is only available to members with the blood quantum.
- Indian Reorganization Act has the definition of Indian. Native living outside a reservation or no reservation. There are no blood quantum requirements for tribes that organized under reservations.
- Governance Discussion: We don't believe MCT should be structured as a government. The theme is maintaining our own sovereignty and fall under a confederacy/alliance instead of the MCT.

May 21, 2021

- On April 30, 2021 we presented our quarterly progress report to the TEC. The individual band Enrollment position papers were read.
- Ray Bellcourt read a document of historical legal reviews of the MCT Constitution and governance.
- We need to educate our constituency on the importance of voting.
- Mille Lacs legal questions were asked by Mike Davis and attendees; with answers by Phil Broden, Legal Counsel to MCT who prepared a statement which was presented to the MCT (Memorandum of April 19, 2021)
- Discussion of 2022 Ballot Priority- Tabled to a later meeting after we have a consensus of blood quantum 1) Move only Enrollments to 2022 Ballot / General Election vs entire Constitution 2) Move one / two Enrollment options to 2022 Ballot
- Project Summary- emailed. For use by delegates as needed.

June 18, 2021

- Delegates listened to several testimonials from urban MCT citizens regarding enrollment and belonging.
- Let's put it in the resolution: blood quantum and do enrollment at the band level. Sally Fineday will prepare document and send to delegates for approval. Must have delegate approval before noon Monday, June 21, 2101
- Assignment to everyone from Henry Flocken dissertation. - Chapter 1 BF, FDL 2a, GB Grand Portage, LL 3 MLBO 4, White Earth Chapter 5 Sandy Lake ? Assignments should be sent via email.
- Assignment to everyone - know your clan.

July 16, 2021

- Referendum discussion: Blood quantum questions were brought forth from each reservation.
- Government Structure activity presented by Joy Annette.
 - Who determines citizenship?
 - How far back do we go? Lineage?
 - Who should make decisions on enrollment?
- Summarization of Henry Flocken's dissertation on Traditional Leadership
- Reminder to get input on Resolution developed by Phil Brodeen for Referendum vote.

August 20, 2021

- Nicole MartinRogers presentation of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe: Population Projections dated 8-20-21.
- Assignment from Education Committee to Drafting Committee: Community Convention Newsletter - Each committee would write articles to contribute to a newsletter to be distributed MCT wide.
- Presentation of Government Structure by John Roterman. Assignment: Take back to community and come back next month with pictures of how you envision our government structure.
- Recommendation: TEC Committee take for action to suggest to the TEC to get a demographer or research contract to provide a method of getting and distributing demographic information to the community.

September 17, 2021

- Referendum wording discussion. Birdie Roberts (MLB) provided MLB's edited version of the resolution with written comments and led a discussion. development of additions/deletions to the resolution language
- Petition discussion: A vote of 8 out of the 12 TEC members [are] require[d] that to be put to a vote. We can petition our representatives to put this to a vote. Need a notary, only reservation residents can sign (20% need to agree to get it on the ballot); when on the ballot anyone can vote. Referendum Article XIV
- Voting requirements discussion; the constitution needs to clarify/amend the requirements for a valid election.
- Government structure discussion: Let's go through the Draft of 1998 Constitution of White Earth. Michele H-B will put together a Power Point for next meeting.
- Urban delegates, anyone? We are looking for MCT delegates in the Twin Cities area to disseminate information. Maureen Jones and Sybil will take the topic to the chair and vice chair about a replacement for Carrie (LL).

October 15, 2021

- Strategic planning - Report on resolution by TEC Committee. Reviewed draft report and recorded delegate recommendations. Will meet again, edit and send for approval prior to next meeting on October 29, 2021.
- We need an educational piece about the Constitution and Secretary of the Interior's role.
- Education - White Earth Constitution Proposed Government.
- Assignment: Drafting Committee - Section II, Membership
- Assignment: Drafting and Education Committees - Develop a visual: Tribe, A Government Structure.

November 19, 2021

- Education - Government Structure - John R. FDL
- Ask for 100,000-200,000 for Delegation to help with expenses incentives of the Delegation. For Print/Mail Post Cards, Podcasts, YouTube, Survey Monkey, Youth Outreach via High School Presentations. Indian Education Programs, Urban area activities, Education on the process we are going through for the Constitution Convention to change the Constitution. Dedicated website.
- FDL Motion: Non-delegates can serve on our Constitutional Convention Committees. Non-delegates can be community members and/or descendants, enrolled members of other MCT reservations, not to include non-Natives. Committee work must be presented by a delegate. Marcy seconds the motion. Can we bring this to a vote at the next meeting?

December 17, 2021

- Education - MLB Report
- FDL (Cheryl)- would like us to work on both enrollment and governance with a 3-month schedule as we agreed to in the Leech Lake Process, to gather input from the community on governance.
- Motion: Non-delegates can serve on our Constitutional Convention Committee. Non-delegates can be community members and/or descendants, enrolled members of other MCT reservations, not to include non-natives. Committee work must be presented by a delegate. Leech Lake: Agreed. 2nd the motion. ML: All members/delegates are enrolled. Subcommittees-yes White Earth- Char has not talked to anyone. I will get back soon. FDL- yes GP- yes BF- yes Result of motion: awaiting White Earth's vote

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