

## **MCT Constitutional Reform**

### **Zoom Meeting**

**October 16, 2020**

Attendees: Jason Burnett (GP), Jason Decker (LL), Steve Thomas (FDL), Connie Saaristo (FDL), Char Ellis (WE), Ariel Wagner, Michele Hakala-Beeksma (GP), Wayne Dupuis (FDL), Mattie DeCarlo (BF), Carrie Day Aspinwall (LL), Cheryl Edwards (FDL), Joy Annette (WE)

**Roll Call** – All delegations present.

**Discussion/brainstorming** on how to proceed for the next few months.

**Discussion** – Marketing

Website(s), newsletter email opt-in, distribution list,

**Voting criteria discussion – 23:15 to 1:04:05 on the recording**

**View video here: [https://youtu.be/4ZBvH\\_3-eJ8](https://youtu.be/4ZBvH_3-eJ8)**

Requested read-out on the MCT budget available for Constitution Reform? MCT told GP that the money had already been spent when they attempted to get reimbursement. Determined that our Finance Committee should be able to get a response on those types of questions.

Subcommittees –

List of committees and who is coordinating each committee. A website would be helpful for this.

Check-in with delegates serving on committees. See if they are still available, etc.

**Back to voting – new proposed voting format:**

**Start the same, voting one vote per delegation.**

**If we don't have consensus, allow people to state their reasons why, Time limitation for dissenters to speak – 3 minutes. Add time for discussion in large group (7 minutes) total 10 minutes, then take another consensus vote. For the time being, we take the group break-outs out (unless we find a way to do breakouts) and move to a majority vote after that last consensus vote. One vote per reservation.**

**Tentative agreement, we move this agreement forward at the next meeting, when more delegates are present for official approval. BF, yes, LL, yes, GP, yes, FDL, yes, WE, yes, ML no vote, only one delegate present.**

Structure Discussion

Disband? Stay as is? Should we be an loosely associated confederation? Should we strengthen the MCT?

Process: 2-3 or more meetings for brainstorming. Begin answering these questions, coming up with solutions. Bring it back to local communities for input on those possible solutions, come back and work it through, and then we draft that portion of the document.

Federal – State model? Stay together or disband? Clan system?

Directions we have loosely agreed upon:

Full dissolution of MCT and each band going their own way.

CON: Question of federal recognition if we do this. Not a road any of us would take. We will maintain MCT in some way.

Clan system – Came through our spiritual teachings. What is the best thing for us as people?

What does the U.S. government think about that? Inhibits what we do.

Strength in numbers.

Question for bands who have written their own constitutions- What do band constitutions look like and what was envisioned when it was written?

Jason B., GP 2005-2007, rough draft. Plan to use as a jumping off point. Also commented on the White Earth draft.

Joy A., spoke about strength in numbers, government-to-government relationship and recognition in regard to the White Earth draft.

Enrollment – Discussion about putting that decision back at the reservations.

Rights, freedoms, and due process. – MCT?

Rights to redress at MCT to handle grievances?

Adding a judicial system?

Treaty of 1847, Article 4 stipulates that the half-breeds and mixed-bloods that reside among them shall be considered simply Chippewa. This was a treaty that was made between the Lake Superior Chippewa, and the Chippewa of the Mississippi, so basically all of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Now we have blood quantum, acquiesced to this in 1962, but we also rescinded in 1967, according to the minutes of the Tribal Executive Committee.

Committee discussions:

Education Committee – Need to complete newsletter assignment and others.

Survey Committee – Mattie steps down as coordinator for committee.

Facilitator Committee – No coordinator identified. Need agendas out at least two weeks before Convention Meeting. Many items that were to be on today's agenda were not on the agenda. Sandy Lake, Preamble Draft.

Committee members: Sally Fineday, Jason Decker, Birdie Roberts, Wayne Dupuis, Michele Hakala-Beeksma, Darrel Shinobe, Tracey Dagen, Douglas Lee, Ariel Wagner.

Would like to set facilitator meeting at the same time as setting the next Convention meeting. Friday, November 6, 5:30 PM for next meeting.

Finance Committee - arranged to meet with MCT to discuss Fiscal Agent work but has been delayed due to COVID-19.

TEC Committee - we need notifications of TEC meetings. Cheryl has reached out to Executive Director for these.

Drafting Committee - Drafting has two assignments now. Mattie DeCarlo, Sharon Day, Ricky Defoe, Tara Kimmel, Patleen Straub, Louie Johannsen, Jason Decker, Carrie Aspinwall, Al Olson, Marcie McIntire, Donovan Dahman, Veronica Skinaway, Michaa Aubid, bmpalomaki, Ariel Wagner. Mattie will arrange for a committee meeting.

Accountability – how can we make committees accountable? Committees need to meet at least once a month. FDL wants to make a motion to get this done by the 2022 election. Will put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Next meeting: November 20, 2020, Zoom only. 9AM -Noon or 1 PM

Carrie volunteers to go through the last 3-4 meetings minutes and bring items forward for the next agenda.

Who is on each committee? Cheryl will gather names, send to Carrie for email addresses and we will create a posting on the [www.fdlconstitution.org](http://www.fdlconstitution.org) website.

Committee list will be sent out with a caveat that says “your committee is responsible to meet on or around November 6 in preparation for our meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>.”

More marketing ideas were shared among the group.