

MCT CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM DRAFTING COMMITTEE

Date: 6/25/24 Time: 6 PM

Facilitator: Carol J.

Present: Raymond B., Marcie M.

Alliance:

- Since Marcie had to leave the 6/21/24 Convention meeting for an appointment, the Committee members updated her on what took place at the end of the meeting.
- There are two issues that the drafting committee needs to clarify in the Alliance-Mino Bimaadiziwimm (Living The Good Life).
 - Page 2 "Akiing has a legal identity." The language used in the literature and doctrines regarding the Rights of Nature is "An ecosystem is entitled to legal personhood status and as such has the right to defend itself in the court of law against harm."
 - Carol reviewed all the Treaties with the Chippewa that reference hunting, fishing, and gathering rights and mistakenly listed Chippewa tribes that were not the Minnesota Chippewa Tribes. The paragraph should read as follows:

Treaty with the Chippewa (Prairie du Chien Treaty) July 29, 1829 (Signed by Leech Lake, Mille Lac, and others); The Treaty with the Chippewa July 29, 1837 (signed by Mille Lac, Fond du Lac) the Treaty with the Chippewa (Treaty of La Pointe) October 4, 1842 (Signed by Fond du Lac, Mille Lac, and others); and the Treaty with the Chippewa (Treaty of La Pointe) September 30, 1854 (signed by Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, and others) affirms our Sovereign Nation status to uphold our right to live our way of life through eternity. We assert that we retain all Treaty rights and any and all rights not specifically ceded.
- One issue in the Alliance-Right of Nature: In section 1, the Drafting committee needs to clarify the statement "be protected from all agencies that disturb the balance of creation." The literature and doctrines regarding the Rights of Nature state that nature has the right to exist, flourish, regenerate its cycles, and naturally evolve without human-caused disruption.
- One issue that needs clarification is in Alliance-External Governmental Relationships, Section 2. "The Alliance may authorize entering into treaties with other Turtle Island Nations (North American Indian Tribes." Carol will do some research on this issue.
- The Convention Delegation review of the Alliance ended before Izhitwaawin V. Self-Determination.

- The additional conversation centered on the need for constitutional reform to address concerns with the current governing structure, including the lack of checks and balances, recognition of treaty rights, international Indigenous rights, and the authority to oversee tribal sovereignty-related responsibilities.
- The Committee discussed the importance of recognizing the rights of nature, addressing ongoing challenges with water pipes and sewer systems, and ensuring the accuracy of language in treaties.
- Self-determination for Native American communities and the hunting and fishing rights of Indigenous peoples were also discussed, as were sovereignty and civil rights for Native American tribes.
- Raymond argued that the US is not a sovereign nation due to its history of treaties and agreements with other nations.
- Marcie discussed government control and quasi-sovereignty in Canada.
- Marcie also discussed historical events and treaty violations in Grand Portage.
- The Committee discussed the importance of self-determination and citizenship rights for tribal nations, the need for a constitutional amendment to address these issues, and a more comprehensive approach to protect citizens' rights.
- The Committee discussed the challenges in enforcing sovereign nation rights, including lack of knowledge and resources.
- Regarding safeguards for a statement to the TEC at the next meeting on 7/8/24, Carol suggested an amendment to the tribal constitution and election procedures because we will no longer have the procedures for a Secretarial election in 25 CFR 81, and our current election Ordinance does not deal with any other elections except to elected officers. There also needs to be built-in safeguards in the tribal election process. Carol suggested revoking Article XV because it is never used and implementing citizen input and approvals for constitutional amendments.
- Tribal sovereignty and government recognition.
 - Carol read the Declaration proposed by Mille Lac Band and amended by the Drafting Committee.
 - At the Convention, there was a discussion on recognizing the six MCT. Are we tribes as separate sovereign nations, tribes or bands?.
- Indigenous sovereignty, self-determination, and constitutional reform.
 - The Committee is concerned about lack of checks and balances in governing structure.
 - Raymond advocated for constitutional reform to address historical injustices and create a more equitable partnership.
 - Delegates discuss Indigenous nation constitutions, funding, and international obligations.
- Tribal rights and land issues in northeastern Minnesota.
 - Marcie raised concern about tribal rights in ceded territories. She described a historical incident where a Native American Tribe rejected a mining company, and the federal government established a consultation process to address the tribe's concerns.
 - Marcie suggests addressing land issues within the ceded territories. Carol

agreed and planned to research the law..

- The Committee discussed the impact of environmental degradation on treaty rights and federal government's role in addressing the issue.

Next meeting: 7/2/2024 NO MEETING