

## **MCT Constitutional Reform**

### **Zoom Meeting**

**November 20, 2020**

**Attendees:** Jason Burnett (GP), Carrie Day Aspinwall (LL), Louie Johannsen (WE), Connie Saaristo (FDL), Giniw Giizhik, Sandra Borden (GP), Jason Decker (LL), Birdie Roberts (ML), Michele Hakala-Beeksma (GP), Woman, Lyz Jaakola (FDL), Michael Smith, JR. (LL), Douglas Lee (WE), Ricky Defoe (FDL), Danielle Smith (ML), John Saaristo (Tech), Donovan Dahman (GP), Eugene Sommers (WE), Muriel Deegan (BF), Jason Goward (FDL), Wayne Dupuis (FDL), Cheryl Edwards (FDL), Joy Annette (WE), Raymond Bellecourt (WE), Sybil Gund (WE), Tara Kimmel (FDL), Larry Manthey (GP), 42 Total attendees

**Roll Call:** All delegations present.

#### **Education committee led a discussion on sovereignty.**

What is sovereignty? Define it.

What does it mean to you?

What does it mean to your band or tribe?

What does it mean to future generations?

Why is it important or not important?

Bands will meet in breakout rooms at next meeting and report back.

#### **Consensus Discussion**

#### **Bylaws (Digest) Discussion**

#### **Website Discussion**

[www.fdlconstitution.org](http://www.fdlconstitution.org) – other bands may choose to link to this page.

Committees are listed. Please review and update.

#### **Timeline discussion**

Would like to have the flexibility of extending our timeline if needed, due to COVID-19 restrictions. It takes some tribes many years to revise their constitutions. Some people cannot get into the Zoom meetings. Let's do it right. Something for our grandchildren to be able to live sustainably into the future.

Process discussion regarding timeline. June 21, 2019 we identified topics: enrollment, governance, culture / language, education, natural resources. We decided to work on governance first because enrollment is so emotionally laden. If we have 5 main topics, and we use the LL process of 3 months, this is how we came up with June 2022 as a goal date. If we focus our efforts, if we all go to our committees and we do the work, that, yes, 2022 is a reasonable date to choose to have something ready.

**TEC document – Digest** – Carrie offers to put together a digest that can be shared in the community after delegation agreement. Outline goals, what’s important to us. Education is important. The newsletter that we discussed and agreed on would be helpful in educating people about what the delegation is doing.

**Discussion about committee responsibilities to enable us to move forward.** Finish the assignments that have already been given. Example: Preamble, Removal of Secretary of the Interior. Find a way, with checks and balances for our tribe.

**Governance was mentioned regarding removal of the Department of the Interior.** We need to have checks and balances in place when we remove it. We need to have protections for the people in place.

**A digest was again discussed.**

**Ray Bellcourt comments on sovereignty** – we do have sovereignty but we don’t have a way to exercise it. The IRA is what’s holding us back. Asks delegates to look at the White Earth draft constitution, front page, shows a graph of how power is distributed through councils.

Prior to contact, our governance system was the clan system. Suggests that Education committee look at this. It would provide checks and balances. Our traditional way of governing ourselves. Councils. We do have a way of finding out what your clans are.

**Facilitation update** – met to set today’s agenda. Suggestion to break agenda down further using a section called Old Business. This is where we can review previous discussions.

**Education update** – Assignment described above. Will meet again prior to Facilitation meeting to firm up the agenda item topic for next month. Committee members have the notes from their last meeting.

**Finance Committee** – Jason contacted Native Governance Center in Minneapolis, asked how they could help us. Jason stated that we are looking for grant money to continue our effort. They offered reference material that may be of some help. They offered to email a list of organizations that are in a position to offer grants. Blandin, Bush, and Northland Foundations were mentioned. They also work with NNI, and could offer facilitators if we choose. Lawyers and experts are also available. Blandin would rather work with all six bands rather than individual bands.

Sally will arrange a meeting with MCT regarding their acting as our fiscal agent. Sally will also request a line-by-line breakdown of the \$60,000 budget. Carrie volunteers to help Sally by emailing a request to MCT and she will copy Sally on the email.

Question: Do we want to ask TEC for more funding or go on our own? First, we need to know what happened with the previous funds. We need to show what we’ve done with the money that was available already. Not until we’re ready.

**Survey Committee** - Tara emailed MCT to ask if they will mail a survey for us. Gathered survey questions from GP, ML, FDL. Looking for themes. Draft by December meeting?

**Drafting Committee** – Time to reconvene this committee. Carrie will help Ariel get the group started again. Mattie discussed her lack of time to head this committee at last month’s meeting. Marcie is also on this committee.

**TEC Committee** – Need a list of delegate names and the next TEC meeting date. Currently have Carrie, Douglas and Cheryl, Larry Manthey, Louis is an alternate, Al Olson. Missing a BF representative. Get a request to the BF delegation. Ariel volunteered to email the BF people.

**Motion to prepare a survey to show the TEC that we are getting things accomplished at the January meeting. ML remains silent.**

**Next meeting December 18<sup>th</sup>. 9-4.** No disagreement on change of time.

**Discussion about agenda items.**

**Open discussion.**

**Discussion regarding RBC/TEC members attending our meetings.**

**Discussion about breakout rooms being available for the next meeting.**

**Request for Drafting Committee** to use the different Preamble drafts to come back with something we can look at.

**Facilitation will meet December 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30.** Jason Decker will send invitation.