

## DRAFT MINUTES

MCT Constitution Reform Convention March 17, 2023, 9.m. to 4 p.m.

Hosted by Grand Portage Delegates In-person at McGregor Community Center

41442 State Highway 65, McGregor, MN

Attendees via Zoom: Michel Beeksma GP, Sandra Borden GP, Rita Evan GP, Marcie McIntire GP, Carrie D Aspinwall Urban LL, Michele P MLB, Julie MLB, Cynthia MLBO, Carol Janick FDL, Birdie MLB, Bonni Boudreau WE, Danielle Smith MLB, Cheryl Edwards FDL, Stacey Stevens WE, Michaa Aubid SL, Sally Fineday LL, Tammey Skinaway, Theresa, Wayne Dupuis FDL, Amanda Skinaway, Tashina Perry SL, Angela Vig, Al Olson ML

21 people attended in person: Michaa Aubid SL, Veronica Skinaway, Julie S, Fineday, Fineday, Perry Skinaway, Ray Bellcourt, Patty Johansen Pierce WE, Nib, Wally Storbakken LL, Mykee Brown WE, Angel

Note: There was heavy snow the day before preventing several people from attending this meeting in person.

9:25 am Welcome Invocation Michaa – David Aubid.

Marcie McIntire honored Jason Burnett with a brief biography and provided Jason's vision for the Constitution Reform. He was a Grand Portage delegate, who passed recently.

Delegation Roll Call- In attendance BF, GP, FL, LL, ML, SL. WE

Housekeeping/Reminders by Michele Beeksma- Please be respectful.

9:50 am Alliance Document Review and Input – Drafting Committee Marcie McIntire lead the review.

- Article I is self-explanatory.
- Article 2 and 3 have evolved and are not final.
- Article 4 Sovereignty and Sovereign Rights was a lot of work because the Committee read a lot of treaties. The Treaties were made based on the relationship of Nation to Nation. The Protective status was put on us.
- Article V Rights of Nature reflect traditional thinking.
- Article VI Treaty and Reserved Rights. The concept of reserved rights is that anything that is not prohibited in the treaties is reserved for the tribe.
- Article VII Rights of Citizens is using the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.
- Article VIII Rights of Children- we respect the rights of children based on our Indigenous customs and to give a voice to it.

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- Article IX Citizenship is the most important.
- Article XI Clans
- Article XII Governance Structure- IRA is not working. The MCT Constitution is not as important for what it says. The omissions are important. No separation of power left us vulnerable to abuse of power by the few who are governing.
- Article XIII External Governmental Relationships
- Article XV Business Our ancestors were sophisticated in business, e.g., fur trading.
- Article XV Elections
- Carol-Use the Protective status is to our benefits. It places us in the international arena. Citizens' rights need to be emphasized. This is an alliance among the bands.
- Birdie stated that ML reviewed the earlier document from the priorities of **sovereignty, self-determination, culture**. ML wants to see less U.S. Law in the document to lessen the implied parent-child relation. They prefer a declaration statement. They do not want the alliance to be a government layer.
- Patti White Earth- Need to ask members "Do we want to revise the current Constitution or write an Alliance document?" She is uncomfortable with only 6 people drafting the document; instead bring the document to the people for input.
- Ray Bellcourt- wants more involvement by the people.
- Cheryl- education needs to be done by all delegates. Write educational pieces we can share. Need to go over Alliance line by line.
- Sally- There has been a big turnover with some delegations. It is the job of the delegates to educate the people and agrees that we need to get it right. She wants every delegate to be involved in educational pieces and then we will put the educational pieces together. Some of these topics were developed by prior delegates. Hopefully, we will go through the document line by line.
- Mykee B. Take time, No vote without education. Will share her PowerPoint.
- Michele Beeksma – This morning was set aside for going through the document.
- Sally Fineday- At LL the educational pieces are put on the radio.
- [could not hear many of the speakers, especially Louie]
- White Earth is concerned with splitting enrollment criteria, and wants balance and similar qualifications for band/tribe enrollment. Also, they are concerned with the transition process of enrollment, i.e., how does it impact our land, should we write a letter to MCT to extend the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for draft?
- Cheryl- The TEC wants a recommendation on enrollment by July 1st. If not resolution 32-15 will be what the TEC will push for enrollment. FDL has had open meetings every 2 weeks since 2018 and has discussed these issues. Each delegation is responsible for the education of their members.
- Patty -White Earth is supporting the 32-15 as a minimum "Band aid". We asked for a delay of the July 1<sup>st</sup> timeline for an enrollment recommendation.
- Marcie- addressed the topic of 6 people drafting the Alliance document. We do not have anyone from BF on the drafting committee. All reservations can and are

encouraged to send more representatives to the drafting committee. Some delegates never appear.

- Sally- we should tell the TEC that we did what they asked and that the referendum tells us what the people want.
- Louie- Regarding Citizenship, he is concerned about the conflicting statements regarding membership in the Alliance document. (Section 1 stated lineal descent and Section 2 states that each reservation will determine criteria). (Marcie said that the drafting committee will address his concerns.)
- Wally- We have agreed that MCT is an organization then how can they dictate to us and they did not meet that 30%? Should the 30% apply to us? Perhaps we have only initiated this effort and others will complete it. The IRA is outdated and currently, we are living under an IRA constitution that omits so much.

10:53 am Break

11:14 am Alliance Document Review and Input- Drafting Committee

Cheryl: has a question about children with disability. All children have rights.... We never believed people had a disability, meaning we accept people for who they are.

Michele: Discussion on children the Word "life" and should "survive".

Jean S. perhaps the word should be "thrive".

Marcie: The drafting committee is not taking a position on abortion.

Carrie: We should make a statement to the TEC regarding the July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. What are the impacts with change to enrollment.

Carol: Thanked and showed appreciation for everyone's comments especially Louie's comments on citizenship because the committee missed that. We will take the word "Criteria" out of Section 2 of Article X. Lineal descent will be in the document. She is researching the 30% issue.

Louie: Let's make a motion to ask TEC to give us more time for enrollment. Mykee Brown second it.

Sally: We have already done the work.

Cheryl: Recommends that they put the referendum questions forward for a vote.

Patty WE: Opposes what Cheryl said about putting forward the referendum questions.

Wally: The "will of the people" is no Blood Quantum. Go forward with that questions on a secretarial election.

Sandra Borden: GP is pro putting the referendum questions for a secretarial election because they have been approved in a non-binding vote by the membership which is to eliminate blood quantum and eliminate secretarial elections.

Carol: Keep our trust and credibility of the people. Go forward with what they want.

Patty: White Earth is concerned about the additional issues and is against moving forward with the referendums question.

Michele B (chat): I would disagree with asking for more time.

Louie: wants to discuss with his delegates to discuss if he should withdraw his motion.

Mykee WE: Especially the young do not understand the issues and need more time to learn.

Carol: How we can we get past WE's opposition to the two referendum questions?

Patty WE: Our members want more options.

Carol: If we do not proceed with a recommendation, how can we live with the TEC 32-15 resolution?

Patty: We need time to update addresses and we support 32-15.

Noon Lunch

1:00 PM Discussion of Louie's motion. Grand Portage and FDL would vote no. Louie discussed with his band's delegates over lunch, and they would like to table the motion to give time for delegations to discuss position. It will be revisited at the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Yes to table motion: BF, GP, FDL, LL, WE, ML, SL

Michele: Need a vote from BF to abolish the Public Relations Committee. BF voted yes.

1:15 pm Michele explain the cost of putting together a TEC booklet using the \$187,000.00 donation. TEC booklet costs to print would be  $4 \times 37,000.00 = \$148,000.00$

Birdie suggested putting it online.

Michele Beeksma is concerned with the logistics and where to post even though she is pro the booklet.

Mykee suggests put it on all social platforms and offered to share her PowerPoint again.

Michele B- What should we do with the money?

WE- Divide the money among the delegation.

Cheryl- The TEC will not split the funds and prefers a proposal related to education.

Jean Skinaway (via chat) recommended a dedicated website.

Need to develop a curriculum. Mykee volunteered to do it.

Birdie- As we produce educational information sheets, let's put them in a binder and put them online.

Michele B- Enrollment and Alliance Documents should be done soon.

Cheryl- \$650 per\_year for the FDL website.

Sandra- Individual bands/delegations' website can refer to FDL's website.

Michele- Provided GoDaddy site info.

Wally supports using new technology and linking existing websites to FDL or another designated site.

Michele- Called for a vote on community meetings at each band, Duluth and Urban and creating a website.

Louie – 20 community meetings (every district, metro, and urban) with estimated \$5,000 per meeting = \$100,000.

Birdie- Let's use the money on education and not administrative cost.

Michele B- Let's estimate 20 meetings at \$4,000 each.

Tammy Skinaway- had an idea of a 4-day traditional event highly advertised to get everyone together, but doesn't know the cost.

Michele: A big get-together could be put in the Bush Grant.

Jean Skinaway SL- We have a very good website. The 1855 Treaty website was screen shared.

Birdie: why not present all options to the TEC?

Cheryl: The Finance Committee will finalize the proposal. Who will hold these meetings.

Michele: Each delegation will have to plan and conduct the meetings.

Cheryl: Each delegation should have a representative to attend a meeting in the urban areas.

Motion by Bernadine/Birdie ML, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cheryl, FDL: to hold 20 or 21 community educational meeting for \$100,000 with the Finance Committee will finalize the details.

Sandra GP: We are not trying to solve world hunger (devise a complete mass media communication plan), we are only trying to take make a proposal for the use of the TEC money by taking a step forward in this case holding community meetings.

Vote: BF (yes), GP, (yes), FDL (yes) , LL (yes), ML (yes), SL (abstain), WE (yes); passed; the Finance Committee will prepare a proposal.

3:08 pm Blood Quantum Education handout was presented. The final version will be sent to the contact people to be used.

3:00 pm Committee Reports- note: There is only one representative and one alternate from a delegation to a committee. A delegate may be on more than one committee.

- TEC Committee (no report)
- Drafting Committee – Carol wants to list the pros and cons of writing one constitution or seven individual Constitutions by each band. Michaa from an early meeting we agreed to rewrite the Constitution; individual bands have always had the ability to write their own constitutions. Carol realizes that the Alliance document is a road map of policies, values, and principles, not a constitution, but a road map or foundation with concepts to weave into the Constitution. She provided a long list of pros. Marcie wants one constitution.

Louie feels we need to all come together as one people with an umbrella constitution.

- Education Committee Birdie stated that the next information sheet will be Sovereignty
- Survey Committee – The survey is already outdated.
- Finance Committee – Cheryl stated that there have been no changes to the draft Bush Grant proposal
- PR Committee- was dissolved

3:45 pm 4:00 pm Adjourn - Next meeting April 21, 2023, Host: Leech Lake

Note that the June meeting will be June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Bois Forte.

Chat transcript-

00:21:42 michaaaubid: We are going to log in on a phone and use the phones microphone

00:45:12 CarrieD Aspinwall Urban LL: Such a gracious soul, he will be missed, I'm in shock His voice and words will certainly carry us forward

01:19:36 Tammey Skinaway: There will be a Pow Wow at East Phillips tomorrow, maybe someone can go to have a few minutes on the mic and maybe a table at all Pow Wows to get information out and voices in. Miigwech 🌸

01:25:23 CarrieD Aspinwall Urban LL: Sally, can you send me copy of your pieces and a link to the morning announcements or any public to share with our folks down here in the cities

01:26:08 Sally Fineday: @Carrie, yes I will send the docs to you. The radio station is on the website, I am not sure how to send you that link.

01:26:29 BF Tracey: Sally, BF would also like that info too

- 01:26:50 FDL Cheryl Edwards: Sally, FDL also, daga?
- 01:27:30 Sally Fineday: The docs were developed by the education committee, I am confident that we were sent the same docs.
- 01:27:45 Sally Fineday: i'll find them and resend.
- 01:29:21 Rita Evans Grand Portage: Everyone needs to turn their mic's off unless you are speaking
- 01:30:34 Rita Evans Grand Portage: yes
- 01:36:01 Rita Evans Grand Portage: each reservation needs to do ZOOM for all meeting and ask all membership to watch/input meeting that will include other reservations and committees. Enough of secret meetings. Any member should be able to come to their weekly meetings.
- 01:38:39 Rita Evans Grand Portage: Phil Boden wants something... then he wants to read it first before showing the TEC speaking about July 1st
- 01:38:53 Michele Beeksma-GP: We are making a document that will be brought out to the membership for approval. This delegation isn't the final word- we've never said that we are.
- 01:39:48 Michele Beeksma-GP: The TEC will not hold off. They have said if we don't give them an option they are going forward with 32-15
- 01:44:29 Rita Evans Grand Portage: 65% is a good amount of membership & yes Sally sounds good.
- 01:46:42 Rita Evans Grand Portage: it's going to have to be (universal) not 6 constitutions we need to come together as 1 big NATION that is what the Alliance document is about.
- 01:47:28 Rita Evans Grand Portage: wrong hat Walley
- 01:49:03 CarrieD Aspinwall Urban LL: Yup! #truth
- 01:50:27 Rita Evans Grand Portage: have each reservation open an office called MCT federal funds only just a suggestion
- 02:16:28 CarrieD Aspinwall Urban LL: agreed spell out
- 02:17:54 Tammy Skinaway: This conversation pertaining to children reminds me of misdiagnosis and labeling for children who are born with gifts and who are medicated with no assisting them understand their gifts. Example: ADHD Misdiagnosed.
- 02:19:00 CarrieD Aspinwall Urban LL: 23 are signed on
- 02:20:53 Rita Evans Grand Portage: Why we should make a stand with the TEC

02:22:35 Rita Evans Grand Portage: they are not the boss of us

02:23:21 Michele Beeksma-GP: September/ October would be the election. They have said they WILL move forward with 32-15

02:23:30 Rita Evans Grand Portage: REMEMBER they work for us!

02:24:08 Rita Evans Grand Portage: It was that PHIL guy who is pushing

02:24:11 Michele Beeksma-GP: They are feeling the pressure to get something done.

02:24:32 Rita Evans Grand Portage: pressure from who Michelle?

02:24:58 Michele Beeksma-GP: Enrolled members

02:25:22 FDL Cheryl Edwards: The pressure from the people. Phil is not pushing anything.

02:25:36 FDL Cheryl Edwards: pushing ^^

02:25:40 Michele Beeksma-GP: Right now the TEC has the power

02:26:59 Rita Evans Grand Portage: they only have the power because we allowed them to believe that

02:27:21 Rita Evans Grand Portage: yes TY

02:31:36 CarrieD Aspinwall Urban LL: WTG Carol on that 30% issue, keep us posted

02:33:24 Michele Beeksma-GP: Right now there is no “legal” way to challenge their authority. We need to keep that in mind as we write the new document.

02:38:44 Michele Beeksma-GP: I would disagree with asking for more time.

02:40:04 CarrieD Aspinwall Urban LL: Thanks for clarifying the discussion

02:46:19 Michele Beeksma-GP: They motioned on it.

02:56:45 Tammy Skinaway: If you don't mind me offering my opinion WE need time for ceremony...time to ask the ancestors. Love

02:58:32 Michele Beeksma: I can't do breakout rooms from my iPad. I can make someone a co host and then they could assign people. Michaa is also a co host

03:05:40 CarrieD Aspinwall Urban LL: Good work folks, I gotta run Sally if you want to gather us LL at some point

03:05:51 CarrieD Aspinwall Urban LL: LMK

03:14:18 wayne dupuis: is there currently a break?

03:59:27 Rita Evans Grand Portage: TY good story

04:01:19 wayne dupuis: miigwech for that story Michaa, It is good to tell them frequently.

04:05:45 Tashina Perry~Sandy Lake: Sandy Lake is going to need a recap

04:05:55 Jean Skinaway-Lawrence: Table

04:06:10 Tashina Perry~Sandy Lake: I just woke up, sorry! I'll agree with Jean then.

04:08:00 Jean Skinaway-Lawrence: Sandy Lake yes abolish

04:09:56 Rita Evans Grand Portage: 186 / 7 equals \$26,5 GP need the money we co hosted with Sandy because they had money and we did no. Forget the booklet in my opinion

04:10:48 Rita Evans Grand Portage: nope the Motion made by Robert was to divide between delegations

04:11:06 Rita Evans Grand Portage: divide

04:11:25 Rita Evans Grand Portage: ALL 7 Delegations

04:12:32 BF Tracey: Mass social media to reach youth more

04:12:40 wayne dupuis: we could put it online and provide to people requesting a copy.

04:12:54 Jean Skinaway-Lawrence: Sandy Lake has no access to funds. Who was designated this.

04:14:25 Jean Skinaway-Lawrence: Sandy Lake is not East Lake/Rice Lake

04:16:46 Jean Skinaway-Lawrence: I propose a dedicated website

04:19:23 Marcie McIntire: how about a podcast?

04:20:52 Tammy Skinaway: Maybe purchase a vehicle like a traveling library and have knowledgeable people travel around with the power point and other educational materials.

04:21:03 BF Tracey: One in the cities for all MN Chippewa tribes,  
One in the Duluth, one in Moorhead-park rapids

04:23:39 wayne dupuis: I think the most effective use of the money would be a website that puts out information. Put up flyers with a QR code that brings them to the site. A podcast is a good idea, probably Utube channel too.

04:25:52 Tashina Perry~Sandy Lake: Reacted to "I think the most eff..." with 👍

04:26:13 Rita Evans Grand Portage: FDL has a good site

04:26:46 Theresa: Website cost - roughly \$50 per month plus the time for maintenance

04:28:14 Rita Evans Grand Portage: I oppose write a budget splitting the money

04:29:03 Rita Evans Grand Portage: they won't in PORTAGE just divide the mula! geeze

04:31:12 FDL Cheryl Edwards: one meeting per district, Metro and Duluth.

04:32:52 Rita Evans Grand Portage: who is paying for that your RBC

04:36:35 Rita Evans Grand Portage: 26,5 for each reservation we know how to do education

04:36:44 Theresa: Estimated cost: + \$125 to \$200 per person, per day for three meals and two snacks

04:37:31 Theresa: My apologies ... I was exploring and did not mean for that to go to the chat

04:40:20 FDL Cheryl Edwards: 20 meetings / \$ ???

04:40:39 Rita Evans Grand Portage: Reacted to "I think the most e..." with 👍

04:41:51 FDL Cheryl Edwards: 20 meetings/ \$4000 per meeting = \$80,000

04:42:19 Jean Skinaway-Lawrence: This is only an amount that is in addition to what your bands give you right?

04:42:34 Rita Evans Grand Portage: Reacted to "This is only an am..." with 👍

04:42:56 BF Tracey: White Earth has State of Band April 27th

04:43:05 Rita Evans Grand Portage: Not Grand Portage we are not connected to RTC

04:44:24 Rita Evans Grand Portage: GP uses ZOOM

04:44:29 FDL Cheryl Edwards: \$20,000 supplies/materials and \$4000 per meeting, 20 meetings

04:45:03 Rita Evans Grand Portage: one in our delegation pay for zoom out of her pocket

04:46:13 Jean Skinaway-Lawrence: I'd like to see a spreadsheet with the numbers crunched.

04:47:09 FDL Cheryl Edwards: Option A, Option B, Option C

04:48:54 Tashina Perry~Sandy Lake: Of course they are lol they always have

04:49:53 Rita Evans Grand Portage: what is the web address?

04:50:22 Rita Evans Grand Portage: 1855 treaty authority

04:52:56 BF Tracey: There is also 1854 treaty authority.org

04:58:49 Jean Skinaway-Lawrence: <https://www.1855treatyauthority.org>

05:02:25 Jean Skinaway-Lawrence: Agree with the website because it reaches everyone that interacts

05:02:49 Jean Skinaway-Lawrence: Marketing and social media can spread that word

05:03:11 Tashina Perry~Sandy Lake: Reacted to "Marketing and social..." with 👍

05:06:45 Amanda Skinaway: Reacted to "Marketing and social..." with 👍

05:14:45 Rita Evans Grand Portage: 21 in person meetings I vote NO

05:16:18 Marcie McIntire: the average cost of website

05:17:32 Marcie McIntire: average cost single page website \$6550.00

05:20:48 Tashina Perry~Sandy Lake: I agree with Wayne

05:21:42 Marcie McIntire: Don't the reservations have IT depts.?

05:26:25 BF Tracey: There are two social media volunteers here now

05:32:49 Marcie McIntire: the MUID group has become just like the councils, why would they try to ape the councils? Amazing!

05:36:01 Marcie McIntire: we can't even get the delegates to the meetings

05:41:40 Jean Skinaway-Lawrence: There is still a no. Sandy Lake is still a no

05:41:54 Tammy Skinaway: For future reference... For healing. miigwech 🌸

05:53:52 Tashina Perry~Sandy Lake: One good thing about these zoom meetings is that nobody can interrupt and everyone respects one another and is given the chance to raise their hand. IN person meetings take a lot out of everyone and can get out of hand.

05:57:23 Jean Skinaway-Lawrence: Sandy Lake will change to abstain

05:58:54 Rita Evans Grand Portage: Sandy Lake 26.00K should be yours to hold community meetings

06:05:14 Jean Skinaway-Lawrence: That would be nice but let's see if that happens

06:05:37 Rita Evans Grand Portage: they do not even respond to my voice!!!!

06:07:18 Tashina Perry~Sandy Lake: Rita, I like the things you have to say. I was busy making my burger. We're used to being broke, passed up and funds being withheld from us.

06:08:19 Rita Evans Grand Portage: TP thanks but that does not help what will be written in the proposal.

06:09:11 Jean Skinaway-Lawrence: Can we get these documents sent via email? Or where do we find this?

06:09:39 Theresa: Will it be available on the Constitution reform web page?

06:09:42 Tashina Perry~Sandy Lake: What proposal is this? for the 93,500?

06:09:54 Rita Evans Grand Portage: 186K

06:10:08 Rita Evans Grand Portage: the church money from the TEC

06:11:37 FDL Cheryl Edwards: It will not be split. The documents are not yet written if you're talking about the proposal.

06:12:03 @nG3L W3D1: can we use "reservations" instead of "bands"? My bands are located on more than one reservation....

06:12:26 FDL Cheryl Edwards: there is much controversy about names.

06:12:33 Tashina Perry~Sandy Lake: Reacted to "there is much contro..." with 👍

06:13:14 Rita Evans Grand Portage: Yes I am referring to that. And yes I totally disagree. I know a budget and proposal can be done to accomodate each reservation

06:13:45 FDL Cheryl Edwards: That is not what we just agreed upon.

06:16:04 Rita Evans Grand Portage: I tried to speak was not replied to. I said 15 times. I still say each rez it should be split the TEC did not say not to split! But who knows the TEC might listen to me.

06:17:21 Rita Evans Grand Portage: Meaning they may not accept this proposal the TEC

06:19:02 Rita Evans Grand Portage: sorry about talking about icky junia

06:21:32 FDL Cheryl Edwards: That discussion needed to come from your entire delegate group. It did not, which is why it wasn't discussed.

06:22:08 Rita Evans Grand Portage: I am one delegate! I have a right to a voice!

06:22:20 FDL Cheryl Edwards: yes, you do.

06:44:53 FDL Cheryl Edwards: June meeting will be first Friday. June 2, 2023