

AGENDA and MINUTES
MCT CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM DRAFTING COMMITTEE

Date: 7/5/22

Time: 6 PM

Facilitator: Carol Janick

PRESENT: John L, Marcie M., Michaa, A.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Treaty Research -On Hold

NEW BUSINESS

1. The first thing that was addressed is how the government structure is going to be set up. We need to have more details that just that there will be an Alliance as oversight and that each Band will have its own Constitution.
2. The attached Alliance document was distributed as a next step discussion on the roles and responsibilities of councils, their structure, and qualifications, the need for definitions, and concerns that the different councils might have related to the specific group they represent.
 - a. A suggestion was that there should be more representation on the oversight process. (i.e. 64 reps on Grand Delegation or General Assembly).
 - b. There was a discussion about how the MCT organization views these proposed changes.
 - c. There was discussion on Separation of Powers, and equal balance of Governing Bodies.
 - d. John L. talked about how Michigan tribes are set up (i.e. Traditional versus Constitution; Separation of Powers versus no separation of powers).
3. The group acknowledged that there should be more than just a few bands represented on the drafting committee, but Michaa also noted that the work will get done by the dedicated few that consistently attend the meetings. Marcie M. provided the group with some history on several aspects of the Constitutional Reform process.
4. The group suggested that there should be an understanding of not only Alliances but also the United Nations and the US Constitution structure.

Action: At the 7/15/22 Delegates Convention, John L. will discuss the Alliance Document, and Michaa A. will present the attached document.

NEXT MEETING DATE: 7/19/22

FACILITATOR: Carol Janick

Declaration of Alliance-Next Step

Umbrella Document to Keep the Reservations together
Override, supersede and repeal MCT Constitution and Bylaws

Structure/Power: General Assembly

Consists of 6 citizens from each member Reservation

General Assembly – how do we define it ?

Delineated Powers of the General Assembly as noted in Article X of Alliance (which shall be enacted within 6 months of Ratification).

- The power to establish and maintain alliances is an element of inherent sovereignty.
- The power to encourage everyone to respect each other as one. This power will unite all Ojibwe Anishinaabeg Nations and will be a basis for survival as a group.
- Preserve and defend the policies of the Declaration of the Alliance of Ojibwe Anishinaabeg and the Constitutions.
- Establish and maintain a tribal government oversight function including but not limited to the enactments of Tribal law; implementation of all programs; services provided to Tribal citizens; of the Tribe's Strategic Plan to ensure the continued growth and economic security for the next Seven Generations.
- Develop criteria for admission of additional Reservations admitted into the Alliance under Article VII Section 2.
- In accordance with Article XI-Delineate the election process of councils in an Election Ordinance. Procedure for General Assembly establishing a Tribal Court of Appeals?
- Delineate the role and responsibility of the Councils.

- In accordance with Article X Sec. 2-Delineate the role and procedures of the temporary as-hoc committees.

Continue to Identify those Treaties that preserved our original rights.

COUNCIL STRUCTURE, EXPECTATIONS, QUALIFICATIONS

Council members should be enrolled citizens in good standing.

Serving on tribal councils requires that citizens have a thorough understanding of:

- their roles and responsibilities;
- laws (constitution, ordinances, codes) that pertain to the tribe
- a basic understanding of the judicial system
- knowledge of the tribal constitution, tribal ordinances, and basics of tribal governance.
- fundamentals of finance and accounting
- rules of their funding agencies
- the legislative processes
- the doctrines of tribal sovereignty and how to protect the tribe's sovereignty.
- constitutional principles, tribal governance, trust doctrines, federal appropriations laws

Council Term:

Citizens serve a _____year renewable term, with a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Council Meetings:

Councils meet at least _____times annually.

Format of meetings will include discussion and offers of advice on issues that affect the tribal citizens. Any of the individual Councils and individual citizens may provide item recommendations as needed.

Overall goals for Tribal Councils

1. Have a vision and insight into the future.
2. Oversight of the Tribal Governing bodies.
3. Encourage efforts made by the communities to safeguard natural resources and protect the environment from being exploited for their natural resources for economic reasons.
4. Advocate for the needs and concerns of the citizens of your council group that will promote and protect the health, welfare, and individual rights of our citizens.
5. Emphasis on the traditional way of teaching and thinking.
6. Emphasis on physical and spiritual health.
7. Protect our unique culture and identity by preserving our culture and traditions including but not limited to our language, arts and crafts, burial, and archeological sites.
8. Promote self-government and ensure the political integrity of the Tribe.
9. Foster economic development.

Elder Council

Elders' Needs, General Welfare and Safety Issues:

Access to Services

- Life Alert Systems
- Health Care
- Caregivers
- The need for in-home long-term services and support to assist with Activities of Daily Living
- Assisted Living
- End of Life-Hospice
- Transportation
- Protection against abuse, fraud, and neglect
- Programs to address elders suffering from Alzheimer's disease or dementia.
- Healthy living programs through health education
- Access to nutritious food
- Housing
- Socialization to remain active and independent for as long as possible.
- Address income Disparities: access to federal and state programs for which they are eligible, such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid

Resources:

National Resource Center on Native American Aging (NRCNAA)

The National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA)

US Administration on Aging, outlined in Title VI of the Older Americans Act (OAA). This grant is available to the 573 federally recognized American Indian tribes.

Women Council

Women's Needs, General Welfare, and Safety Issues:

- Impoverishment and Unemployment
- Violence against Women
- Educational Opportunities
- Access to Mental Health Care
- Access to programs for substance abuse
- Reproductive health care needs

- Address the issues related to those women who are the main providers in families.
- Promote programs for good child-rearing and child care.
- Prevention programs related to violence and domestic abuse
- Promote awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women through media outlets, social media, political campaigns, and various ways individuals can get involved.

Resources:

Men Council

Men's Needs, General Welfare, and Safety Issues:

- Access to Mental Health Care
- Access to Programs for substance abuse
- Promote awareness that males can be the victims of domestic abuse and therefore are in need of access to programs that address this issue.
- Access to care that addresses high instances of associated health issues such as heart disease and cancer.
- List other issues related to Native men

Resources:

Youth Council

Needs, General Welfare, and Safety Issues:

- Promote Native American-focused programming and education (training, curriculum, etc.)
- Facilitate learning and access to sustainable resources
- Protections against Violence against Children
- Access to education on Drug-Free life
- Access to Programs for substance abuse

- Strengthen access and promotion of physical activity, healthy nutrition, youth development
- Offer certification in CPR and First Aid
- Promote cultural connections
- Mentor Program on Serving Community members including, but not limited to the Veterans, Elderly, Food Pantry, Gardens, and sustainable food sources.
- Address younger children's concerns
- Knowledge of resources available to Youth
- Job preference laws
- Scholarships
- Youth council groups across the nation
- Career coaching and mentoring, resume building and
- Work experience and classroom work training skills to be more prepared and competitive in the workforce; connecting the youth with training that would address our labor market shortages
- Programs that strengthen academic, occupational, and literacy skills;
- Promote money management skills.

Resources:

National Indian Youth Council (NIYC) [Home - National Indian Youth Council, Inc. \(niyc-alb.com\)](http://niyc-alb.com) and National Indian Youth Council, Inc. on Facebook.

Off-Reservation Citizen Councils

Citizen Needs, General Welfare, and Safety Issues:

- Homeless
- Unity
- Inclusion

Resources:

INDIVIDUAL BANDS

1. Shall enact policies, procedures, and laws in conformance with the Declaration of Alliance.
2. Separate Band Constitutions, which in accordance with Article X Sec. 1- delineate, the selection process of the General Assembly, in the individual Band constitutions.
3. Draft Ordinances to correspond to Articles of the Constitution that require additional procedures.

Government Structure

Powerpoint: Anishinaabe Nation Presentation 11/19/21.

White Earth Nation Proposed Government

Two models can be viewed at: fdl.constitutionalreform.org

BEGINNING LIST OF DEFINITIONS:

General Assembly-

Grand Council consists of made of 6 delegates from each reservation to replace the Secretary of the Interior's oversight responsibility of our TEC and RBC.

Grand Community Council consists of two citizens from each band to fill the positions on the five councils; the On Reservation Elder, Women, Men, Youth Councils, and the Off-Reservation Council.

Tribal Community Council consists of 2 representatives from each of the Bands, who would provide oversight of the RBC and TEC.

Tribal Executive Committee-

Reservation Business Committee-

Tribal Court System- Trial and Appellate

In Good Standing-

The status of a person who is known to be of good character and to be trustworthy. The person has not received any formal discipline (written reprimand, suspension, involuntary demotion, or formal removal from a tribal position or job) and is not the subject of an investigation into allegations of misconduct, or has pending discipline, including dismissal. The person has not been convicted of any felonies or crimes of fraud, theft, or falsehoods.