

MCT CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM DRAFTING COMMITTEE

Date: 5/7/24 Time: 6 PM

Facilitator: Carol J.

Present: Raymond B., Julie H-C., Sally F., Gerald W., Jean Skinaway

NEW BUSINESS

1. We discussed the article in the Fond du Lac newspaper on May 1, 2024.
2. Carol acknowledged getting an article from Raymond B. on Plenary Powers and an Article from Marcie M. on Indigenous Identity Fraud. She is in the process of reading them.
3. **Definitions for Alliance document-ATTACHMENT 1.**
 - We need to find the English language for Gizhigoon. Carol will send a message to Michaa A. to see if he or his father knows what it means.
 - Gerald W. said Gizhigoon means the roundness of the sky...look up at the big round sky during a celebration.
4. **Bridging the gap between the Local Constitutions and the reconstructed MCT.**
 - Carol proposed that the "Council of Representatives" fill the gap, similar to the Grand Council.
 - Gerald suggested that a youth and an elder be part of the representatives and that there be an odd number of representatives.
 - Sally F. discussed the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe's constitution, its significance, and the use of Local Indian Councils.
 - Discussion occurred about a more transparent and inclusive governance system and transparency in decision-making with a 2/3 vote requirement.
5. **Addition of other Tribes to the Alliance**
 - We need a simple application form. The tribe requesting admission must state their goals or purpose for joining the Alliance. We need to develop a process for approval.
 - Alliance expansion plans were discussed, including an application process. Sally F. suggested a potential nominal fee for applying and that we become a regional alliance.
 - Carol J. provided the following history and ideas:
 - Historically, Alliances between tribes played a crucial role in maintaining peace and stability. Marriages were used between tribes to secure alliances and achieve peace and harmony between the two communities.

- Alliances show what we have in common and must defend together our responsibility towards each other and creation itself.
- Developing Alliances with other tribal communities can provide numerous benefits, including increased cultural understanding, enhanced capacity building, and preservation of resources.
- Modern-day Alliances provide:
 - Through strength in numbers, increased activism for Indigenous rights, self-determination, self-governance, and sustainable development will support our continued existence and the survival of our culture and traditions.
 - Working together, they can develop solutions that meet the unique needs of each community.
 - Collaborative partnerships provide benefits such as increased cultural understanding and access to new resources.
 - Reliance on each other for mutual support.
 - Cooperation and maintaining a unified front in the face of potential threats or disputes.
 - Reassert the rights of Indigenous peoples over their cultural heritage.
 - Share knowledge, educate and learn, address misinterpretations of the past, and share cultural and traditional knowledge with the next generations.
 - Join together and confront common enemies.
 - With the support of common ecological values, protect the environment from outside corporations.
 - Question government regulations.
 - Protect sacred burial sites and support cultural preservation.
 - Alliance members support each other in, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Legislative change
 - Litigation and legal powers
 - Rights of Nature
 - Use Treaty rights as empowerment to stop plans and projects that threaten but are not limited to the following:
 - wild rice beds
 - fishing
 - logging
 - mining
 - damming
 - transmission lines
 - bombing ranges
 - low-level flights,
 - oil pipelines
 - burial sites
 - coal and oil ports

- water pumping
 - We are allying with tribes to address common issues.
 - Alliance may address cultural understanding, resource preservation, and indigenous rights and a goal to support common legal issues and grow the economy in the region.
6. **Tribal rights, Disputes, and Fear of Retaliation.**
- Raymond B. expresses frustration with RBC's control over individual rights to create their businesses. For example, the tribal government opened a dispensary for THC, but a local member got raided for opening a little shop.
 - Tribal members are fearful of retaliation.
7. **Introduction to Traditions and Custom Dispute Resolution-Attachment 2.**
- Carol included information about Public Law 280 because it relates to the criminal and civil jurisdiction issues and would impact using a Restorative Justice approach to handle problems.
 - Information included about Peacemaking, a form of justice that focuses on healing and reparation.
 - Carol suggested that the drafting committee members view the Peacemaking Program of the Navajo Nation.
 - A suggestion was that traditional customs and dispute resolution systems outside of the court system could address issues related to job loss and housing disputes. Carol noted that it would include these issues.
8. **Removing the Secretary of Interior from Article XII**
- We discussed removing the Secretary of Interior from decision-making on tribal constitution amendments.
 - Discussions included removing an elected official through a special meeting and adding duties to district representatives.
 - The committee drafted a code of conduct and ethics for tribal elected officials and other employees.
9. **Tribal leadership, elections, Bush Grant, and media coverage.**
- The committee advocates for spreading the word about the Secretarial election through various media platforms.
 - Delegation seeks clarity on Bush Foundation grant status.
 - Discuss the need to inform the public about the recall process and gather signatures for a petition.
10. **Government control over land and resources.**
- We discussed potential government surveillance and the importance of privacy.
 - The suggestion is to "clean house" in the BIA and stop unelected bureaucrats from controlling everything.
11. **POWERPOINT presentation**
- Carol shared the PowerPoint for use in educational sessions.
12. **Amendment to Alliance.**
- Add the following statement of agreement or something similar:

Agreement:

The Maamawiino Anishinabeg Nation (aka Chippewa) Alliance is an agreement between Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and White Earth Bands that WE ARE ALL ANISHINAABEG TOGETHER standing and working for the common goals and shared objective, to strengthen our Policial Status, and uniqueness, and to protect our Sovereignty, Self-Determination, Rights of Nature, Right of Citizens, Children, Preservation of Tradition, Culture, Language and Treaties Rights for generations to come.

Next meeting: 5/14/24 at 6 PM