

## **Meeting Summary for MCT Convention Meeting**

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### **Next steps**

Here are the key action items from the meeting:

All delegates to review the Bush Foundation grant document and provide comments.

Cheryl to email the Bush Foundation grant document to all delegates.

Finance Committee to consider rewriting two sections of the Bush Foundation grant application to address reviewer questions.

All bands to discuss potential fiscal agent options for the Bush Foundation grant.

All delegates to prepare a 5-minute report on their band's successes and challenges for the upcoming TEC meeting on October 23rd.

All delegates to keep their TEC meeting reports to approximately one page.

Each band to develop their own new delegate orientation process.

Education Committee to consider drafting a basic timeline of the constitutional reform process for new delegates.

All delegates to review the draft declaration statement before the next meeting.

Drafting Committee to continue refining the blended version of the declaration statement.

### **Summary**

#### **Book Project and Bush Foundation Grant Discussion**

Billy Blackwell discussed a book project containing elders' stories, and there was a request information about its availability. The group expressed gratitude and sought spiritual strength.

Attendees from various locations joined. Michele led a discussion about revising and resubmitting the Bush Foundation Grant. The group decided to review and potentially resubmit the grant sections the Bush Foundation questioned. They discussed having MCT serve as the fiscal agent, as Cissy clarified the ongoing Bush Grant requires one.

#### **Bush Grant Application, Fiscal Agents, and Brodeen's Involvement**

Cheryl Edwards (FDL) discussed the Bush Grant application process and the need for more details to justify funding. The team agreed to review the application before the next meeting and discuss securing this grant to educate constituents. They discussed potential fiscal agents, with a preference for a 1854 Treaty Authority. The group shared positive feedback from a

recent meeting with Phil Brodeen and they agreed to invite him to the drafting committee. Concerns were raised about Phil Brodeen's involvement due to his affiliation with the MCT. The team plans to clarify the definition of "executive session" and ensure delegate participation in decision-making processes.

### **Discussing Growth, Transparency, and Community Involvement**

The group discussed the organization's growth and its role in governmental functions, emphasizing the importance of transparency and accountability. The group expressed frustration with the TEC's lack of transparency regarding spending decisions and the need for education. The group also highlighted the importance of community involvement in governance.

### **Grand Council's Oversight and Alliance Structure**

Michele Beeksma presented a visual representation of the Grand Grant Council's oversight over the Alliance and its councils. The team clarified the hierarchy, with the Grand Council having oversight over the Alliance and councils, but not the Band Councils. The importance of the Alliance document, outlining citizens' rights and government structure, was emphasized. Carol Janick (FDL) expressed her desire to contribute, despite technical difficulties, and presented a visual representation of the alliance's structure, emphasizing separation of powers and the Grand Council's liaison role. She discussed the need for a separate governing body and the importance of considering the rights of nature, people, and children together in the document.

### **Exploring Constitutional Reform and Governance Roles**

Carol (FDL), Michele (GP), and Marcie (GP) discussed the potential for constitutional reform, specifically the concept of separation of powers. They expressed concerns about the financial readiness to implement such changes and the need for a transition period. The group agreed on the importance of thinking through the implications of these changes, including the removal of the Secretary of the Interior. They also discussed the roles of the alliance, local constitutions,

and grand councils, with a focus on the need for policy makers, law interpreters, and administrators within the local governance structure. There was confusion about the role and authority of the Grand Council during the transition period and after tribes adopt their own constitutions. The group agreed to clarify the Grand Council's oversight responsibilities and enforcement mechanisms for the Alliance document.

### **Establishing Local Constitutions and Oversight Bodies**

Carol emphasized drafting separate local constitutions to define roles within each band. The Alliance is intended to replace the MCT Constitution, with its structure reconstructed by the people. A council or committee will oversee MCT's activities for transparency and accountability. The council or committee will serve as an interim oversight body until a new structure is established, ensuring consistency with the Alliance's philosophy. It will comprise representatives from all bands and can remove and replace members if needed. The Grand Council will provide oversight during the transition to the new system and enforce the Alliance's principles, addressing concerns over lack of oversight.

### **Addressing Alliance Governance and Sovereignty Concerns**

The meeting focused on concerns about the structure of the alliance, particularly regarding tribal sovereignty and the potential for one nation to make decisions on behalf of another. MLB expressed concerns about the current governance structure and the need for changes to protect and preserve tribal sovereignty. The Sandy Lake issue was discussed, with MLB clarifying it was an internal matter. The importance of prioritizing issues and deciding whether to work on them internally or with another tribe was emphasized. The conversation ended with a discussion about the unclear status of the Alliance document and the need for a new constitution, with the group advocating for the development of their own laws and governance.

## **Uncertainty and Individual Band Reports**

Michele discussed a directive from the TEC President requesting separate band reports. Her council assumed it was settled, but she was uncertain about the topic. Carol suggested a combined report, but the group said bands would submit them individually. The conversation ended without consensus on report format. The team agreed to prepare individual reports for the TEC meeting. MLB proposed each delegation present 5-minute reports on successes, challenges, roles, enrollments, the Secretary of Interior, MCT, the Alliance, and constitutions. Michele emphasized conciseness with a one-page approach. The TEC meeting date changed to the 23rd, requiring progress reports. GP Sandra stressed highlighting positives and constructive progress.

## **Upcoming Review of Declaration Statement, and Delegate Orientation**

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The meeting discussed the upcoming October 21st review, with a suggestion to make it a recommendation rather than an approval process. Birdie was tasked with initiating a conversation about the recently introduced declaration statement to clarify the Alliance's purpose and objectives. The drafting committee will draft a statement, which will be reviewed.

The idea of a new delegate orientation was proposed, including creating a basic timeline to help new delegates understand the group's progress and objectives. A code of conduct for delegates was also discussed.