

MCT Constitution Reform Convention Minutes August 16, 2024 Hosted By FDL Delegates at Black Bear Casino and on Zoom

IN-PERSON ATTENDEES: Emily Annette WE; Avis Poupart LL; Mike Swan WE; Wayne Dupuis FDL; Cheryl Edwards FDL; Sybil Gund WE; Thomas Gund BF; Michele Hakala-Beeksma GP; Sally Fineday LL; Danielle Smith MLB; Julie Lintgen FDL; Marcie McIntire GP; Birdie Roberts MLBO; Jolyn Donnell WE; Patti Straub WE; Louis Johannsen WE; Tashina Perry SL; Bob Shimek WE; Clair Gonzales LL; Angel Stevens WE; Jean Skinaway SL; Mike Davis MLB; Joyce Snekophe; Missy Plemel WE, Mike Davis MLBO

ZOOM ATTENDEES: Raymond Bellcourt WE; Sandra Borden GP; Mykee Brown; Nanci Glenstone; Sherelle Graves, Sherelle; Carol Janick FDL; Fire Tablet; Rose Robinson; Julie Hernandez-Corado MLB; Cissy Otis, Cissy FDL; Tabath's I-Phone; Michelle Palomaki ML

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

- Welcome Wayne Dupuis
- Invocation, Ricky Defoe

DELEGATION ROLL CALL

- Bois Forte was not present at the roll call but was present shortly after that.
- Fond du Lac, Mille Lacs, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, White Earth and Sandy Lake present
- Cheryl E. introduced FDL's new Delegate, Cissy Otis.
- Patty S. introduced WE's new delegate, Mike Swan.

HOUSEKEEPING/REMINDERS/ PROCESS (SEE PAGE 2 OF THE AGENDA)

Before editing the Alliance Document, Mike Swan said he had last attended a constitutional reform meeting ten years ago. He had some questions.

Question #1 "Why do we have an Alliance, and what is the idea of it?"

- Sally F. stated that the MCT Constitution is not a constitution but a Business Document. All bands will write constitutions that meet the needs of their people. She suggested that each Band could "get away" from the Alliance. It is the choice of the separate bands if they wish to be a part of the Alliance. She stated that other Ojibwe tribes could also join the Alliance.

Question # 2: The Alliance does not address governing, gaming, tribal courts, etc., or is this done at the reservation level?

- Sally F. stated that we are the people, and there would be no land base, sovereignty, government, or other things such as gaming. For this reason, we are writing our constitution.

Question #3 Where in the Alliance are the checks and balances of the government, separation of power, and courts?

- Cheryl E. responded that the Alliance replaces the MCT Constitution but not as a constitution. It is an alliance. Each Band will write their constitutions. The governing

bodies were removed from the Alliance when we started to write our local constitutions; we will write the protections into it.

- Carol J. noted that before she became the Drafting Committee Facilitator, the delegation agreed that an Alliance and local constitutions would replace the MCT Constitution. That is what the committee focused on. Initially, a suggested governing body structure was in the Alliance. An Alliance is an agreement to work together on common interests. It has some history to start with and then reflects the principles, values and beliefs we function under. The Alliance identifies our rights as citizens, children, and the rights of nature. We have rights under Treaties, and we have Sovereignty rights. The concept of separation of power, courts, and governing bodies are components of the local constitutions, unlike the current MCT Constitution, under which TEC determines power, writes documents, and implements them.

Alliance Drafting Editing

IZHITWAAWIN X- CIVIL RIGHTS

- Carol J. noted that this section was more appropriate for the local constitutions. It was a leftover of the governing body articles taken out previously. After a discussion, the delegation agreed to place civil rights in the local constitutions.
- Sandra B. suggested that the sections deleted from the Alliance should be placed in a separate document, a "parking lot," for the bands to refer to when writing their local constitutions.
- Carol J. agreed to prepare this document and send it to the delegation.

IZHITWAAWIN XI- RIGHTS OF CITIZENS

- Carol J. summarized how the committee wrote this section and how it changed over time. The first draft included a summary of the UNDRIP citizens' rights categories. A subsequent draft included the 46 Articles of UNDRIP in its entire language. After some delegates felt this made the Alliance document too long, the next draft contained a condensed edited version of each Article. After thorough consideration of the UNDRIP Articles, the drafting Committee decided to put the complete language of each UNDRIP Article in the Alliance, so when we reference the UNDRIP Articles, we are using the same language as every other Indigenous group in the world, which will less confusion. UNDRIP is what we base our values and principles on. The US government acknowledged and endorsed UNDRIP and is obliged to meet those rights, which they are not doing. We should expect the US government to address their obligations to these rights through every possible means. Alliance
- Mike S. suggested placing the civil rights section of the Alliance in a separate Bill of Rights, including civil rights, citizens' and children's rights.
- Carol J. noted that the Alliance is not a Bill of Rights. It is a statement of our rights as Indigenous people. The Drafting Committee recommended that each local constitution have a statement that the Band supports the Alliance document and thereby supports UNDRIP. These rights reflect more of our human rights, contain almost all areas of our existence, and other areas such as survival, decision-making, preserving our history and artifacts,
- Michele B. The UNDRIP Articles are not our own words. It would not be appropriate to edit them. Each Band would incorporate them and recognize them as valid ethical principles under which to operate. If we leave it for the Bands, they may not include UNDRIP or an edited version. There is value in leaving them in the Alliance. If we want these values across

- Anishinaabeg Country, they are better referenced in the Alliance. Other bands coming into the Alliance will see these UNDRIP rights and realize they must also recognize them.
- Bobby, a tribal member visitor from WE, stated that UNDRIP is not enforceable. He asked if there would be a mechanism for oversight and implementation.
 - Sally F. reported that LL would endorse UNDRIP in their constitution, stating we are indigenous to Mother Earth.
 - Michelle B. stated that the Alliance would not have the oversight; the oversight would be in the constitutions.
 - Carol J. noted that because the US government has not complied with UNDRIP, many other international Indigenous groups have succeeded in court cases and in making government/legislative changes. We must reference UNDRIP wherever possible, such as in grant writing, legislative changes, and legal arguments. By doing so, we can progress over generations as many other International Indigenous groups have.
 - Mike S. thinks a separate Bill of Rights Document should address civil rights, citizen rights, and nature.
 - Wayne D. explained that although the Drafting Committee meets weekly, there is no reason why others can't attend or listen in. Wayne asked Carol J. to talk about the rights of nature.
 - Carol J. Stated that the Alliance is an Umbrella Document that serves as a framework and identifies our values, principles, and beliefs for our people. The Alliance does not include everything. The Alliance has a section on the Rights of Nature, but each Band can take the concepts and expand on them at the Band level. A good example is when White Earth adopted a Resolution recognizing the "Rights of Manoomin" (wild rice).

IZHITWAAWIN XIV- RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

- Carol J. noted that children's rights are a separate section because only a few areas in UNDRIP mention children. Marcie M. of the Drafting Committee emphasized that children are our future, and we must address their unique needs.
- Sally F. stated that LL Secretary/Treasurer Lenny Finday is now a commissioner with the National Congress of American Indians, overseeing the Indian Child Welfare Act. We don't have protections in our MCT Constitutions. We are considering the highest Court in the land won't be the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe; it will be the National Congress of American Indians, establishing the highest Court in the land.
- Birdie R. found the last two sentences a little ambiguous. The right to social What? Specific protection for children in the juvenile justice system needs an explanation. What protections?
- Cheryl suggested socialization.
- Wayne D. suggested social well-being.
- Birdie R. All children should have the right to "community inclusion."
- Patty S. noted that the first two sentences are enough. We cannot enforce all other things, such as clean water.
- Carol J. said the committee has not included language in this document, so the Bands should enforce it. The language reflects our values for our children and our belief in what is right for them. We should try to emphasize them as goals. Carol likes "community inclusion" language.
- Julie L. noted that she is leaning toward social well-being, which means "building and maintaining healthy relationships, having meaningful, full, authentic interactions with others, and having a sense of belonging while valuing diversity."

- Wayne D. stated that he agrees that the document means to reflect values, traditions, and beliefs, and it is important that we place them in the document. The Alliance gives guidance to future generations as well.
- Cissy O. asked if we could use "good health?"
- Sally F. asked if we could include "air?"
- Mike S. noted that we don't have control over air, water, etc. It is the government agencies monitoring all this.
- Sally F. stated to include the language. It is an element of our being, part of our culture, to expect it.
- Michele B. stated that even when we were talking about the rights of nature, there are many things we can't control. We are living within and among another nation. Part of the document is writing for us how we want to live, but it is also a statement to the non-native world; these are our values and rights. We put them in there as we stated that we honor our treaties, the natural world has a right to exist, and we have the right to clean water and food. We can potentially use this in arguments and legal settings. We agree on this as a group, and we can bring it to the outside world. We don't have to control it, but it gives us something when we are arguing against issues.
- Mykee B. suggested adding, "include, but not limited to, clean water, clean food, air, and shelter after the second sentence in this section. Then, as a separate sentence, all children have the right to social well-being, community inclusion, and overall health, including health care security, mental health, and spiritual health.
- Mike S. agreed with that version and stated that we can't control things but recognize them.
- Wayne D. gave an example: If you are familiar with the PolyMet case at FDL, where they were not within our reservation boundaries but were upstream, The Court ruled that we have a say in what they do upstream from us. Putting things on paper gives a foot in the door!
- Mike S. agreed that the WE gets the winds from the west, from North Dakota, a coal-burning state. Recognizing the issues in another state leads to changes.
- Birdie R. suggested that we use "our children" throughout the section.

IZHITWAAWIN XII- SEPARATION OF POWER

- Michele B. that "another branch" should be defined.
- Carol J. stated that it should read "tribal branch."
- Cheryl E. suggested placing tribal before government in the two areas.
- Sally F. stated that we are not tribal people. We are a nation.
- Michele suggested making it our sovereign nation's tribal government.
- Cissy O. asked if the capitalization of the Local Constitution was correct.
- Sandra B. No, it should be lowercase.

IZHITWAAWIN XIII- GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

- Sally F. stated that if you don't want to be in the Alliance, you don't have to be. Our people of the 1934 document had to be.
- Michele B. noted that we do not have the power to make MCT formally. She suggested we delete the word "formally" and use the "also known as."

- Wayne D. asked if this section was acceptable, and WE said they were undecided.
- Sally F. said that without the people, there is no MCT. "If you don't want to be a member of MCT, you can disenroll from it and keep your capacity in Leech Lake."
- Cheryl E. felt that "formally" is appropriate because this passage puts MCT in the status of "formally."
- The decision was to use "known as."

IZHITWAAWIN XIV- AMENDMENTS TO THE ALLIANCE

- Cissy O. asked, "The majority of what, eligible, registered, those who voted?"
- Michele B. asked, "Where do the children fit in? They are citizens/members?"
- Cheryl E. stated, "Keep in mind that we will be writing the tribal voting ordinance."
- Michele B. said, "What if each Band has different criteria, age, or residency requirements?"
- Carol J. noted that the election is becoming confusing right now. All we have is an election ordinance for candidates' election. The TEC proposes an interim election ordinance for use after the removal of the Secretary of the Interior to replace the Secretarial election. Under that election, we can vote on adopting the Alliance and the local constitutions.
- Cheryl stated that the question today is whether the majority of adults age 18 voters are registered.
- Someone in the audience asked what about prisoners? Do they have rights?
- Cissy O. suggested using "eligible citizens as determined by each sovereign nation."
- Mike S. asked, "What would you need for a majority vote, 30% of the vote, 51% of adult voters?"
- Sandra B. said those who voted. We're not talking about 30%.
- Cheryl E. stated there would be no percentages.
- Michelle B. asked to use simple majority (50% + 1).
- Cheryl E. stated a simple majority of the voters.
- Deb T. noted that she and others had children before age 18, which would make her an adult, per se, and she would already be looking forward to the future. She indicated that there needed to be a consistent baseline.
- Cheryl E. said the Bands would determine the definition of age.
- Sandra B. stated there should be two sentences.

AGREEMENT OR STATEMENT

- Carol J. asked if we wanted a statement or if an endorsement in the local constitutions wasn't enough.
- Wayne D. said we didn't include Sandy Lake.
- Sandra B said the problem is that other nations may join; we don't speak to that. We can make a statement that these entities created the document.
- Jeans. S. stated, "We are participating. Why are we not included?"
- Sanda B. said she believes in inclusion.

- Sally F. stated, "We are not including Sandy Lake now. We want to get this document done, and then after the people voted in, we can include Sandy Lake and other tribes who want to be members. The Alliance is a membership to an organization, not a tribe we are talking about. We are talking about membership in an organization, which is what the MCT is. She noted that they are a tribe, the people and Ojibwe of Leech Lake, but not citizens of the Maamawiino; we are members.
- Sandra B. agreed with Sally and said. If her statement was true, there is no reason why Sandy Lake can't be a part of this document now.
- Sally F. said to omit the statement.
- Michele B. said she was OK with its removal, but we are making a big assumption that the Bands want to be in the Alliance. So, the issue of Sandy Lake or any. That other Bands wish to participate is a presumption.

RATIFICATION and ADOPTION

- Carol J stated that the ratification and adoption sections will be determined when we know if the voting process for the Alliance and the local constitutions is through a Secretarial Election or a Tribal election.

MEETING WITH ATTORNEY PHIL BRODEEN

- August 27, 2024, 9 AM-3 PM at the 1854 Treaty Authority in Duluth.
- Michele B. to send out a Zoom link.

TEC REPRESENTATION

- Cheryl E. started the discussion about having two (2) spokespersons at the TEC meetings. The current process is that each Band writes a report for inclusion in one report to the TEC, and the spokesperson(s) reads it at the TEC meeting.
- Some delegates, including the TEC President Mike L. from White Earth, had expressed the desire for each Band to provide their report at the TEC meetings. A final decision depends on whether the TEC will allocate sufficient time for multiple reports.
- Carol J. suggested that no matter what is decided, there should still be one or two point persons at the TEC.
- Patty S. said the delegation decided there would be "no more voting."
- Sally F. said that was not accurate. We decided on "no more consensus voting." If we get a majority vote, we will move on.
- Sally F. referenced the Process Visual attached to the agenda.
- Michelle B. will add the TEC representation discussion to next month's meeting agenda. The delegates must prepare for the next meeting to discuss and vote on the TEC representation options.

REMOVAL OF THE SECRETARIAL ELECTION-POWERPOINT (CAROL JANICK)

Slide One:

RESPONSE TO PHIL BRODEEN AND THE TEC RE: REMOVING THE SECRETARIAL ELECTION FROM THE MCT CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE XII-AMENDMENT

Slide Two:

**THE TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S PROPOSAL:
RESOLUTION XX-24 ARTICLE XII-AMENDMENT**

This Constitution may be revoked by Act of Congress or amended or revoked by a majority of the qualified voters of the Tribe voting at an election called for that purpose by the Secretary of Interior Tribal Executive Committee if at least 30 percent of those entitled to vote shall vote. The constitutional amendment process shall be governed by the uniform election ordinance. No amendment shall be effective until approved by the Secretary of the Interior. It shall be the duty of the Secretary Tribal Executive Committee to call an election when requested by two-thirds of the Tribal Executive Committee.

Slide Three:

CURRENT ISSUES TEC WANTS TO ADDRESS IN A FINAL SECRETARIAL ELECTION:

1. Article XII-AMENDMENT
2. 30% CRITERIA
3. REPLACEMENT OF THE SECRETARY IN ARTICLE XII, ONLY
4. WAIVERS

PRIOR TO THE ELECTION, TEC NEEDS:

1. A WRITTEN ordinance for Tribal ELECTIONS.
2. SAFEGUARDS TO REPLACE THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR'S OVERSIGHT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION, ORDINANCES, AND AMENDMENTS PUT FORWARD TO TRIBAL ELECTIONS.

FUTURE ISSUES TO BE DETERMINED THROUGH TRIBAL ELECTIONS

- ENROLLMENT
- ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS
- REVOKING THE CURRENT CONSTITUTION AND REPLACING IT WITH THE ALLIANCE AND LOCAL CONSTITUTIONS

Slide Four:

QUESTION #1 Who or what will be replacing the Secretarial Election Process?

Slide Five:

THE 2015 FINAL RULING BY THE BIA ANTICIPATED THAT WHEN THE SECRETARIAL ELECTION PROCESS IS REMOVED, ALL FUTURE ELECTIONS WOULD BE TRIBAL ELECTIONS.

ATTORNEY BRODEEN'S MEMO SAID THAT NEWLY DRAFTED TRIBAL LAW WOULD REPLACE THE SECRETARIAL ELECTION PROCESS WITH A UNIQUELY TRIBAL PROCESS.

THE DELEGATION NEEDS TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT THIS UNIQUE TRIBAL PROCESS WILL BE:

- A TRIBAL ELECTION PROCEDURE ORDINANCE/CODE
- THE PROCESS NEEDS TO IDENTIFY WHAT THE SAFEGUARDS ARE.

Slide Six:

SUGGESTIONS FOR WHAT SAFEGUARDS WILL REPLACE THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR-

- A GRAND COUNCIL (ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS) THROUGH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES SHALL APPROVE AMENDMENTS.
- COMMITTEE OR COUNCIL

Slide Seven:

QUESTION #2: Is the 30% requirement still relevant to the MCT?

YES, UNTIL THE LANGUAGE IS REMOVED.

THE 30% LANGUAGE IS A CRITERION IN THE FOLLOWING:

- MCT CONSTITUTION- (30% OF THOSE "ENTITLED TO VOTE" SHALL VOTE)
- CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS 25 CFR 81-SECRETARIAL ELECTION PROCEDURES- (30% OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS CAST THEIR BALLOTS).

Slide Eight:

THE MEANING OF "entitled to vote."

MCT CONSTITUTION ARTICLE XII-AMENDMENT

1934 IRA language: "majority vote of the adult members."

In 1935, the IRA language changed to 30 percent of adult members. A New Section 18a: "...vote of a majority... Provided that...the total vote cast shall not be less than 30 per centum of those entitled to vote. 25 USC § 5127 (June 15, 1935, ch. 260, § 1, 49 Stat. 378).

ENTITLED TO VOTE MEANT ALL ADULT MEMBERS

- The 1936 Constitution Article XII language was "... if at least 30 percent of those entitled to vote shall vote."
- This has also been the language of the 1964, 1972, and 2005 Constitutions.

25 CFR 81 SECRETARIAL ELECTION

In 1967, the Department amended the regulation to provide for registration and re-defined "entitled to vote" as "only voters who are duly registered." 32 Fed. Reg. 11,777, 11, 778(Aug. 16, 1967) (codified at 25 C.F.R. § 52.6(c)).

Slide Nine:

25 CFR 81 SECRETARIAL ELECTION In 1981, the Department again amended its regulations to provide that "Only registered voters will be entitled to vote, and all determinations of the sufficiency of the number of ballots cast will be based upon the number of registered voters." 46 Fed. Reg. 1,672 (January 7, 1981), codified at 25 CFR § 52.11.

Slide Ten:

Will the BIA have a different interpretation?

- The BIA has interpreted the 30% criteria differently than the MCT Constitution for the past 60 years, including the most recent election in 2005.
- The BIA has certified the results of all past elections, 1964, 1972, and 2005, even though the election results have never met the higher threshold of the MCT Constitution's 30% quorum of those "Entitled (all adult members) to vote."
- The TEC has not challenged that interpretation and has always accepted the certification of each election based on the BIA's interpretation.

Slide Eleven:

CUSTOMARY PRACTICE THIS UPCOMING SECRETARIAL ELECTION, THE TEC SHOULD CONSIDER USING "30% OF REGISTERED VOTERS, THAT HAS BEEN THE "CUSTOMARY PRACTICE" FOR THE LAST 60 YEARS.

Slide Twelve:

WHEN SHOULD THIS SECRETARIAL ELECTION OCCUR?

- When a Tribal Election Ordinance is written and approved by the citizens to replace the Secretarial Election procedures (25 CFR 81)
- When safeguards (i.e., Grand Council/Committee/Council) replace the Secretary functions:
- If the TEC does not follow Article XV-Manner of Review, they must revoke this Article and replace the required Secretarial approval of all Resolutions and Ordinances with another entity/safeguard (i.e., Grand Council/Committee/Council) to conduct those approvals.
- When the tribal citizens are fully informed about the following:
 - **The new Tribal Election Ordinance**
 - **What are the safeguards, and how do they function?**

Slide Thirteen:

WILL ANY WAIVERS BE NECESSARY?

25 CFR Part 1-Applicability of Rules of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

1.2 ... the Secretary retains the power to waive or make exceptions to his regulations as found in chapter I of title 25 CFR in all cases when permitted by law and the Secretary finds that such waiver or exception is in the best interest of the Indians.

Note: The meaning of "the Best Interest of Indians" has not been defined.

We should use waivers carefully and only when they are in the "Best Interest of the Indians."

Slide Fourteen:

PAST WAIVERS REQUESTED AND/OR WAIVERS THAT WERE USED:

- In-person voting and allowing same-day registration
- Polling places, on reservations polls
- Pre-registration of voters
- Mailout ballots, polling sites, and registration simultaneous with voting
- Ballot delivery deadline

- Allow mailout ballots to be returned "by the close of polls on the date of the Secretarial Election.
- Substitute of "Eligible Voters List for "Registered Voters List"

During the review of TEC's past waiver requests, there was one statement that related to the best interest, "to maximize voter participation."

Discussion:

- Mike P. asked about funding when we remove the Secretary from the election process.
- Michelle B. spoke about the off-reservation people feeling that they are on an uneven status, do not get involved, and do not feel informed.
- Marcie M. stated that off-reservation people determine the election results at Grand Portage. She said their urban area is Duluth. We don't know what's going on because our colonial, dictatorial government is secretive. We do not know what they are doing, how much money they have, or where it goes. They tell us a little. They only give us a third of the picture at the financial meetings.
- Wayne noted that the government imposed the constitution on us. We need to be vested in change. People are apathetic. We need demographics.
- Angel S. asked about the percentages of voters in each Band.
- Jean S. started a discussion about waivers and enhancing voter participation.
- The meeting with Phil Brodeen will only address Question One," Who or what will replace the Secretarial Election Process? If we bring up the other items in Phil's memo, that is another thing.
- Sally F. said the TEC was interested in the Grand Council structure.
- Carol J. reported that the drafting committee wrote the Grand Council as a sample governing body that provides oversight. If the Secretary is removed, we could amend the Grand Council document into some structure that can serve as oversight in this interim period. It could also be called a Committee or a Council.
- Carol will resend the Grand Council Document to the delegation. It is also on www.fdl.constitution.org.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **TEC Committee** – The delegation covered the TEC issues throughout today's meeting. Every delegation should have someone at the TEC sub-committee meeting.
- **Education Subcommittee-** Committee members to meet and review and approve curriculum materials. Cheryl will email the approved curriculum to all delegates before the next convention meeting.
- **Finance Committee:**
The Bush Foundation denied our Grant Application. The Bush Foundation staff met with the finance committee on July 30, 2024, to discuss improving the application. All delegates are to decide if they want to continue pursuing the Grant.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- Joyln D. asked regarding the election ordinance if any of the Bands had written minimum internal controls, which the ordinance directs them to do.

DECLARATION STATEMENT: DO WE WANT ONE?

- Birdie R. summarized a declaration statement as follows:
 - We declare what we are doing through a declaration statement. It is meant for the general public.
 - If you look at the Declaration of Independence, it indicates that We are having problems with this, this and this, and we are going to steal this, this and this, and we are going to create a government.
 - It is the same thing with the Alliance document. We in the room know what it is, but if you show it to other individuals, they say, What the heck is this? Why is this here? So you want to give them a statement to declare this is what we want to do, which is why we want to do it because this is happening.
 - Mille Lacs Band drafted a broad declaration statement as an example, and the drafting committee also drafted one (see below). Declaration statement, but the idea is to know your audience. And how do you want them to understand what you're doing? The initial Alliance document was 30 pages. They're not going to read it. They're not going to know what you are trying to achieve.
 - You need a summary for this? Here is what we see is wrong, and we have a solution we would like to declare.
 - The declaration statement has no authority. It is just a statement. It doesn't have any power. It is telling people this is what we want to do and why.
- **MLB Declaration Statement:** Through a review of the MCT's historical events and the recognition of each respective Band/Tribes inherent sovereignty and self-determination rights, it becomes essential for the six sovereign Nations to consider re-forming or dissolving the political relationship imposed on them by US Law and BIA regulation currently enforceable by the Secretary of the Interior. This political relationship mandated a legal connection without our ancestors united consent. In doing so, the US government swept aside the independence and value system by which our people lived for thousands of years. We governed in alignment with the Laws of Nature, with respect for the powers of the earth and respect for each other and all living things the Creator gifted to us. These cultural values are not recognized, acknowledged, or implemented within the current MCT Constitution and its organization. To continue to accept an organizational structure imposed by the Federal Government means we accept the oppression tactics they continue to use "to keep us in our place"
- **Drafting Committee's Declaration Statement:** We, as Indigenous peoples through the MAAMAWIINO ANISHINAABEG NATION (AKA CHIPPEWA) ALLIANCE and our Local Constitutions, are organizing for political, economic, social, and cultural enhancement to bring to an end all forms of discrimination and oppression wherever it occurs, allowing freedom of the people to exercise of their rights and enhance their sovereignty, self-determination, and self-governance. We recognize the need to respect and promote the rights of Indigenous people and affirm treaties, agreements, and other arrangements with

the US government, which we compel to comply with and effectively implement all their obligations under international instruments, in particular those related to human rights, in consultation and cooperation with the people concerned and keeping in mind principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, non-discrimination and done good faith.

CONVENTION MEETING SCHEDULE – Balance of 2024 and 2025 meetings updated. Bois Fote to decide if they want to remain on the future hosting schedule. December 2024 Convention meeting cancelled

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Wayne D. led a discussion on what waivers we would need and discussed voting issues such as polling sites on and off-reservation.

ADJOURN - Next meeting date: September 27, 2024. Host: Grand Portage Delegates.