

MCT CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM DRAFTING COMMITTEE

Date: 12/12/23 Time: 6 PM

Facilitator: Carol J.

Present: Raymond B., Marcie M., Debra T.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A reminder that the next TEC meeting is 1/10/23-1/11/23 at Black Bear. One topic on the agenda is enrollment. We need to be prepared.
2. The TEC meeting on 12/11/23 addressed elections and doing consistent State, Federal, and Tribal background checks for everyone seeking election.
3. Cheryl also spoke to Faron J. He said the Constitutional Reform groups should look at the Felony clause in the Constitution. Cheryl told him that the Drafting Committee has already begun discussing this.
4. Marcie stated that Grand Portage put out an advisory about the need for citizens to carry Narcan for emergency use on individuals who have overdosed.
5. Debra said she visited the cities to see our relatives in the encampment. They house 200 people who are still actively using drugs. The housing department is working on providing alternative housing. The conditions were disgraceful because our people had to use a bag to defecate in. There is no dignity for our people. There was a request from MCT and others. White Earth helped. They now have porta-potties. Deb will get the name of the contact person there.
6. The committee reviewed the language in Article IV, Treaties and Reserved Rights.
7. Regarding the Citizen Councils:
 - a. Younger children should attend meetings with the 12-18 to be ready to take over when they are twelve.
 - b. All special meetings shall be public. The minutes shall be posted in a public depository or location.
 - c. Meetings shall all be in-person and on ZOOM.
 - d. Terms shall be three years with an option of a second three-year term.

- e. A discussion was held about elected or appointed Citizen council members. The committee felt that elected members were preferred.
 - f. Section 8 Add Reasonable compensation along with Travel and per diem.
8. Next, the committee will look at the General Assembly.
 9. The committee will also look at Recall, Removal and Vacancies, Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics, and Petitions, which are all related.
 10. Regarding land, money, and policing, Raymond stated that the Constitution, without amendments, does not allow for policing and courts. He said Erma from White Earth started a court system without the BIA's approval. She did it anyway. So, instead of the Federal government paying for it. White Earth pays for it out of Casino money. \$6 million a year. Yet the elders only get \$20 a month and a meal. The Court and police are illegal and unconstitutional. Raymond is not saying we don't need those things but must do it correctly. The people have to authorize those things. Raymond said White Earth built the casino on heirship land and with heirship money, which is illegal. Mahnomen County was created out of allotment land and allotment money. The county was formed by corruption. When they did WELSA, it like was legalized theft. Resolutions of White Earth and MCT opposed the legislation. Darryl W. had a lobbyist named Forrest Gerard, who wrote a letter on White Earth letterhead saying White Earth wanted it and to proceed with it. So, the lobbyists used that letter over and above the resolutions opposing it. We need to revisit WELSA. Over and above the US and tribal Constitution, the crooked judges and senators took the land. Marvin, Raymond, and others wrote legislation to buy out the farmers at present-day cost. The farmers had paid White Earth in 1906 through WELSA for pennies on the dollar. Legal Counsel, Lenny F. It's no longer there. He ran for office at Leech Lake. George Palmer, an attorney, is now at Red Lake. We need lawyers working for us, not MCT.
 11. The committee discussed the procedure and strategies that White Earth and Grand Portage have used when filing a petition for removal.

Next Meeting: 12/19/23 at 6 PM.