

February 17, 2023 Constitution Reform Convention Minutes

In-person at Sawyer Community Center with Zoom option, hosted by FDL Delegates

Welcome and Invocation:

Present: Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, White Earth and Sandy Lake. Sally Fineday, Orlando Fineday, Julie Skinaway Fineday, Dawn Aubid, Micha Aubid, Veronica Skinaway, Debra Storbakken, Wally Storbakken, Wayne Dupuis, Mykee Brown, Michelle Beeksmas, David Niib Aubid, Christina Bowstring and Stephen W., Julia L., Cheryl E.

Absent: Boise Forte

Others Present (Zoom): Al Olson, Carol J, WE Louie, MLB Delegates, Max Bowman, Mike's iPad, David Estey, Niisaajiwan, Jolyn Donnell, Patty Straub, Sandra Borden, Danielle Smith, MLB Birdie, Julie MLB, Sybil Gund, Michelle, Marcie McIntire, Stephanie DeFoe-Haskins, Jo, Rhonda R, Amanda Skinaway, iPad, Galaxy A12, Michelle Palomaki, Vanessa Skinaway, Rita Evans, Mark McConnell, Jaimie Hammerlund and Samsung S908U.

Invocation: Ricky DeFoe

Education Session:

Kevin Kot facilitated Star Power: Use & Abuse of Power, Leadership & Diversity:
www.simulationtrainingsystems.com

TEC Update:

Church Donation of \$187,000:

- will be split between delegate group and children's project. Delegation needs to come up with a budget and proposal of how the monies would be spent.

Secretarial Election:

- Chairman Jackson would like a recommendation by July 1, 2023 of what to put forward for the upcoming Secretarial Election (Fall 2023).
- Delegation needs to have decision complete by June meeting or the TEC will move 32-15 forward.
- Options to consider: move Blood Quantum or Alliance Document forward, hold Secretarial Election and remove the Secretary of Interior, or poll our people with each tribe doing a vote.
- Address Updates and education piece need to be in place before any vote is made.
- We will probably only have one chance to make a difference if we Amend Article 12, the 30% requirement might not be met.
- The Alliance Document is not a good idea at this time.
- Removing the Secretary of Interior may bring some autonomy, however removing the 30% requirement will not guarantee people will come out to vote.
- Would like to see blood quantum removed because our children are a part of us.

- Removing Article 12 would be good but the TEC wants a recommendation of a Secretarial Election on Enrollment.

Proposals for Donation Update that the TEC might approve:

- Legal representation- The BUSH Grant application should cover legal representation.
- Educational Booklet- this booklet could be mailed to each enrolled member.

Motion: Use the money to educate youth and members of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Each tribe will bring its educational ideas forward for approval before Finance Committee approves expenditures.

Motion made by Wayne Dupuis, 2nd by Sally Fineday, all in favor, 0 opposed. Bois Forte did not vote due to their absence.

Project Plan:

- Need a recommendation for the length of time for each of the six projects.
- Need a recommendation for the amount of money that will be committed financially for each project.
- Fond du Lac, Mille Lacs and Grand Portage have submitted their recommendations.
- 6 projects
 - 1) Committee roles & responsibilities
 - 2) Secretary of Interior
 - 3) Enrollment
 - 4) Alliance Document
 - 5) MCT organization
 - 6) Separate constitutions

Alliance Document- Drafting Committee:

- The document does take care of removing the Secretary of Interior.
- Puts control of the grant in the people's hands.
- Suggestion for Article XII: change appellate to supreme.
 - Section 1. Write in that once it is established, no hearing of final decisions that have been heard prior will be recognized.
- Suggestion for Articles XIII & XIV:
 - Combine 13 & 14
 - Section 1: Anishinaabeg heritage, background history & powers.
 - Section 2: The OAA should recognize the power to make treaties and agreements with other Turtle Island relatives.
 - Section 3: The OAA acknowledges the legal and political relationship between the original applicable treaties between the Chippewa and the United States of America. Furthermore, the OAA recognizes when applicable, the United States lawfully empowered governmental units.

- Section 4: The OAA will not have intergovernmental relations with any foreign nation except when allowable under applicable Chippewa and United States Treaties.
- Put after Section 4: Power to make treaties comes with inherent rights and sovereignty.
- Still need to include PL280 because it is what we live under by law.
- Will eventually need to name the Alliance Document, using nation in the name. A nation is defined as a government independent from any other government.
 - Maamawiino (come together) Anishinaabeg
 - “Declaration of the Alliance of Maamawiino Anishinaabeg,” formerly known as the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.
- * Please take this name suggestion back to the tribes for input
- Article VII: Adopt a paragraph about Indigenous Nations instead of listing all & list the date of publication.

Public Relations Subcommittee:

Wally Storbakken made a motion to dissolve the Public Relations Subcommittee, Patty Straub 2nd, all in favor, 0 opposed.

NNI Training:

- Will revisit at the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

- Education Committee: Blood Quantum Flyer & Get Out to Vote Flyer.
- Survey Committee: Has not met.
- Finance Committee: Amending BUSH Grant application.

Next meeting: March 17, 2023, hosted by Grand Portage Delegates at Sandy Lake.

Adjourned meeting at 4:10 pm.