

MCT Constitution Reform Convention
May 20, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Hosted by The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
In-Person and Zoom
DoubleTree Hotel, St. Louis Park
Zoom ID: 844 3835 7987 Passcode: 592202

9:15 am – Welcome and Invocation

9:30 am – Roll call. All delegations are present, WE, FDL, LL, BF, GP, and MLB.

9:38 am – Approval of motion regarding subcommittee work – Patty S. WE vote is a no, WE wants the subcommittee members to be enrolled in WE. FDL Cheryl, details why they have requested this motion. They want to recognize descendants. A discussion takes place. WE explains their position. They want two people at a committee meeting. It always allows for more than one opinion. This was brought up at a finance mtg. Decisions need to be made by the committee, not just a few.

LL Sally F. – The finance committee is a working committee. The finance committee doesn't make the final decisions. She details what the finance committee process is.

WE in this motion, subcommittee members can we define it? Two members per committee? That's all I'm asking for in this motion.

GP Jason B – On the finance committee we asked for suggestions to complete their projects. Did not receive any response. We worked on our best estimate. The application has been filled out; we are going to present this to this mtg. to get your approval before we submit. Bush F. would wait for the application. What do you need money for?

WE Patty S. we met Wednesday and discussed this motion. We still oppose this and want enrolled members not descendants per the MCT Constitution.

FDL Cheryl E – This motion is about community members who want to work on the subcommittees but don't want to be a delegate. Simply to allow non-delegate people to help us do our work on the subcommittee.

WE – Maureen Jones - I listened to Jonelle. What I want to bring is having more than one person on the sub-committee. Who makes the decisions on who is on the sub-committees? I want to talk about the opportunity to be part of this change. To speak in a good way. To not be allowed to be a part of one of the sub-committees takes me back. I don't understand we need to do this as a whole for change. All of us count. Change takes place as a whole. Let's think about what is being said. Sub-committees are important to people who want to be involved.

FDL Cheryl - At least the finance committee was written at a past mtg. Until we change it, we have to follow what was written. WE – we should consider how we do this work. It's important to be involved.

FDL John R. wants to make a comment the working committees have been part of the delegation for over 4 years. It would be nice to have 2 at a meeting. Sometimes we don't get anyone for a mtg. We need more dedication. There is a vote coming in June and we should be getting out the vote. At one time FDL had only four delegates. Compared descendants to full bloods. Canada doesn't use blood quantum they have descendants.

9:43 – WE Char E. Requesting for a list of the delegates on each sub-committee. So, we don't have repeating people on the sub-committees.

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LL Sally – I recommend we drop this motion off the table. Everyone does what we were doing before. Let's not talk about it anymore.

Sally 1st MLB 2nd. BF, FDL, and GP, agree to remove it. WE silent.

GP Sandra B, we welcome everyone to our survey sub-committee. GP supported the motion and we still do.

GP Michelle B – Danielle requests a GP vote. Sandra B. We do not want to take the motion off the floor.

LL Sally F. – Recaps the motion. We recommended we drop the vote. Let's remove that motion.

MLB Birdie – Because we can't get an agreement on the sub-committee let's allow each delegation to make their own decisions. The majority have agreed if you want to carry what do you hope to accomplish. We keep going around in circles and let each delegation make their own decisions, but each delegation presents to the group from their assigned delegation.

GP Michele – In less, there is another motion to not weigh in on what the other delegations will do. Believes we are going to end up right back where we are right now. We should make another motion. Project Plan there is roles and responsibilities and this will need to be worked out during that time. Some kind of action needs to take place. It's still going to have to be addressed in some shape or form.

GP Jason B – I don't like the idea of assigning as many delegates as you want. This will flood the committee and push through what they want. One delegate and one alternate. We need representation at each meeting.

WE – Patty - Feedback from our committee is to drop the motion. Want to change their vote. Now it's just GP to weigh in. on the new motion. MLB Birdie to drop the motion and you want a motion and no one can come back and say you can't come back. GP Sandra. For the purpose of the mtg, we will drop it but it will still need to be addressed. GP agrees to drop the motion. We can move on to the next agenda item

FDL John R. having multiple persons attending doesn't change the vote count. Each delegation has one vote per delegation.

Break time – break until 10:30 am

Project Plan – MLB Birdie – Gives an update on what we have been working on. Excel spreadsheet. We identified 6 different projects to work on. Goes through the topics. Technical difficulties occurred. Explains what the next steps will be. We will take the comments made by each delegation and create an objective statement for each project. I proposed this idea to the education to keep it updated and take care of the document. Look at all the statements and going to try to create an objective statement. We will bring it back to the delegation or our delegations and come back to the next meeting and finalize the statements. Want we get through the objective statement then we will do is going to list the random tasks we need to complete the project. Put these tasks in some order. The next step is to create timelines for each task, start and stop and who is responsible for the task. We should assign by sub-

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committee. Done by a delegation or a sub-committee. Have to have major communication who is going to do what and who is going to do it. This is a short version of a project plan. We have to figure out how to stay focused and complete something. The goal is to get us focused and prevent scope creep. List the tasks that are important and focus on those only. The idea is to zero in on what we are trying to complete and stay there. It's also a communication tool so everyone knows what we are going to work on next. These are recommendations, not decisions. Goes through examples of how the progress will be communicated. It's a useful communication tool so everyone knows where we are with each project. Our goal is to consolidate input from the delegations. Any questions? Any confusion?

GP Jason – Did you say who is going to assign the tasks? We will do the work the same way we did with the objective. We need to understand when it begins what's included and when it will end. Once we agree on the objective statement.

WE Patty – This is great and well explained. Can you send this out to each delegation?

LL Sally F – We met and we think the enrollment work is done. We also talked about the S of I. The secretarial election, it will make it easier for us to make changes. We have never had protection. Civil rights of the people are important. RBC should be dealing with the business of the people, not their lives. We know there is work to be done but this is what LL has talked about and agreed on. We talked about the MCT its an alliance and it's not a govt. It was even said in the revised cont. there is nothing that states the MCT has authorization over the people. We love the alliance and are in total agreement. Taking us back in history, the 3 fires. We were aligned with the Anindaga the 6 nations. A high court will uphold the law. LL Const. we already have counsels and talk about the issues. We have high crime in our neighborhoods. We have a big budget for treatment programs and give it back to the communities. Discussions by the nationwide counsels. What matters to the people? Our constitution, who we are what values we possess. This BQ is BS. LL started this const. years back. We have a document we are going to look at. There is a location in Ok. To look at other constitutions. We don't want MN recognizes who we are.

Survey Questions – MLB wants to review what is going on with the MCT questions. Whoever has worked on this. Anyone from that group can speak to it

FDL Cheryl – Spoke to Gary F. about the ballot about the boxes and MCT will be providing one box per reservation. The delegates will pick up the ballots and take them to. Ballots will be mailed on June 3rd. No receipt with updated addresses. If you haven't received your ballot these updated addresses and compared with returned mailers and they will remain in time for the July deadline.

GP Sandra – clarification who lives outside the state? Contact MCT and update their address. Update on the contact phone number. Should go to the delegates first. How about someone who is not on the reservation. Call 218 335 8581. Call and tell them you have a new address. FDL database is directly linked to the MCT. Those addresses are updated. But make sure you do it yourself. LL Sally MCT is leaning on the delegation to help.

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Tammy Skinaway - Concerned about the Urban offices. What about the homeless relatives? They still would like to know about these things. Has it been talked about? Boots on the ground thing. Trust thing. It's a communication thing and takes dedication and heart. I'm wondering where the people are. There are people willing to do it. We will deal with returned addresses as it comes along.

Michaa – About the vote concerns. No votes at the poll? You should be able to cast your vote at any polling station. Wants a vote in person. Not having a poll causes confusion. Commented on the Nelson Act referendum.

LL Sally - Some have concerns but we are not fortune-tellers. For once we the people have the chance to give an answer on this. This has never happened before. We have to do it first so we know how it's going to work. We are setting ourselves up for a good thing.

FDL Wayne – Am I hearing there won't be a ballot box on election night for the referendum.

MLB – Al it's just a collection box. The referendum is being sent out to the MCT members. So, it comes in the mail. Al – there are two options drop-off and a mailer. Wayne thinks there is action when the people come out to vote. Thinks the MCT is obligated to provide the ballot boxes at every polling place. Al - agrees, why are we (technical problems, the zoom persons can't hear the in-person communication).

Raymond – Every polling place should have a ballot box. Need lock system and cameras. We don't have enough delegates to watch the boxes.

WE Patty – We voted to not have a ballot box in WE. The reason is the TEC pushed this. It should be their responsibility. We have 10 to 15 precincts. We don't have enough people to watch the boxes. They didn't want to be resp. for this. If there is something that goes wrong. We want the delegation to reconsider how this is being done.

FDL Wayne – MCT has a budget for elections. It was put out by them. They have the responsibility to manage it. We don't have the resources to manage this. We should expect them to facilitate this referendum vote.

Ray B. Agrees with Wayne. To throw it on the delegates is not right. They should handle this.

LL Sally – We proposed we asked for watchers. I was asked to ask our tribal leaders. We should pay them to help. I agree with Al. We should vote to have them have a special meeting.

Michaa – why are we deviating from the regular election process. And we have to carry out the referendum? It's just being done a little differently.

LL Wally S.- Let me say I have very little confidence that it will end in a legitimate answer and people will view it as a legitimate vote. How many of the TEC had any experience on an election board? How many delegates had any experience on an election board? That's why they would say let's do it this way and not understand the problems it may cause? He recommends another way to handle bad addresses. We still have an opportunity to address this.

WE – Sat on this referendum committee and did not have any experience on an election board. We are looking at a mailer only.

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FDL Wayne, we need to communicate as soon as possible it is their responsibility to Gary F. We are not ready for it.

MLB does a recap. We need more clarification; the group should meet with the MCT and relay the conversation to us through an email.

Raymond – With the mail today and the stuff happening it might be too late to vote. Gary knows how to do this. Give some serious thought to the ballot boxes.

The sub-group will make contact with the MCT and discuss what was brought up today.

Lunch break return at 12:45 pm.

LL Sally – Star Tribune Update. Updated delegation on her interview. Commented on BQ. 1961 they could not encourage the tribes to add the BQ. BIA is going to cut rations. Leaders caved in 1963. Racism is a European thing. It's not an Indian thing. A book called the Raven. About a white boy. The family took him home to the Native family. She didn't see he was white. He sold the boy to the Ottawa. We don't look at color, we look at the heart.

FDL Cheryl – Chatted with the reporter about the article. She asked questions about who to talk to. It's being done to help us get the word out. It will share opinions with the delegates who spoke to her. MLB Executive speaking for MLB. Thinks it is a good thing for our work moving forward. Her name is Janna Hollingsworth. She asked for photos. This request was denied. If anyone has any pictures, please forward them to her at the Duluth office. Or email to Cheryl and she will make sure she gets them.

MLB Perry, don't you need permission to have the photo released by the persons in the picture? Cheryl stated she did mention this.

Michaa – Maybe we can use photos from this recording. FDL Cheryl - Zoom does ask for your permission to do the recording.

Committee Reports – TEC, Finance?

FDL Cheryl reviews the grant application. A copy of the grant is not available to the delegation because it is an online application. Discussion took place over the language within the document.

WE – this is for each delegation having 10 delegates? MLB is not a part of the grant. Seems the numbers do not add up.

Questions are being reviewed but the audio has become spotty and inaudible. Question about lawyers. They will be hired but not MCT lawyers. Have to add in the indirect cost for MCT responsibility. Addressing the questions in the chat. We don't know why we need to adjust them. We are budgeting only. We choose the lawyers. Work will be accomplished by the subcommittees.

Michaa wants to change to 6 nations to the people. Change from delegations to nations. We weaken by identifying by reservations. Sandy lake continues to be left out.

LL Sally, it doesn't matter we should add in the beginning Sandy Lake is not recognized under the MCT but participate in these meetings. FDL Cheryl, we are limited by the number of words we use within the document.

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We need to be able to go through this item by item. Your Finance sub-member has a copy of the document.

In one of our past meetings, mattie saying this is being talked about over and over. What stood out for me the first intro of this request is going to be the most impactful. She would help with the changes. Is the first paragraph impactful enough? I'm thinking is it worth the time that has already been spent on this? Are we going to ask them to help us? FDL Cheryl, we believe this paragraph will work. We are presenting it for everyone to look at it. Maureen get with Jolynn and have her bring it to the Finance Committee. After input, and changes are made it will be submitted as our application.

Raymond – When we refer to ourselves as nations, we can say the bands of one nation. FDL John this isn't defined as nations but we are reservations. A lot of room to grow. The founding members of the Ojibwe. He mentioned Nations of the Great Lakes, we don't recognize borders. We want the entire nation of all Ojibwe. To create our entire nation of the Great Lakes region.

FDL Cheryl wants to move back to reviewing the application. John makes the point we want to think bigger. Cheryl wants to take care of this initial application first.

What do we think about the first paragraph? GP Marcie – I think the grant is good and a lot of thought was put into this. Thinks we should add Sandy Lake. Cheryl reads the first paragraph. Changes are reviewed. We will take the recommendations make the changes and bring them back to the next meeting. Please send any recommendations you may have to improve the application and send us an email.

Raymond – We are not a religion but more a way of life. Notes are taken for this suggestion.

GP Jason – MLB is not going to participate in this grant. The total count is still up in the air.

LL Sally, we are not done by no means. WE wants to add an alternate. MCT has this current list. We don't want to add additional people since it slows the process down for us. We have one person from each delegation on this work only.

Break for 15 minutes.

Education Update – Michelle B. and Jason B. just joined and the first project we agreed to work on is the survey. To provide an educational piece to the survey. We had snags and had questions about the questions. We are trying to get a meeting going with the survey and get a better idea of where they were heading. Has the survey been formalized by the delegation? If it changes it changes are education piece. The questions are a wide variety of them. It's going to take some thinking on what to work on.

Survey Update – Sandra B. this final version is March 3rd. We submitted it to the Education Sub-Committee and we want to keep it simple. March 25th version has been sent out multiple times now. I don't foresee it changing unless we simplify it. I was under the impression Wayne attended the Education meeting. Michele – He didn't attend. Sandra – Michele has written a two page to our community. No other information but we should get the two groups together to iron these issues out.

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FDL Cheryl - Shared the survey on the screen. Commented on question no. 3. About enrollments. Two comments. Do we need it? We are doing a referendum if we are going to keep no. 3. What happened with lineal descent with ___? It can be added to the other section. WE recommended another version concerning the BQ aspect of the question? Give them a thought process to think about it. Sandra - there is an area for comments. Sandra – the questions should not be too wordy, again it can be inputted in the education piece.

LL Wally – We are assuming the membership knows what BQ is. We need to write to the 8th-grade level.

Tania – Lineal descent. We have the technology to ponder things.

WE – what happens to our children who have been adopted. We need to have basic definitions for the educational piece.

MLB – Danielle One thing we should think about is the word reservation. We don't want to label ourselves as a geographical location.

Kelsey – what does lineal descent mean? It means somewhere in your DNA who was Anishinaabe. If someone takes a DNA test, could they count in that? Not conclusive. I would discount the idea. (WE).

FDL Cheryl how we define lineal descent a person who has been enrolled in our reservation.

LL Sally – It's important we have these discussions. But your tribe would define what the criteria should be.

Drafting Committee – Carol Janick the subcommittee has been meeting every week. Reviewing treaties, and secretarial issues. Took the alliance document and reviewed it line by line. May 17th went back to the document with the potential umbrella documents.

The issue about the name has come up. There are other suggestions and we looked at them. The preamble wasn't covered. We did get examples of other examples. The rights of nature from the comments, it's a new concept. It brings us to the issue with the Bush application. I encourage we add rights of nature to that section. Creation section and section two about treaties. We are still looking at treaties. This was an area of concern. Mutual beneficial. There was opposition to that. The wording was changed to acknowledges the unique political relationship. Crossed out recorded treaties. It was established through the Constitution of the U.S. What about the state and local government? There was an addition to the document. Mutuality is about negotiating. Jurisdiction. Talks about territory. Added Admission of Additional Reservations. We don't have any boundaries. We had a history of residing in a specific place; North America. The third part had to do with sovereign rights instead of Jurisdiction. Citizenship, the concept around it. Distribution of Powers, grammar adjustments. Clans, we thought we should define the clans. This work was added from FDL John's paper. LL Wally why don't we go back to the original clans. We need to make sure we are correct. We will have to talk with Elders and other clans. Maybe we don't need to have the clan information as extensive as it is. We will need the information on the five original clans.

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MLB Danielle is this on FDL's website? FDL will make sure this version is updated on their website.

LL Wally, we need to research our creation stories. My grandmother told me one creation story. I was young when I was told and I don't remember it all. We need to do more research and education on the clan system

GP Marcie Back when the women were organizing, a red lake elder told a story of abuse and so this gets complicated. There are clans that aren't mentioned. Like the Bear Clan, there are multiple clans under the Bear Clan. Consultations are like getting information from the Chief. It consists of getting the tribes to back down by promising jobs. This language needs to be worded more strongly concerning consultations.

GP Sandra The word consultation could be one-sided.

FDL Carol J. Want a few more minutes to discuss the S of I. Can't get over the election requirement. I saw there was an immediate March 4, 1967. A proposed revision to use a register for the election. Hardship to get the 30%. To serve as registered voters to get the 30th. Part 81 says it will give deference to the constitution. Eligible voters. My feelings are to continue this research. Do we have a good argument? You didn't say anything that we have to revise our constitution to get this vote. The drafting committee went over Article 15 and it was difficult to understand. 1 and 2, resolutions and ordinances. Both have to go to the secretary for approval. 3 says something different. It does not have the same language. Why can't we take this and say let's do an ordinance using the registered voter to get the TEC to agree with it? To get rid of the 30% language.

MLB Danielle introduced the side discussion of moving forward with having our meetings all in person. Zoom portion to be view only. Any thoughts on this? MLB Michele loves this idea. MLB took a real hit financially.

LL Wally, we need to have an in-person meeting. I don't agree with view only. Maybe they are sick and have no money for the gas. Can't make it in person. They should be able to make comments in the chat. We should try to accommodate these individuals.

GP Sandra Zoom technical problems some do it well and others have problems. Need to do lessons learned and keep the zoom.

FDL Carol, I agree with Wally and Michele, I really would like to continue to be involved. I like the hybrid.

MLB Danielle recommended we add equipment to the Bush application to do the hybrid.

GP Michele, we would not be able to host an in-person meeting. We have money issues. It won't happen on our end. There are health issues as well.

FDL Cheryl Suggestion: those that are going to attend will need to RSVP. These meetings are very expensive. Our August meeting for 100 people is close to \$5,000 from our delegate funds. There are only 8 people present for this meeting. To hold in-person mtgs, RSVPs are requested and required. It's a financial issue for all of us. It's complicated to do the hybrid meetings. There's a long list of expenses to hold these types of meetings.

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LL Sally, I agree. I use my own money to attend in person. We have within the MCT budget, we have a \$4,000 amt to give \$100 for meeting assistance. In-person is very important. Zoom can't control the meeting.

GP Marcie wants to maintain the zoom option. The TEC meetings are difficult and we are not allowed to talk, keeping us silent. We have to have the zoom because of where delegates are located. It's not so much about money but the time it takes us to get to a meeting.

Sometimes it's a 2-day trip for us. Safety is also an issue.

Tammy S. one question for the delegates. How can someone invite others to be a part of the delegations?

FDL Cheryl contact your delegation to be a part of the delegation. Each delegation manages it differently.

LL Sally Each hosting delegate makes their own rules for the meeting they are hosting.

GP Jason wants to continue the zoom.

The next Host is Boise Forte. The date is June 17, 2022

Jean S wants access to the recorded portion of this meeting.

Tammy S. suggestion and a story. There was a group of healers to assist with conflict. How do we mash things out and not let things fester?

The meeting is adjourned.