

MCT Constitution Reform Convention

Hosted by Fond du Lac Reservation Delegates Via Zoom

February 18, 2022

ROUGH DRAFT MINUTES

Attendees (50) : Wayne DuPuis FDL (Facilitator), Cheryl Edwards FDL (Facilitator), Sandra Borden GP, John Roterman FDL, Ricky DeFoe FDL, Sally Fineday LL, Carol Janick FDL, Carrie Chesnik, Annette Budrow WE, Naomi Northrup FDL, Skye Northbird, Michele Hakala-Beeksma GP, Jolyn Donnell, Louie WE, Mil Holmes BF, Maureen Jones, Birdie Roberts MLB, Nagajiiwanong Awaniikwe, Rose Robinson LL, @nG3L, Michaa Aubid, Victoria McMillen FDL, 1-218-760-1449, Marcie McIntire GP, Ellen Olson GP, Sybil Gund WE, Angel WE D1, Thomas Miranda, John Lemire GP (a lawyer who lives in Michigan), Natasha C, Carrie Day Aspinwall, Veronica Skinaway SLB, Tashina Perry Sandy Lake, Tracey BF, Natasha C, Michael Joseph Smith Jr LL, Nookomis Debra, Frank Reese, Celeste WE, Lorna LaGue, Douglas, Norma Jackson, Janis Fairbanks, Tammy Skinaway, Perry Skinaway, Al Olson, Lawrence Fairbanks, Dawn Goodwin WE, Theresa, Stephanie Williams, Jason Burnett GP

9:00 am CST **Welcome** by Wayne DuPuis

9:05 am **Invocation** by Ricky DeFoe

9:30 am Agenda item- Delegation **Roll Call & Housekeeping Reminders** Full reading of Process and super-majority vote. Announcement - Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures National Leadership Development Conference June 20-22 at Hinckley, MN Grand Casino (25% discount) contact Michele Palomaki at Mille Lacs.

Roll Call, Delegations represented: Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, White Earth, Sandy Lake

Cheryl Edwards went over the Housekeeping Reminders (last Modified 9/8/2021) [[attach the document](#)]

September 11, 2020 Following the approved process for introducing items for a vote, Fond du Lac made a motion to adopt Super-Majority, October 2020 and it was discussed. November 2020 there are no minutes to verify the discussion and vote, but per members present the convention delegates voted for the Super-Majority. Reminder, the original voting process was by consensus. Super-majority is 5 out of 6 or 7 bands, to be decided at the time of the vote. During the discussion, Carrie D Aspinwall said that she would research her files for the November 2020 minutes. Later in the meeting, Carrie reported that she looked through her notes for mention of super-majority and did not find any in her notes. (see below.)

9:30 am Agenda item **What is the MCT?** Is it an organization (not a tribe)? Yes or no; vote by Band This will give us direction for writing our new document.

1st Discussion on What is the MCT?:

Michaa Aubid: If MCT is an organization then that makes the individual bands organizations. There are 7 bands.

Birdie: Mille Lacs position is that the MCT is not a tribe. Sandy Lakes is not formally recognized by the US. We (Mille Lacs) do not recognize Sandy Lake.

Jean Skinaway: I am the official from Sandy Lake; we are not sure that we want to be part of MCT. Michaa is from Rice Lake. We feel we are being co-opted by the Rice Lake Band.

Tashina Perry, Sandy Lake: There are only 2 delegates (Jean and Tashina).

Marcie GP: We did vote to include Sandy Lake/Rice Lake. I would like to know what is the status of Sandy Lake with BIA? We do not have to have the White man's (chimooks') perception of an organization and we need to think of what we need for a government.

Carol Janick: Checked the January 28, 2022, list of Federally Recognized tribes and reported that the 6 bands were listed under the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, not listed separately.

John Roterman: we need to be inclusive, defined by us. We want to write a constitution that represents our traditional views.

Cheryl, this only gives us direction for writing our new document.

Wally Storbakken: We are stronger united. There is a need for the overall unity. There is a need to check on the local entities.

Wayne: should we vote on the Super Majority since Carrie cannot find November 2020.

Motion: Delegates will change the Constitution Convention voting process to a super-majority vote in order to be able to move our process forward after the first two attempts of consensus. Delegation members will decide what super-majority is each time.

Note: Following the original consensus voting process, there were three votes required because there was no consensus on the first two votes. The third vote did not arrive at a consensus, so the motion did not pass. The details are as follows.

1st Vote on Super Majority: BF yes, GP yes with discussion, WE abstention, we don't believe that we should vote on it, LL yes, ML yes, FDL yes, SL yes (convoluted mess, let's move forward)

2nd Discussion on Super Majority:

Janis Fairbanks FDL: The motion is well worded. It is not uncommon to revise procedures.

Wally: He brought up the concept of the tyranny of the minority.

Joy Annette: The minutes of April 19, 2019 documents the vote on consensus.

Marcie: Grand Portage is pro majority voting; especially because ML does not vote on many issues which defeats consensus voting.

Birdie Roberts ML: If we do not vote yes, just acknowledge our vote and move forward.

Rose Robinson LL: Let's be solution-oriented, not just say no.

Breakout rooms by Band for discussion of the motion

2nd Vote on Super Majority: Bois Forte Yes Grand Portage Yes White Earth No FDL Yes MLBO Yes, but may abstain temporarily LL Yes Sandy Lake Abstain temporarily

3rd Discussion on Super Majority: White Earth delegates provided comments. They are not changing their minds. No consensus

3rd Vote Started with a discussion and a vote from Breakout Rooms with random room assignments of the delegates: room 1 yes, room 2 no agreement, room 3 yes, room 4 yes, room 5 yes, room 6 no consensus but need to move forward, room 7 (This vote was not the official 3rd vote which needed to be by band) The vote by band: BF yes, GP yes, WE No, FDL yes, MLB Yes, LL yes, SL yes; **no consensus.**

11: 55 am Agenda Item Old business from December 2021: Finalize White Earth vote on **Sub-committee members.**

Motion Non-delegates can serve on our Constitutional Convention Subcommittee. Non-delegates can be community members and/or descendants, enrolled members of other MCT reservations, not to include non-natives. Committee work must be presented by a delegate.

Vote: WE no. White Earth's vote of no meant there was no consensus; therefore, requiring another vote.

2nd vote : BF yes, GP yes, WE no, FDL yes, ML no, LL yes: still no consensus

Discussion: Birdie Roberts, Mille Lacs needs to get together with their delegation and bring it back at the next meeting. The answer will be no until they can get consensus. There may have been confusion on "subcommittee" vs. "delegation".

Non-delegate participation motion Tabled until March 2022.

12: 09 am Agenda Item Approval of Proposed 2022 Meeting Schedule (9 am to 4 pm CST)

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| January 21 WE | July 15 WE |
| February 18 FDL | August 29 FDL |
| March 18 GP | September 16 GP |
| April 15 LL | October 21 LL |

May 20 MLBO

November 18 MLBO

June 17 BF

December 16 BF

Vote: Approved schedule. BF yes, FDL yes, BF yes, LL yes, ML yes, WE yes, SL yes

Leech Lake and Bois Forte will host hybrid meetings (in-person and Zoom). Grand Portage will host Zoom meetings.

Tashina Perry of Sandy Lake explained that Michaa Aubid is a member of Rice Lake.

Veronica Skinaway via chat: We just wanted to invite for special meeting to Sandy Lake/Rice Lake

Lunch 12:15pm (Morning Break and Lunch were combined.)

1 pm Agenda Item **Structure of TEC/MCT** – Project Plan by Facilitation Committee

Birdie explained the need for a Project Plan for organizing our work, and she has sent an example to the members of the Facilitation Subcommittee. Her project plan includes in priority order (with recommendations) 1. Committee Roles and Responsibilities, 2. Enrollment Work (most important), 3. MCT Organization Work, 4. Constitution Work, 5. Presentation Work **[Insert document]**

Cheryl Edwards shared FDL Draft Project Plan priority order: 1. Committee Roles and Responsibilities with description for each subcommittee, 2. Enrollment Work, 3. MCT Organization Work, 4. Constitution Work, 5. Get out the Vote

Michele Hakala-Beeksma GP: We reviewed MLBO project plan and agree that we need a Project Plan. Enrollment needs to be an immediate priority. We are concerned with whether it will be more practical to make incremental changes to the Constitution; e.g., most important are membership and removal of the Secretary of Interior from the Constitution where appropriate especially related to voting. Rights of Nature is also a priority.

Joy WE: Membership needs to be done by one entity. We need to keep MCT as a business entity, not as a tribe. Remove the DOI Secretary from the constitution.

Cheryl: Let's put project plans on **next month's agenda**.

Louie: Make sure to include off-reservation members.

Michael Smith: We should have at least two delegates that represent off-reservation delegates.

Carrie discussed the Urban members' participation. She looked through her notes for mention of super-majority and did not find any in her notes.

Cheryl: There will be a Referendum Vote, which only includes removing blood quantum and having membership done at the reservation/band level. The wording is not finalized; it is in committee. There will be a TEC committee meeting on February 22 (next Tuesday) which will draft and finalize the wording

and an invitation should have been sent out to each delegation to send a representative by their RBC/RTC.

Action required: The facilitation Subcommittee meets next week Feb 25, 5:30 pm and each delegation should send their Project Plan to the Facilitation Subcommittee.

Agenda topic, Constitutions, Bylaws and Ordinances Training Carol Janick, Sharing from Falmouth Institute training in January 2022 was postponed. Carol volunteered to **move this item to the next meeting** to help this meeting get back on schedule.

2:20 pm Agenda Item **Youth Council** - Letter to Educators, Victoria McMillian Question: Proceed together? FDL delegate group is going to move forward on this. Offer to collaborate. See draft 4 on the FDL website. www.fdlconstitution.org

Victoria presented a letter that has been drafted for educators of American Indian children to improve the curriculum related to our history, especially tribal government. This letter can be used for Title 7 and other requests. There is a Curriculum that is a living document and others are encouraged to add to it.

The list is interactive, clickable topics. There is a Tribal Nations Education Committee

<https://www.tnecmn.com/>

John Roterman pointed out that the Wallum Olum has been disproven, it was a hoax.

Also, the Formation of Indian Youth Council/Indigenous Student council was covered. Inter-Tribal Council is encouraged. These documents are posted on the FDL website.

Michele Hakala-Beeksma in chat: I found this on the Zaagibagaang website. On about page 9 it has the results of the survey that had been done around 2017. Good info on what the people thought was important.

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58901f76d482e91a3029c006/t/5c50b1152b6a28d97e090b89/1548792088890/MCT_GP+Meeting+Report+FINAL+.pdf

Birdie- Have you approached the Education Departments of each band?

Cheryl: The letter addresses Statewide, K-12 education.

3:10 pm Agenda Item **Lateral Violence** Presentation - Tammy Skinaway

She started with a definition by Tantoo Cardinal: "Sabotage, backstabbing, put down's, gossiping, you know there's a term for it...Lateral Violence." She ended with "having empathy" and turning lateral violence into lateral kindness.

3:30 pm Break

3:40 pm Education – **Rights of Nature** by John Roterman

John Roterman presented a PowerPoint, titled, The Profit in Rights of Nature, created for the MCT Delegation for Constitution Reform by Nechiwaakwaang, John Roterman, which is posted to the FDL website and covers Ojibwe Anishinaabe Treaty Right's and our responsibilities.

3:48 pm Agenda Item **Drafting** - Review draft, with discussion and editing within breakout rooms. See Fond du Lac Delegate (delegate@fldconstitution.org) email dated February 16, 2022 10:23 PM for documents.

To conserve time John Roterman volunteered to forego the breakout rooms and to quickly go through a PowerPoint presentation of a draft document, first written by Wally and further edited in subcommittee, Declaration of the Alliance of Ojibwe Anishinaabeg in Minnesota. The Rights of Nature is the first thing addressed. It starts with the original 6 or 7 bands and we would like to reunite with all Anishinaabeg.

The creation story and our treaties support the Rights of Nature.

Wally: The document is short (currently 2 pages) deliberately to make it easy to understand so that we can support it.

John: We are going to replace the TEC as a governing body giving the power to the people. The MCT will become an Alliance.

Action: Read the [Declaration of the Alliance of Ojibwe Anishinaabe in Minnesota](#).

John: wants a meeting next week for comments. Michele suggested March 11th.

Drafting Subcommittee meets every Tuesday at 6 pm. **If you want to attend, email Cheryl** if you would like the Zoom invitation cedwards1@css.edu .

Sandy Lake, Tashina Perry in chat: My email is tashinam2010@gmail.com If anyone wants to get a hold of me or has any questions/document requests. Miigwech

4:00 pm Committee Reports

- TEC Committee – Cheryl: TEC has convened a subcommittee to work on the wording of the Referendum. Education and logistics will be discussed at future meetings. Meetings are every Monday except next week when it is Tuesday. Each RBC/RTC is to invite one delegate member to Tuesday's meeting. Also, there was a discussion on the legislative issue of the **Federal Register listing of tribes**. Cheryl: This looks like a new agenda item for delegates to discuss.
- Finance Committee – Jason Burnett: finalizing the Grant application to the Bush Organization.
- Education Committee – Birdie Roberts: no report.
- Survey Committee – Sandra Borden: we have adopted Grand Portage's edits to the survey and are waiting for the Education Subcommittee's input on the introduction to the survey which will

be necessary to explain to the enrollees what the purpose of the MCT Constitution Reform Committee is and the important issues that need to be addressed.

- Drafting Committee- covered earlier in the minutes.

Next Zoom meeting date, host and meeting minutes

March 18, 2022 hosted by Grand Portage via Zoom

Discussion on the Youth Education – It was clarified that the letter was final and the educational sources were in a living document. **If you want to collaborate, notify Cheryl Edwards by March 4th.**

4:52 pm Adjourned