

MCT CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM DRAFTING COMMITTEE

Date: 2/20/24 Time: 6 PM

Facilitator: Carol J.

Present: Marcie M., Michaa A., Debra T., Julie H-C., Gerald W., Raymond B.
Veronica S.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Raymond B. asked, "Why do we register to vote in a Secretarial Election?"
The answer is twofold. The Secretary of the Interior expects us to use 25 CFR 81 procedures, which requires registration, and the second reason is that 25 CFR 43 notes that if you are not registered, you may not challenge the election.
2. We discussed Resolution 1-80.
3. Raymond B. stated that the TEC and RBC are not representative governments. They are Business Committees. The RBC said they were a Tribal Reservation Council (RTC). An IRA Tribal government is a business, and the Bureau is helping them violate the constitution.
4. Deb T. asked about the name Maamawiino because she couldn't find it in the Ojibwe dictionary. Marcie M. explained that David "Niib" Aubid helped with the name, the spelling, and the meaning. Maamawiino means "We are all together," and Maamawiino Anishinaabeg means "We are all Anishinaabeg together."
5. Michaa A. expressed his opinion that we should finish the document and put it up for a vote along with enrollment which would replace the constitution and remove the Secretary of the Interior. Question #2 on the 2022 Referendum was ill-worded. We need to ask precise questions about enrollment and the role of the Bands.
6. We briefly discussed per capita, which puts a stain on Bands handling that separately. We need to stick together. Per capita is used to exclude members. Enrollment is dividing us. Deb T. suggested that we put in our mission statement that we should keep together.
7. While examining the Administration and Supervisory Council, the current TEC sub-committee will not exist. They were reactive. Our new structure will be proactive. We can have ad hoc committees formed as a part of the Grand council as needed.
8. Deb T. asked, "What are the consequences if they do not follow things, and what do we do to improve it.?"
 - The answer is the Administration and Supervisory Council will be responsible for program implementation and enforcement. The structure has a built-in evaluation process, and accountability is addressed in the Code of Conduct, Ethics, and Conflict of Interest. All the departments will report to the Grand Council quarterly. Like the Office of Management and Budget, it serves under Congress.

- Additionally, the groundwork was suggested back in October 2024. We discussed a Fiscal Service Board dealing with the audit review and a Fiscal Responsibility Board with disbursements.
 - We will not have people voting at their censure/removal hearings.
 - Everything is a work in Progress!
9. Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) P.L. 93-638 (25 USC 45) allows the Secretary to either annul (declare invalid) a 638 contract or reassume control of a program "if they find that the tribal contractor's performance involves the violations of rights...gross negligence or mismanagement in the handling of contract funds." Which is essential then to Have the administration conduct periodic evaluations of the programming.
 10. We need to address the lavish annual legislative dinner. There should be a different way to have those meetings without using excessive, valuable funds, which could go to the Citizen programs.
 11. Also, we need to address the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC), whose mission is to protect the sovereignty of the 11 Minnesota Tribes and to ensure the well-being of American Indian citizens throughout the state of Minnesota. They provide a liaison office to the eleven sovereign tribal nations and state governments. The council advises and recommends to state policymakers, including the Governor and Legislature. The MIAC proposes the yearly agenda for the annual Governor/Tribal Leader summit. The MIAC also fulfills duties found in MS 307.09 through its Cultural Resources program. The Cultural Resources program works to protect Indian gravesites and burial mounds statewide. The council prepares and submits a report to the governor and legislature by November 15 each year. The report summarizes the council's activities since its last report, lists receipts and expenditures, identifies the major problems and issues confronting American Indian people, makes recommendations to address issues, and lists the specific objectives the council seeks to attain during the biennium. The council shall report on outcome measures.
 12. Raymond B. suggested we advocate for the United Nations to give us a seat at the Convention," Honor Native Nations. In the 1980's, this was attempted. Led by the Head chiefs, Michaa A. stated that his grandfather brought his pipe and Drum but was not allowed to be seated.
 13. Gerald W., Marcie M., Julie H-C., and Deb T. offered to review the UNDRIP articles and determine which Department in the new Administration and Supervisory should be addressed. Gerald-Land, Marcie-Natural Resources, Julie-Elders, and Deb-Treaty Rights.
 14. The committee divided the new Administration and Supervisory Council into departments incorporating and rearranging the MCT's functions. **See the attachment for all the new Departments, functions, and considerations.**

Next meeting: 2/27/2024 at 6 PM