

MCT Constitution Delegation Meeting
Hosted by the Mille Lacs Band Delegation
Meeting Minutes – Final
November 15, 2024, 9 am – 4 pm, Meeting ID: 817 5473 9596
MLB Community Aquatics Center, Onamia, Mn

Attendees In Person: Birdie Roberts – MLB, Al Olson – MLB, Patty Straub – WE, Mike Swan – WE, Julie H. Corado – MLB, Emily Annette – WE, Donovan Staples – LL, Dawn Litzau-Staples – LL, Cheryl Edwards – FDL, Sally Fineday – LL, Frank Reese – LL, Paul Sam – MLB, Louis M. Johannson – WE, Melissa Plemal – WE, Christina Bowstring – LL, Christian Anderson – LL, Jean Skinaway – SL, Tristan Lawrence – SL, RL, Craig Hansen – MLB, Michele Palomaki – MLB, Mykee Brown – WE.

Zoom: Sybil Gund, WE Fawn Roy WE, Carol Janick, FDL, Michele Beeksma, GP, Marcie McIntire – GP, Melissa Plemal – WE, Clare Gonzales, LL.

The meeting begins at 9:11 a.m. with a welcome and invocation—Brad Harrington Jr. A roll call is conducted. All delegations are present except for Boise Forte. Housekeeping items are reviewed.

Presidential Election Results Review

The Presidential Election review was conducted before the Finance Committee Grant Update. The delegation explored the potential impact of the new presidential administration on its work. Jamie Edwards from the Government Affairs office shared his perspective on the situation, noting that it's early to predict the exact impact but that there will likely be a conservative approach to funding. He also mentioned that the Trump administration may focus more on fossil fuels and critical minerals. The delegates also discussed the potential impact on the land, education, and social security, with Jamie noting that it's too early to determine the exact direction of these policies. Jamie Edwards will provide an update on the political landscape in late January after more Cabinet appointments are made.

Finance Committee Update

Despite the recent presidential election results, which have zero implications on a grant, the delegates discuss moving forward with a Bush grant for education and outreach. They agree that grant funding is vital for continuing their work of educating community members about constitutional reform, regardless of the political landscape. The finance committee will work to identify a fiscal agent to manage the grant funds before the next meeting in January. At that meeting, they plan to finalize the grant application paragraphs and submit it with the group's approval. The discussion highlights the delegates' commitment to this citizen-led movement and their role in representing the sovereign rights of individual tribal members.

Drafting Committee Video Review

Carol could not attend the previous meeting and proposes re-watching a 13-minute video to clarify any confusion caused earlier. Carol leads the discussion about the confusion surrounding the Alliance Document and its role in the organization's structure. She proposed a new format for the document, as a Treaty Agreement, to avoid confusion with a governing document. Carol also discussed drafting local constitutions, emphasizing that the bands can choose any model or

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combination. She also mentioned the need for the bands to review the Alliance Document in the new Treaty Agreement format and to provide their opinions on the reconstruction of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe organization. Lastly, she encouraged the delegates to share their thoughts and questions about the new format.

The meeting revolved around sovereignty and the option for the tribes to separate from the MCT and utilize their own tribal government systems. The participants discussed the idea of a treaty between the tribes as a display of strength and unity. They also touched on federal funding and the potential for the U.S. government to dissolve the tribes. The conversation also discussed the Menominee tribe's experience with losing federal recognition and the potential consequences of losing such status. The participants also discussed the importance of self-sufficiency and the need for the tribes to develop their own respective economies. The conversation ended with a discussion about the potential for the tribes to regain their federal recognition and the importance of understanding the criteria for such recognition.

Mille Lacs Population Projections

The meeting delegates decide to table the discussion on Mille Lacs population projections for another time. They discuss Article 12, with Carol leading that portion of the agenda.

Article XII

Carol explains that if the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) proceeds with removing the Secretary of Interior from Article 12 of the constitution, there will no longer be secretarial elections overseen by the federal government. Instead, TEC and the delegations will draft a new tribal election ordinance, likely modeled after the previous secretarial election process but without federal oversight. An oversight council will monitor TEC's potential constitutional amendments during this interim period. The delegations will continue working on the new constitution and alliance and eventually hold an election to ratify it after educating the citizens. The main issue is determining whether the new election process will replace the secretarial one.

Team Building Exercise

The discussion of team-building exercises began with the Education subcommittee outlining the recommendations identified during their meetings. The delegation agreed that two-day meetings would be scheduled quarterly, as was decided 5 years ago, with the first day dedicated to team-building. W.E. recommended that the training begin at 12:30. WE agreed to conduct exercises for 2.5 hours, and LL and FDL will conduct one-hour sessions each. Additionally, it was decided that there would be a team-building exercise at the beginning of each monthly meeting. White Earth delegation will finalize plans for hosting the January 15-16 meeting at Shooting Star.

Cheryl provided updates on the status of the training videos. She is currently waiting for two videos before she begins editing all the videos. The committees responsible discussed the two

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videos in question, who confirmed they would be completed and routed to Cheryl as soon as they were finished.

The Education subcommittee will continue developing educational flyers for each Constitution Article. Based on the feedback received, Fawn and Mikey will edit the flyers for Articles 1 and 2.

All delegations should consider booking future quarterly meetings well in advance to avoid scheduling conflicts. Fawn and Mykee will prepare team-building activities for the January meeting. Additionally, they plan to continue working on drafting flyers on the MCT Constitution articles to complete a series of flyers based on the current MCT Revised Constitution. The Education Committee will present drafts as they are available.

Committee Reports

The TEC Subcommittee will continue meeting monthly to discuss TEC-related matters. All delegates should make efforts to attend subcommittee meetings when invited. The group also discussed the preference of attending subcommittee meetings in person when possible to have productive discussions and show a united front.

Finance – No additional updates.

Education – No additional updates.

Drafting—The Drafting Committee will review comments on the Alliance Treaty Agreement concept and discuss them at its next meeting.

All delegates are to continue educating their communities about the Constitution and reform efforts.

Bois Forte Band's MCT Participation

The delegates discuss the need for continued participation from the Bois Forte Band in the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) delegation meetings. It was decided to have Cheryl from Fond du Lac write a letter to Kathy Chavers, the Bois Forte Tribal Chairwoman, requesting representation from their band to ensure an entire MCT delegation.

There is no scheduled meeting for December due to the holidays. The meeting adjourns at 2:33 pm.