

**MCT CONSTITUTION REFORM CONVENTION  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN  
JUNE 21, 2019  
10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.  
NOTES FROM THE LEECH LAKE DELEGATION**

Leech Lake Delegates in attendance:

1. Waabojeeg (Anthony Rudolph)
2. Frank Reese
3. Wally Storbakken
4. Jason Decker
5. Donita Odden
6. Rose Robinson
7. Sally Fineday
8. Carrie Day Aspinwall
9. Richard White

Presentation by Carrie Day Aspinwall “Tools for Successful Community Engagement” took place.

Highlights:

Public have rights to be involved when policy or laws affect them.

Handouts – Increasing Level of Public Impact and Techniquet Matrix by Engagement Level, Objective, and Group Size.

Presentation by Jason Decker “30% of eligible voters vs. Secretary of Interior 30% of registered voters. Discussion took place where 30% is roughly 11,000 eligible members versus last Amendment where 4000 members voted meant 1100 voters needed to amend the constitution. TEC says we will follow the constitution, but then the Secretary of Interior makes the final decision. Suggested to seek 11,000 voters.

Discussion of Article V, Section E, TEC to answer legal questions? Wally stated the 60k that went to the MCT budget is now being used for attorney fees for questions asked by TEC/MCT? Common sense is needed to make changes, in the final document, attorneys shall be consulted.

Jason Decker stated a couple of Native American attorneys have discussed consulting with Reform on a pro bono basis to answer questions. At some point this group is going to ask for an informal review.

BF – MCT attorney may be a conflict of interest. At some point do need to consult with legal.

FDL – Tribal attorneys have answered their questions but it goes back to common sense.

LL – Conflict with MCT. What we want is what we want.

WE – Scary to use BIA Superintendent.

Dale Green – Brodeen represents MCT. At some point, decisions made by the Reform may have an adverse effect with TEC and RBC. Attorney representing the Band, represents the RBC. At some point, may have to apply Section 17 to help work our way through.

Jason Decker – At some point substitutive changes will occur. The Secretary of Interior will say yea or nay. People wise may recommend valid. Pro bono is down the line.

WE – Mindful of our way. Keep as for what we want.

LL – Sally Fineday had distributed copies of the MCT Constitution at the Memorial Day pow-wow and reported having good discussions with older veterans and young people.

Reform Committees:

Education Committee: David Paquette, Douglas Lee and Sharon Day

Budget Committee: Sidra Stakovich, Cheryl Edwards and Sally Fineday

Carrie Day Aspinwall led a priorities exercise. Outcomes are as follows:

1. Enrollment (13 voted for this item)
2. Governance
3. Culture and Language
4. Education – elections, changes, revisions
5. Natural resources and land

Discussion took place:

- Keep Treaties in mind.
- IRA does aggregate because it's not included in IRA.
- Important to stress our Treaties
- 1855 Treaty Authority have had the privilege of recording and documenting treaties, transcripts from Federal Government, noted about how the army asked villages to opt in asked who was in charge, all knew the old woman was in charge, grandmothers, women, sisters. The man then asked the old woman who is your man? That concept was foreign to us. Roles of women was imbedded in civil leadership in governance. Our rights of occupancy was retained with the 1825 treaty; Chippewa and Sioux were divided north and south of the River. At the treaty signing in 1825, the Ojibwe said not all bands were there, so the treaty was executed the following year when all bands were present.
- We must remember who were the people before the treaties? Before 1825?
- Discussion took place about what are the criteria to be a "people." Wally Storbakken shall type his two preambles and pass them around to the Reform group.
- Discussion of how to keep "Why treaties matter" at the forefront, so our communities shall also be educated on that material. The "Why treaties matter" shall be made available at least once each quarter at the Reform Conventions.
- The US Constitution doesn't recognize Indians.
- The US Constitution does recognize in Article V that we are native nations.
- Noted US Constitution Article 6

- For the upcoming meeting, each reservation reform committee shall study the preamble.
- We must utilize the treaties. Important to note the Ojibwe had a recent alliance with the Odawa and Potawatomi and before that was in alliance with the Six Nations.
- FDL – If we change the Preamble, then we have to amend the Constitution to match.
- Discussion took place to invite Zaagiibagong to seek funding to pay for facilitators for the meetings.
- Wally Storbakken stated the Preamble is the framework that describes who we are.
- Jason Decker identified there are three options at work 1) Amend – small change, 2) Reform – All and 3) Revoke. Jason Decker clarified we are reforming the constitution.
- WE – We change the constitution, we have to define ourselves. We are one Tribe.
- ML – Find our similarities, connect to that.
- BF – Red Lake has a draft that this group should review.
- LL – Citizen Potawatomi Nation has revised their constitution, this group should review.

Discussion took place as the questions was proposed “Should this reform group partner with Zaagiibagong?”

WE – no  
 LL – no  
 BF – yes  
 GP – yes  
 ML – yes  
 FDL – yes

Groups broke into four smaller groups by counting off, discussions took place and regrouped with a change to the question “Should this group utilize Zaagiibagong as a resource”

WE – yes  
 LL – yes  
 BF – yes  
 GP – yes  
 ML – yes  
 FDL – yes

WE – asked “Are we going to change the constitution?”

WE – yes  
 LL – yes  
 BF – yes  
 GP – yes  
 ML – yes  
 FDL – yes

Next meeting is at White Earth on July 19, 2019.

