



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

Executive Branch of Tribal Government

Office of the Chief Executive

Via E-mail

October 15, 2025

Sheldon Boyd, Speaker of the Assembly
Carolyn Beaulieu, District I Representative
Wendy Merrill, District II Representative
Harry Davis, District III Representative

Re: Nomination Letter for Julie Dunkley-Ziegler to Serve as Commissioner of Corporate Affairs

Dear Band Assembly:

Aaniin. I am pleased to nominate Julie Dunkley-Ziegler to serve as Commissioner of Corporate Affairs for a term ending December 31, 2029. Julie is a Mille Lacs Band member with a strong background in finance, business management, and economic development. Moreover, she has spent more than 25 years helping businesses plan, grow, and succeed. I am excited to extend this opportunity to her to serve the Band in such a profound way.

Julie currently works as an Independent Advisor at a financial advisory practice, where she provides financial and retirement planning, investment management, and business consulting services. Her firm manages more than \$290 million in assets and serves more than 1,200 clients. In this role, Julie oversees compliance, human resources, marketing, and day-to-day operations. She has a proven ability to help others create stability and long-term success—something she hopes to bring home to benefit the Band.

Before opening her advisory practice, Julie owned and operated Our Kitchen, a local restaurant that she managed. Through that business, she learned firsthand what it takes to build an enterprise from the ground up—the long hours, the dedication, and the balance between serving customers and managing employees. Those lessons have stayed with her and shaped how she approaches both teamwork and leadership.

Julie also worked in entertainment and marketing with Lyle Berman's Management Company, where she coordinated events, advertising, and promotional campaigns for casino operations. She understands how the Band's businesses operate and the importance of aligning our economic ventures with our long-term vision for growth and self-sufficiency.

Julie's education includes a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with an emphasis in International Finance and Global Markets, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics. She has also served on several boards, including the Band's Corporate Commission Board of Directors (currently serving) and those advocating for minority business owners and women in finance.


Letter from Chief Executive Virgil Wind to the Band Assembly
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Finally, Julie has worked with the University of Minnesota to help college students learn real-world financial and business skills.

What stands out most about Julie is her heart for service and her desire to give back. When we spoke recently, she mentioned how the Band's support through education, health care, and opportunity helped her succeed. Now, she wants to use her experience to strengthen the Band's economic foundation and ensure that future generations continue to benefit from strong, sustainable enterprises.

Throughout her career, Julie has consistently demonstrated that she understands both financial data and the people whose lives are thereby affected. The challenge of leadership is to maintain that balance in a manner that drives the organization forward and helps it to consistently achieve its mission. I believe that Julie is the exact type of person who can strike that balance. I humbly ask that the Band Assembly confirm her nomination.

Miigwech,



Virgil Wind
Chief Executive

CC:

Danielle Smith, Parliamentarian / Clerk of the Assembly
Jared Miller, Legislative Counsel
Caleb Dogeagle, Solicitor General
Julie Dunkley-Ziegler, Nominee

Enclosure:

Julie Dunkley-Ziegler's Resume