



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: July 31-August 4, 2023

Workshop

August 1, 2023

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding the Cannabis Code draft bill.

Weekly Sync Meeting

August 1, 2023

Legislative staff facilitated a Weekly Sync Meeting with elected officials to review the upcoming Band Assembly agenda items. The review included discussion on scheduling Commissioner of Corporate Affairs meeting to discuss commercial hotel interest payments request, August payment letter location on the website, and Invocation for every Band Assembly meeting; the workshop schedule; workshop projects; and District Representative initiatives.

Band Assembly Meeting

August 2, 2023

The Speaker of the Assembly convened a meeting of the Band Assembly. The District Representatives approved the agenda.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Record: July 26, 2023.

The District Representatives received Legislative FY2023 Quarter 1-3 Budget Review from Brianna Boyd, Legislative Affairs Director.

The District Representatives received TERO FY2023 Quarter 1-3 Budget Review from Lori Trail, Director of Tribal Employment Rights Office.

The District Representatives received OSG FY2023 Quarter 1-3 Budget Review from Caleb Dogeagle, Solicitor General.

The District Representatives received Tribal Police FY2023 Quarter 1-3 Budget Review James West, Chief of Police; and Carla Big Bear, Office Manager.

The District Representatives received BMLS FY2023 Quarter 1-3 Budget Review from Band Member Legal Services.

The District Representatives received HHS FY2023 Quarter 1-3 Budget Review from Nicole Anderson, Commissioner of Health & Human Services.

The District Representatives took from the table and approved EllaReine Garbow, with the selection of EllaReine Garbow a roll call vote was completed and the nomination passed. (Nomination: A letter from the Chief Executive nominating EllaReine Garbow and Melissa

“Baabiitaw” Boyd to serve on the Mille Lacs Band Housing Board per 12MLBS § 306(a)(5). Term end date is June 30, 2027. Tabled 7/12/23).

The District Representatives tabled Band Assembly Bill 20-04-49-23 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures to fund the Tesoro Disassembly Project for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2023).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-04-50-23 (A Bill enacting a new chapter titled Minors’ Trust in Title 17 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-04-51-23 (A Bill amending section 1 of Title 6 to adopt a revised Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-04-32-23 (A Resolution Authorizing the Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures to Expend Funds from FY2023 Capital Budget for Grant Casino Mille Lacs Projects).

The District Representatives approved a contract addendum with Brady Martz & Associates P.C. to add additional funding due to additional program reviews for single audit, pass through fees for valuation testing of investment, and implementation of GASB 87 – related to leases.

In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened with the Band Assembly continues to work on legislation to support the cannabis legalization within Minnesota, with the adjustment to the Personnel manual it is ongoing work. Representative Wind shared important part of the agenda today was the Minors’ Trust agreement for a year and a half the process has been torn down and many times we have had constituents that needed the hardship process. We haven’t process a loan for over a year as we worked through fixing the Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP). Hope to get it passed so we can start dealing with hardships again, there are extenuating circumstances that happen within band members lives that we need to be in tune with and we need to make sure we’re doing it legally and consistently with not only the RAP, but the Minors’ Trust Agreement. Representative Wind shared there is a correspondence that went out regarding the extra August payment, there was an extra \$500.00 the total is \$2500.00 the amount it still \$778.00 balance of that being General Welfare Exclusion Act (GWEA) payment shout out to the Representatives and the Commissioner of Finance for helping our families when needed and looking at going back to school and the obstacles we have in supporting our youth that extra \$500.00 will help. Representative Wind shared we had an awesome Mid-Summer Fun Day this last Sunday we had 450-500 people we served 350 meals. Shout out to everybody that helped we had community members and the District I staff. Representative Wind shared shout out to Mille Lacs Tribal Police Department for their National Night out event. Representative Wind shared shout out August 18-21, 2023 Iskigamizigan Pow Wow Committee is working hard for the event if you see them thank them for their volunteering. Recent post about rooms available at Grand Casino Mille Lacs contact Nick Cash or Christine Pewaush, it is a limited amount. Representative Wind closed his comments with congratulations to EllaReine Garbow on her re-ratification to the Housing Board.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill opened with a huge shout out to East Lake Pow Wow Committee for the great job Miigwech Taria and Cheryl, next year will be July 26-28, 2024. Representative Merrill shared shout out to Damien last day interning with her, he spent the summer viewing the day to day of a Representative and working with the Legislative Aides, good for our youth to see what they go through and the feedback from the community.

Important for our youth to learn and understand that and get a good understanding of tribal government. Representative Merrill shared Virgil doesn't recognize himself enough she wants to recognize him for his great summer event over the weekend. Representative Merrill shared we do have our August community meetings on August 23, 2023 in Chiminising and August 24, 2023 in East Lake, MLCV will be on the agenda for that, but up in East Lake we will have Mike Moilanen for a trail update, they are looking to provide trail access between the convenience store and the ALU. Representative Merrill shared as of August 1, 2023 Tribal Police is providing public safety services in District II, to request any officer assistance you will still have to contact Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police dispatch at (320)532-3430 calls are answered 24/7 Miigwech to all the community members that have reached out to her this past year, their office space is currently at the ALU and the service they provide within the community is great. Representative Merrill shared we have plans in the works for the next fiscal year events and feedback is appreciated. Representative Merrill closed her comments with looking forward to have back to school bash. Open gym is on August 6, 2023 12-6:00 p.m. and volleyball in the future.

Workshop **August 3, 2023**

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, staff, and Commissioner of Finance regarding the Cannabis Code draft bill.

Meeting **August 4, 2023**

Legal staff facilitated a discussion meeting for the elected officials, staff, and Commissioner of Finance regarding preparation for the compromise hearing for the vetoed Act 48-23.

Band Assembly Meeting **August 4, 2023**

The Speaker of the Assembly convened a meeting of the Band Assembly. The District Representatives approved the agenda.

Band Assembly conducted a compromise hearing regarding Vetoed Act 48-23. The hearing commenced at 10:35 a.m. with an opening statement from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. Following the opening statement there were statements and comments from the District Representatives. The compromise hearing was closed at 10:43 a.m.

Band Assembly Meeting **August 6, 2023**

Band Assembly conducted a continued compromise hearing regarding vetoed Act 48-23. The hearing commenced at 9:02 a.m. with an opening statement from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. Following the opening statement there were statements and comments from the District Representatives. Negotiations were made for an agreed upon compromise bill. The compromise hearing was closed at 9:18 a.m.

The District Representatives amended and approved the agenda.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-04-52-23 (A Bill of supplemental appropriation and authorization of Long-Term Savings Investment Income Funds for the Cannabis Business Project Funding Request for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2023. This bill reflects the compromise between the Chief Executive and the Band Assembly on vetoed Act 48-23).

In the “Message from the Chief Executive” portion of the agenda, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin opened with thank you for all that’s been on the Sunday morning meeting and we did receive information regarding the business plan and as we’re looking at this topic it is an economic development project and again the goal is to provide business development economic development for the band and she thinks that’s what her focus is, it’s not about weed and people having the access to have that for their personal use or whatever, but it’s a business and an economic development project and as we’re moving forward hope it’s successful that we’re able to share that success with the band members and move forward in a good way Chief Benjamin closed her comments with Miigwech thank you everyone.

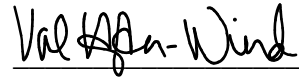
In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened with thank you everybody for coming out on a Sunday to get this done, he also thinks this is momentous, he thinks it’s about filling gaps within tribal government and that we’re never going to be given an opportunity like this as a nation to have the benefit of an eighteen month head start on anything, when you look out in the world and you see lines and millions of dollars that Red Lake must’ve made here in the last week, us having the ability to meet on a Sunday to get this done is huge really filling the gaps in the decreased revenue of gaming is an important part of what this cannabis legislation hopefully does. Excited for this opportunity and you think about all the chances in your life to get a head start to make a jump into a brand new venture your given eighteen months, get ahead. Representative Wind closed his comments with appreciate everybody coming out, this is very exciting. Mi’iw.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill opened with Miigwech to everybody for taking the time and being here on a Sunday. Representative Merrill shared these appropriation bills are a little different and we meet when we have to meet and she thinks personally it’s a historic day it’s something that we’re taking a big risk on and we’re going to be developing and putting our name out there in a good way. A lot of people have reached out a lot of people have supported it. Representative Merrill closed her comments with Miigwech to MLCV for taking the time and brought it out to the communities and did a great job on the presentation to all the band members and if anybody is there in chambers she stated Miigwech for your support and as the sponsor it provides her with enough guidance for making these decisions, Miigwech everybody.

District III Representative Harry Davis opened with thanking everyone for being here today, thank you Band Assembly and Madam Chief for being here today. Representative Davis closed his comments with we need to get our business and economic development rolling.

In the “Message from the Secretary-Treasurer” portion of the agenda, Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd opened with to speak to the processes that were involved here in the compromise hearing and the spirit behind that, that is the spirit where the separation of powers that’s made how that interacts and supposed to get along, they set these guidelines out long time ago he thinks everyone who’s here this morning and whose on the zoom call he would like to show the membership that folks here agree and participate in the laws that are set out before us and prime example of the division of powers. Secretary-Treasurer Boyd closed his comments with we’re going to invite some folks from LCO to come and take a look at the Mille Lacs Band because they’re considering a move to separation of powers and forty years ago when tiny Mille Lacs decided to go to separation of powers were kind of laughed at and the little reservation in Minnesota was the only division of powers in the nation and here we are forty years later and still a work in progress and appreciate everyone involved and kind of taking part in the process as we continue on.

The next Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer