



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: December 18-22, 2023

Weekly Sync Meeting

December 19, 2023

Legislative staff facilitated a weekly sync meeting with elected officials and staff to review the upcoming Band Assembly agenda items. The meeting included discussion on the workshop schedule; workshop projects; and District Representative initiatives.

Band Assembly Meeting

December 20, 2023

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

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Record: December 6, 2023.

Band Assembly conducted a confirmation hearing for Institutional Investment Committee with Andy Christensen, Nominee.

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 20-04-81-23 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget revision(s)/transfer(s) for the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch and Gaming Regulatory Authority for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2023, September 30, 2024, and September 30, 2025).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-04-82-23 (A Bill amending Title 8, section 401 to expend the definition of domestic abuse and family or household members).

The District Representatives removed from the agenda Band Assembly Bill 20-04-83-23 (A Bill of Supplemental appropriation and authorization of Long-Term Savings Funds for the Grand Casino Mille Lacs & Hinckley Hotel Refresh and Cannabis Retail Space Project – Loan Funding (“the Project”) Request for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2024. The Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, on behalf of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (“MLCV”), formally requested funding for the Project. The Fiscal Year 2023 appropriation (Act 54-23) for this project did not include within its scope, cannabis retail space for the casinos. Cannabis retail space within the casinos has been added to the scope of the project, however, still within the maximum amount permitted to be loaned, of \$102,000,000.00. \$9,840,000.00 of the loan amount was transferred to MLCV in Fiscal Year 2023 with the remaining not to exceed \$92,160,000.00 of loan funds, expected to be transferred in Fiscal Year 2024).

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 20-04-83-23 (A Bill authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures for the Fiscal Years Ending September 30, 2023, and September 30, 2024).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-04-47-23 (A Resolution Approving the Continuance of the Mille Lacs Band Government, Circle of Health, Gaming Regulatory Authority, Department of Athletic Regulation, Supplemental Income Program for Elders, Tribal Employment Rights Office, Housing Initiative, and Band Member Legal Services Fiscal Operations until January 31, 2024).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-04-48-23 (A Resolution Approving the Continuance of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Non-Gaming, and Gaming Fiscal Operations Until January 31, 2024).

The District Representatives accepted Formal Notification received on December 14, 2023, (dated December 20, 2023) from Joseph S. Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, of FY2024, Quarters 1 and 2 Capital Projects that reads as follows:

Please accept this letter as a formal notification that we intend to open FY2024 Q1 & Q2 capital projects. Per the revenue ordinance we must provide notice at least ten (10) business days before expending the money on a project equal to or exceeding \$25,000 and less than \$250,000. If the Band Assembly fails to stay the project within ten (10) business days after receiving notice, then Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures may expend money on the project.

Grand Casino Mille Lacs Projects:

1. Grand Casino Mille Lacs Capital Project (M24-SYS-01)
2. Grand Casino Mille Lacs Capital Project (M24-SLT-02)
3. Grand Casino Mille Lacs Capital Project (M24-TBL-01)
4. Grand Casino Mille Lacs Capital Project (M24-TBL-02)

Grand Casino Hinckley Projects:

1. Grand Casino Hinckley Capital Project (H24-SYS-01)
2. Grand Casino Hinckley Capital Project (H24-HOT-01)
3. Grand Casino Hinckley Capital Project (H24-HOT-02)
4. Grand Casino Hinckley Capital Project (H24-HOT-03)
5. Grand Casino Hinckley Capital Project (H24-HOT-04)
6. Grand Casino Hinckley Capital Project (H24-SYS-04)

The District Representatives approved Nomination (A nomination from Chief Benjamin, nominating Rick Pardun to serve as the Commissioner of Community Development. Current term ends June 30, 2027).

The District Representatives approved Nomination (Pursuant to 12 MLBS § 306(a)(6) on September 27, 2023, the Secretary-Treasurer submitted two names to the Chief Executive to serve on the Housing Board – Leroy Day and Michael Davis. On November 27, 2023, a letter dated September 28, 2023, was received from Chief Benjamin nominated Michael Davis for confirmation. Current term ends June 30, 2026).

The District Representatives tabled Nomination (A nomination from Secretary-Treasurer, nominating Andy Christensen to serve a subsequent term on the Institutional Investment Committee. Current term ends December 31, 2027).

The District Representatives approved contract with Guardian Fleet Safety to provide vehicle equipment installation, maintenance and repair of all police vehicles. Contract end date is September 30, 2024.

The District Representatives approved contract with Pine Technical and Community College to provide training and classes for: ServeSafe, Parenting Piece by Piece, CAN, PCA, Automotive Technician, Principals of Carpentry, Administrative Assistant, Computer Training, Managing Personal Finances, Basic Small Engine Repair and Home Economics. This contract expense is included in the QUEST Grant.

The District Representatives approved contract with Degerstrom & Sons Construction, LLC to provide labor and materials for an exterior commercial renovation project at the Roads Garage.

The District Representatives approved contract with Janice Lippitt to provide licensed school psychologist services and coordinate needed services for the 2023-2024 school year.

The District Representatives approved contract with Gwen Marshall to provide occupational therapy needs, consult with I.E.P. teams and complete evaluations for the 2023-2024 school year.

The District Representatives approved contract with Therapy Associates, Inc. to provide speech language pathologist services to assess articulation and or language needs for the 2023-2024 school year.

In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened with second passing of Title 15 Gaming Regulatory Act re-sent to Bureau of Indian Affairs for approval. Representative Wind shared tonight in District I starting at 5:00 p.m. District I Christmas party with Santa, NAS Rock band, flute music, door prizes, and custom made gift. Representative Wind shared Friday will be a last chance for gift card distribution Friday, December 22, 2023, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the old community center. Representative Wind shared to urban membership Ventura should be happening this spring we just re-appropriated the funding. We also re-appropriated for the cannabis business project along with the legislation that should be completed soon. Representative Wind closed his comments with congratulations to Rick Pardun and to Madam Chief for having a full cabinet.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill opened with adding Cannabis bill is complete and will be put on the agenda the day of the State of the Band, thank you to Hanna Valento, Revisor of Statutes for all the help with that bill. Representative Merrill shared Christmas party tonight in Chiminising have to be present for gift card, Santa, and will have activities for kids. Representative Merrill shared she will be taking some time off if anybody has comments or questions please contact Taria Aubid and Cheryl Miller. Representative Merrill closed her comments with hope everybody has a safe holiday with your families.

District III Representative Harry Davis opened with tomorrow children’s gift distribution 4-7p.m. out at Aazhoomog and at Meshakwad 4-6p.m. Representative Davis shared used hotel furniture construction changed from demolition to renovation, next year the furniture will resume the first week of January the first Thursday and Friday. Representative Davis closed his comments with District III Christmas party this Friday, December 22, 2023 at Grand Casino Hinckley 5:00 p.m., social hour dinner at 6:00 p.m., and entertainment at 7:00 p.m.

In the “Message from the Secretary-Treasurer” portion of the agenda, Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd opened with pointing out the process that we’re following and the reasoning why. A lot of it is accountability, it’s a tedious process for everyone involved. He wants people to remember there’s a lot of money being moved through here (Band Assembly), Legislative folks all account for the monies that the band gets from gaming revenue, federal, and stated funds etc...he thinks the process that you see in play here have a reason and he thinks we’re on a good course and will continue to improve. Congratulations and applause everyone who participates, including the people who come in and speak on behalf of those individuals, and the individual expenditures and contracts for the record. That’s what we’re doing here is fulfilling those duties to record the acts and deeds of the Assembly. He thinks we’re doing a good job, and this work being archived with video and the agendas are there. We’re fulfilling our duty to membership and band statute by what you see here. Thank you everyone.

Workshop

December 21, 2023

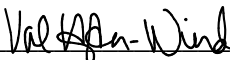
Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, staff, and CMD and Housing representatives regarding a draft renovation loan policy.

Workshop

December 22, 2023

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, staff, Commissioner of Administration, Assistant Commissioner of Administration, Human Resources Director, and Deputy Solicitor General regarding a draft HR Personnel Policy – Parental Leave.

The next Band Assembly meeting is not scheduled at this time.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer