



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians  
*Legislative Branch of Tribal Government*

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## Weekly Review: June 19-23, 2023

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### **Band Assembly Meeting**

**June 19, 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 32-23. The hearing commenced at 10:43 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 1:46 p.m.

In the “Message from the Chief Executive” portion of the agenda, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin opened with alerting band membership we will be having an all community meeting again on June 27, 2023 all band members are invited to attend we will be at Meshakwad, flyers will be coming out shortly. Chief Benjamin shared thank you for attending the meeting with Associate from the Department of Justice Vanita Gupta she was very happy with the visit and she thinks they will be looking at MLB as the role model for a lot of the best practices appreciate that. Chief Benjamin closed her comments with have a good rest of the day off for June 19, 2023. Miigwech

In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened and closed with thanking everybody that put in the hard work for the Grand Celebration, whether it be MLCV or District III Representative. That pow wow committee, the whole thing was amazing and awesome was a pleasure to attend great dancing great singing.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill opened and closed with community meeting that we had scheduled for tomorrow evening in East Lake has been canceled and we’re going to be postponing to Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Community meeting on Wednesday that’s still a go for Chiminising at 5:30 p.m.

District III Representative Harry Davis opened with unavailable this Wednesday if there is anything scheduled this week he will be unable to attend.

In the “Message from the Secretary-Treasurer” portion of the agenda Secretary-Treasurer Boyd opened and closed with for the record all those participating in the session today the elected officials, archives, and the people who had time to get into the live stream to show that sometimes the rules work, they serve a purpose, the rules are part, only effective when you have buy in from the participants, and you see that today from all the elected officials and he thinks that’s a win for the processes and for the processes that we put into place by all the folks involved and that’s Harry and legislative staff and he stopped there. It’s a good day when you

can see some of this stuff at least procedurally take place, people take time out of their days off, call in, participate, make it for the record, and follow the law. Thank you all very much.

**Workshop**

**June 20, 2023**

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding the Minors' Trust.

**Weekly Sync Meeting**

**June 20, 2023**

Legislative staff facilitated a weekly sync meeting with elected officials to review the week with Band Assembly agenda items. The review included review of the workshop schedule, workshop projects, and District Representative initiatives.

**Band Assembly Meeting**

**June 21, 2023**

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

The District Representatives approved the minutes from the Band Assembly meeting dated May 8, 2023 and tabled May 10, 2023.

The Band Assembly received and introduction and summary of the investment committee prior to an update from the investment committee in executive session.

The Band Assembly received an end of session reports for both state and federal from Dan Larson, Lockridge Grindal Nauen, Jessica Lindeen, Lockridge Grindal Nauen, Daniel Pollock, Lockridge Grindal Nauen, Rich Ginsberg, Rotunda Group, Phil Banker-Shank, Holland & Knight, and James Meggesto, Holland & Knight.

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 20-03-41-23 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget transfer(s)/revision(s) for the Executive and Legislative Branches for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2023).

The District Representatives tabled Resolution 20-03-25-23 (A Resolution Approving the Continuance of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Non-Gaming, and Gaming Fiscal Operations Until September 30, 2023).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-03-26-23 (A Resolution Ratifying a Joint Funding Agreement with the Upper Midwest Water Science Center, United States Department of Interior to Provide Funding to Monitor the Lake Level and Data Telemetry).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-03-27-23 (A Resolution Ratifying a Memorandum of Understanding with the Regents of the University of Minnesota to Volunteer Surveillance of Aquatic Invasive Species using eDNA).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-03-28-23 (A Resolution Ratifying a Joint Powers Contract with the State of Minnesota to Monitor the Trunk Highway 169 Rehabilitation Project Along the West Shore of Mille Lacs Lake in Mille Lacs and Crow Wing Counties).

The District Representatives approved a contract with Ebert Construction to provide labor and materials for commercial construction of a new Early Education Head Start facility in Hinckley.

The District Representatives approved a contract with EZ Excavating, LLC to provide labor and materials to replace a septic system for a Band member home in District 3, through Indian Health Services funding.

The District Representatives approved a contract the Minnesota Timberwolves Basketball Limited Partnership to provide game nights with positive speakers, youth basketball clinics and job shadow opportunities for youth.

In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened with thanking the lobbyists and everyone here Holland & Knight, Lockridge Grindal Nauen, and Investment Committee for their update today. Great information for band membership, he commends the great work. He thanked Secretary-Treasurer Boyd and Commissioner of Finance Towle for pushing that committee. Representative Wind shared District I June Community meeting scheduled for next Wednesday, June 28, 2023 he called out all band members with an interest in where the Band goes with the State of Minnesota legalized recreational cannabis, the meeting will have Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, Joe Nayquonabe Jr and he will be there for an open conversation with questions, there will be a sign up sheet available for people that want to comment for or against and there will also be a box for anonymous comments. Setting the stage for having a robust conversation for the Mille Lacs Band and where we go from here. As elected officials when looking at opportunity that marijuana can bring, really appreciate the input from membership and we have a very short timeline to turn this around, any input will be appreciated. All three representatives will be attending all the community meetings in various districts. Representative Wind closed his comments with There is a draft piece of preliminary legislation you can comment on that, we know there’s a lot of work to do, but we want as much opportunity for people to voice their concerns. If you have any questions call him directly at (320)630-1428.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill opened with she does have a community meeting tonight in Chiminising as Representative Wind mentioned on the agenda tonight is Joe Nayquonabe Jr. from MLCV regards to cannabis discussion these meetings are open to anybody that would like to attend. Representative Merrill shared as Representative Wind mentioned she will be at District III tomorrow, we have a community meeting that was rescheduled for East Lake on the 27<sup>th</sup>, District I on the 28<sup>th</sup>, and Urban on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Those will all have the same discussion, we want to make sure we bring all that information to the community and she has received a lot of support as sponsor, will be shared sponsor. In regards to public comment period it is on the tribal registry for 22 days it started on the 19<sup>th</sup> and it will end on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Representative Merrill shared we have open gym on July 9<sup>th</sup> and our pow wow in East Lake July 21-23, 2023. Representative Merrill closed her comments with in regards to Valley Fair we have received many calls and it was not signed, it was stopped, and she has no further comment to if it will be approved. Please reach out to any elected officials if you have any questions you can reach out to the Commissioner of Finance or the Chief Executive in regards to that request. Miigwech.

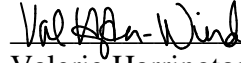
**Workshop** **June 22, 2023**

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding Bill: Minors’ Trust.

**Workshop** **June 23, 2023**

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, legislative staff, Human Resources Director, Deputy Solicitor General, and Assistant Commissioner of Administration regarding recreational marijuana proposed revisions to HR personnel policies and procedures.

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



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Valerie Harrington-Wind  
Chief Communications Officer