



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: February 19-23, 2024

Workshop

February 20, 2024

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding draft revolving loan fund policy.

Weekly Sync Meeting

February 20, 2024

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 letter(s) sent to the Chief Executive about nominations for the loan committee – next steps; effective date for Title 6 bill (enacting parental leave policy); bills to work on; the workshop schedule; workshop projects; and District Representative initiatives.

Band Assembly Meeting

February 21, 2024

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 February 15, 2024.

Band Assembly received a presentation from Verus regarding a Comprehensive Performance Report in Executive Session. The District Representatives accepted the report.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-01-15-24 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget revision(s)/transfer(s) for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2023, and September 30, 2024).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-01-16-24 (A Bill amending section 1 of Title 6 to adopt a revised Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual to add dedicated language for a paid parental leave policy.

This bill reflects the compromise between the Chief Executive and the Band Assembly on vetoed Act 51-23 and the later compromised Act 60-23. In a letter from the Chief Executive, dated September 1, 2023, it was requested that a compromise could be accomplished if the Band Assembly “works towards the passage of a bill within 60 days that approves additional amendments to the Personnel Policy & Procedures Manual addressing maternity leave and social media usage.”

Within the 60-day timeframe, the District Representatives worked with the Commissioner of Administration, Assistant Commissioner of Administration, Human Resources, and the Office of the Solicitor General to begin the work on the draft policies. The District Representatives

expanded the maternal leave to be a parental leave policy, to include partners of those who give birth. Employees who give birth will now have 12 weeks of paid parental leave. The policy also expands, and encourages, Band employees to use paid parental leave for adoption, fostering a child, or being legally designated to provide a child with care and parental supervision. Employees who adopt, foster, or have been legally designated to provide a child with care and parental supervision will now have 4 weeks of paid parental leave.

The District Representatives continue to work on a social media usage policy and others to ensure the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual stays updated).

The District Representatives approved contract addendum for KAGR Jensen, Inc. to provide continued public relations services.

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-01-07-24 (A Resolution denouncing the improper suspension of an appointed official by the Chief Executive).

In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened with it’s hard as Elected Officials at times to pick a fight and sometimes you have to. The resolution passed today wasn’t aimed at picking a fight, it was aimed at defending someone who did what was right and he will work with the Chief Executive, Office of Solicitor General, and everybody involved to make it so reprimands are clearly articulated in statute. The demands of appointed officials are 24/7 and when they do the right thing, there shouldn’t be any confusion as to how you can be retaliated against, he appreciates the hard work of the appointed officials. He thanked the representatives and with District II Representative not on the meeting she is supportive of the resolution. Representative Wind shared community meeting next Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the new District I community center on the agenda District I Representative welcome and office update, Barb Fabre CEO All Nations Rise to present on Indigenous FFN child care network information, and Commissioner of Education, Niiyo Gonzalez to present Indigenous Education for all and gathering of data. He shared will be a good menu and if sick please stay home. Representative Wind shared we recently received the passed cannabis bill, been working on this since June 2023, we reached a compromise and received a signed copy from the Chief Executive yesterday. Huge congratulations and thank you to everybody who contributed. Representative Wind shared open gym every Saturday, shout out to Eldayshun Big Bear for his filming, following the process of having waivers signed, his investment to the community, recording of youth, and sharing his spotlight with the community. Representative Wind shared praying for snow; anticipating snow to do some fun stuff. Representative Wind closed his comments with thank you to Assembly and everybody, we had a Verus update and a shout out to Secretary-Treasurer Boyd and Mel Towle for their hard work in securing our investments. We received our first report today. Miigwech.

District III Representative Harry Davis opened with we are working on a pop up pow wow March 16, 2024. Representative Davis closed his comments with last night at Meshakwad we had our first District III cribbage tournament hosted by Katie Draper 1st place was Reine Garbow, 2nd place was Lisa Benjamin, and 3rd place was Andrew Sutton. Third place was funded by District I Representative. Congratulations to all three winners.

In the “Message from the Secretary-Treasurer” portion of the agenda Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd shared narratively to the investment report moving forward; thank you Mel Towle Chris Waite, Verus, and Northern Trust. The situation now is that we have professionals out there who are experts in the field who are working on behalf of the band for a set amount of money and there’s no incentive, fiduciary is very clear and the point of the Secretary-Treasurer is

to provide this information to the other four elected officials , so they can take that information and make their decisions based on clear financial information moving forward, as he looks at this role in his time here based on statute and settled on role as giving the elected officials as clear information as they can so they can make good choices on behalf of the people moving forward and folks coming generations etcetera, again Mel, Chris and all folks there this is a start this is the first year we will begin to build a track record of clear information and the band will have a clear sense of where we are moving forward and that is the whole point of all this in the singularly role of five elected officials there's this role of Secretary-Treasurer and hopefully we can create that mold and moving forward other folks that move into this it's built for laymen, you don't have to be the, other folks are there to work on behalf that's the intent.

Workshop

February 22, 2024

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, staff, and Commissioner of Finance regarding biennium budget.

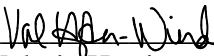
Workshop

February 23, 2024

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, staff, Assistant Commissioner of Administration, Housing Director, Deputy Solicitor, Community Development staff, and Housing Board members regarding a draft renovation loan policy.

Elected officials and staff attended a meeting with the Mille Lacs Band Constitutional Reform Delegation regarding alliance document.

The next Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer