



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

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## Weekly Review: October 16-20, 2023

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### **Weekly Sync Meeting**

**October 16, 2023**

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

### **Workshop**

**October 16, 2023**

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding a draft bill to enact a cannabis code.

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 Social Media Use Telecommuting.

### **Joint Session of the Band Assembly Meeting**

**October 16, 2023**

The Speaker of the Assembly convened a meeting of the Joint Session of the Band Assembly. The Joint Session of the Band Assembly amended and approved the agenda.

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly approved Joint Session Record: July 7, 2023.

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly approved Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 20-04-10-23: A Resolution Approving the Enrollments into the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for Those who meet the 1/4 Degree Requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly approved Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 20-04-11-23: A Resolution Denying the Enrollments into the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for Those who do not meet the 1/4 Degree Requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly approved Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 20-04-12-23: A Resolution Denying the Enrollments into the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for Applicants Who Were Not Born to an Enrolled Mille Lacs Band Member.

During other business Jean Skinaway-Lawrence and Elizabeth Skinaway gave a statement regarding Talon mines, enrollments, and Sandy Lake.

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

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Record: October 11, 2023.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-04-69-23 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget transfer(s)/revision(s) for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2023, and September 30, 2024).

The District Representatives tabled Nomination (A nomination from Chief Benjamin, nominating Le Ann Benjamin to serve on the Corporate Board, District I position. Current term ends March 31, 2024).

The District Representatives approved Nomination (A nomination from Chief Benjamin, nominating Bernida Humetewa for the District III Appellate Judge position. Current term ends August 15, 2024).

The District Representatives approved Vanessa Gibbs Nomination (Pursuant to 12 MLBS § 306(a)(9) on August 22, 2023, the District 3 Representative submitted two names to the Chief Executive to serve on the Housing Board – District 3 Position, Vanessa Gibbs and Katie Draper. On September 13, 2023, Chief Benjamin nominated Vanessa Gibbs for confirmation. Current term ends June 30, 2026).

The District Representatives approved contract addendum with RecoveryTrek, LLC. to provide third-party administrator services and case management software. The services include service information management, drug testing and direction of random compliance testing of participants, monitoring a daily check-in from participants and providing FHTWC with status updates on treatment process. This addendum is to extend the contract end date from June 30, 2023 to July 22, 2025.

In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened with thanking and congratulating Bernida and Vanessa for their appointments today. Representative Wind shared DI Grand Casino refresh in partnering with MLCV to announce dates for furniture. There is a flyer out with dates on flyer through November with more November dates to come, reminder tomorrow this is just a start there are approximately 600 rooms we are on 60 rooms. To pick up furniture behind the old kids quest door area, it is first come first serve and there is no help loading starts at 8:00 a.m. plenty of upcoming opportunities. Representative Wind shared urban Halloween party October 26, 2023 5-7 p.m. District I MLEE trunk or treat is also on October 26, 2023. Representative Wind shared in process of planning Spooktacular Halloween Party on October 31, 2023 from 4-7 p.m. at the new District I community center more details to come. Representative Wind closed his comments with a save the date in partnership with the Maadaoonidiwag grant for a Native American Heritage Month Celebration Powwow on Friday, November 10, 2023 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the New DI Community Center, flyer coming soon.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill opened with tonight is our meeting in Chiminising at 5:30 p.m. Tomorrow there is that monthly elder meeting at GCML hosted by MLCV. Representative Merrill shared Urban community meeting is on October 26, 2023. Representative

Merrill shared we are planning our Halloween parties will have our party in Chiminising on Sunday, October 29, 2023 and Minisinaakwang on Monday, October 30, 2023 both from 6-8 p.m. Representative Merrill shared next month we are planning our turkey giveaways we've been communicating with Wewinabi so they will be ready a week before our community meetings so there is time for the turkeys to thaw. For our Christmas parties coming up in a couple months we are looking for ideas and suggestions. Representative Merrill shared making sure people are watching those communications in regards to the meetings that Chief Benjamin has been hosting in regards to the Wilder study, blood quantum issues, and the enrollment discussion. Please attend those meetings they are offering a \$50.00 gift card for those surveys that are going to be coming out and asking those questions about blood quantum and the study and enrollments are very important. Representative Merrill closed her comments with we are starting arts and crafts, it will be ribbon shirt making and open gym on Sunday, October 22, 2023 at Chiminising we are yet to plan the one for Minisinaakwang.

District III Representative Harry Davis opened with District III Elder activity that was postponed earlier this year we scheduled it for this coming Sunday, October 22, 2023 we have a shuttle scheduled and will leave Hinckley in the afternoon, call the Lake Lena center talk to Cassie or Monica for details and times. We're going to Prairie Island overnight, play bingo, and return on Monday. Representative Davis closed his comments with our October community meeting will be this Thursday at Grand Casino Hinckley at 5:30 p.m.

**Workshop**

**October 19, 2023**

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding a draft bill to enact a cannabis code.

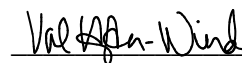
Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, staff, Commissioner of Finance, Commissioner of Administration, Assistant Commissioner of Administration, Human Resources Director, and Deputy Solicitor General regarding a draft HR Personnel Policy – Parental Leave Social Media Use Telecommuting.

**Workshop**

**October 20, 2023**

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding a draft bill to enact a cannabis code and draft public comment letter.

*The next Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.*



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Valerie Harrington-Wind  
Chief Communications Officer