



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: March 18-22, 2024

Weekly Sync Meeting

March 19, 2024

Legislative staff facilitated a weekly sync meeting with elected officials and staff to review the upcoming Band Assembly agenda. The meeting included discussion about the open seats on the boards for Band Member Legal Services and Cannabis Regulation, Legal Counsel schedule next week & memo, bills to work on, the workshop schedule, workshop projects, and District Representative initiatives.

Band Assembly Meeting

March 20, 2024

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

The District Representatives tabled the Band Assembly Record for March 13, 2024.

Band Assembly received presentations in Executive Session from Joseph S. Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs regarding a Budget Presentation and an Appropriation Request and Non-Gaming Budget. Prior to going into executive session Commissioner Nayquonabe gave a brief overview of the presentation items.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-01-21-24 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the April, May, June, and July 2024 Tribal Per Capita Distribution for Adults and Minor Trust for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2024).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-01-22-24 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the April, May, June, and July 2024 Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act (“TGWEA”) Assistance Payment Program for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2024).

The District Representatives amended and approved Resolution 21-01-10-24 (A Resolution Requesting that the Chief Executive Nominate Revolving Loan Fund Committee Members).

The District Representatives approved Hardship Request: District I: D1-01-01-24.

The District Representatives approved Hardship Request: District I: D1-01-02-24.

Messages from the Chief Executive:

Chief Benjamin was not present during this portion of the meeting.

Messages from the Representatives:

District I Representative Virgil Wind said his messages are similar to last week. He reminded the community about the furniture giveaway at Grand Casino Mille Lacs for Band members tomorrow Thursday, March 21, 2024. The District I Community meeting is Wednesday, March

27, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at new District I community center. The agenda includes DI Office update and Kelly Applegate, Commissioner of Department of Natural Resources with an update on Water over Nickel and fisheries. He stated for urban Band Members that there are still times available to meet with Representative Wind by reaching out to Darla Roache (320)362-0793. This coincides with the Urban Community Meeting on March 28, 2024. He noted that in District I on Saturday, March 30, 2024, from 5-7 p.m., a Family Fun Night will be provided by Health & Human Services, Substance Use Disorder, and Population health. Open gym is still happening. For information call Eldayshun Big Bear at (763)244-9768. District I is in the process of finalizing plans for the 4th Annual District I Ziigwan Side Step Social Sunday, May 5, 2024, from 2-7 p.m. at the new District I community center. A flyer should be out soon. Representative Wind reminded Band members of the spring cleanup, which will be held on April 20-28, 2024. He said elders should call (320)532-7448 a week before cleanup to schedule their pick up. Community Development asked that elders have their piles ready two days after clean up starts.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill was not present during this portion of the meeting.

District III Representative Harry Davis said the community meeting will be tomorrow Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at Grand Casino Hinckley. He said the 2nd cribbage tournament date is Monday, March 25, 2024, at the ALU at 5:00 p.m.

Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd had no messages.

Band Assembly Meeting

March 22, 2024

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 19-24 Enacting A Bill of Appropriation for Governmental Operations of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches; Circle of Health; Gaming Regulatory Authority; Department of Athletic Regulation; Supplemental Income Program for Elders; Tribal Employment Rights Office; and Band Member Legal Services of the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Government for fiscal years ending September 30, 2024, and September 30, 2025. The hearing commenced at 8:33 a.m. with an opening statement by Chief Executive, Melanie Benjamin regarding the veto letter sent to Band Assembly on March 19, 2024. Following the opening statement there were comments from District I Representative Virgil Wind and District III Representative Harry Davis. The continued compromise hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 25, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. The compromise hearing was closed at 8:51 a.m.

Messages from the Chief Executive:

Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin said she looks forward to discussion on this (Compromise Hearing) and to actually put real life experience and truth in these statements as we're moving forward. Chief Benjamin said she looks forward to seeing many band members at the celebration this afternoon. Chief Benjamin said and when we're talking about certain responsibilities that fall within executive branch those things are actually budgeted and we do submit budgets in for our celebrations or any of our gatherings that are normally in that. Finally, she said she looks forward to the continued discussion.

Messages from the Representatives:

District I Representative Virgil Wind said he also looks forward to getting this done (Compromise Hearing). The value that can be brought to band members is immense within this budget. Representative Wind said we're trying to figure it out; the (budget) process for years has been broken. Representative Wind said we need to figure out what that looks like and this was an attempt to move it a little closer to actual budget adherence. Finally, he said he looks forward to the conversation. Miigwech.

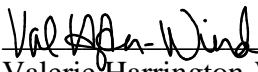
District II Representative Wendy Merrill was not present during this portion of the meeting.

District III Representative Harry Davis had no messages.

Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd had no messages.

The next Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer