



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

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**Weekly Review: December 4-8, 2023**

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**Workshop**

**December 5, 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 Social Media Use Telecommuting.

**Weekly Sync Meeting**

**December 5, 2023**

Legislative staff facilitated a weekly sync meeting with elected officials, staff, and Commissioner of Finance 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 6, 2023**

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

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Record: November 27, 2023.

Band Assembly conducted a confirmation hearing for Commissioner of Community Development with Rick Pardun, Nominee.

Band Assembly received a presentation from Kelly Applegate, Commissioner of Natural Resources, regarding Planning for Community Engagement Session in District 2.

Band Assembly conducted a confirmation hearing for Housing Board nominee Michael Davis.

The District Representatives tabled Resolution 20-04-45-23 (A Resolution Approving the Amended Public Law 102-477 Master Plan for the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for the Time Period Beginning October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2025).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-04-46-23 (A Resolution Approving the Joint Powers Contract Between the State of Minnesota and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for the Data Recovery and Monitoring on Trunk Highway 169 for the TH 169 Rehabilitation Project (Phase III) (MN DOT Contract #1054733).

The District Representatives denied Band Assembly Bill 20-04-79-23 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures for Non-Gaming Operating Losses for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2023, and September 30, 2024).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-04-80-23 (A Bill amending Title 15, Chapter 1 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes (“MLBS”), to make comprehensive reforms to the Gaming Regulatory Act. This bill reflects the compromise between the Chief Executive and the Band Assembly on vetoed Act 32-23 and the recommended changes from the National Indian Gaming Commission).

The District Representatives tabled 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 tabled 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).

In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened with regarding today’s confirmation hearings, please reach out in approval or disapproval of these important positions. Representative Wind shared District I ALU will be having a craft & bake sale this Saturday at 9:00 a.m. Representative Wind shared open gym is Saturday & Sunday from 2-8p.m. at the new center any questions contact Eldayshun Big Bear (763)244-9768 or contact District I Office. Representative Wind shared Walmart gift card distribution dates are at the Urban Christmas party at the Phillips Community Center Saturday, December 9, 2023 2:30-4:30 p.m. and Urban Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at the Urban Office from 10am-3pm. District I Friday, December 8, 2023 and Monday, December 11, 2023 at the old District I community center 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. must have tribal or state I.D. and medical card or school grades for dependent verification. District I gift card give back option, you can donate your gift card back to the District I office and they donate the card to Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe foster care program, you can donate at the distribution or email [Darla.Roache2@millelacsband.com](mailto:Darla.Roache2@millelacsband.com) stating you would like to donate your gift card, please include address and you can contact Darla Roache at (320)362-0793. Representative Wind shared chairs are still available for pick up at the old District I community center, please contact Nick Cash (320)630-3332. Representative Wind shared update on used furniture giveaway dates are December 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Once furniture isn’t picked up it will be thrown away. Representative Wind shared Christmas yard and house decorating contest to promote the beauty of our community 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for best interior and exterior decoration, to enter take a photo of your yard or home and submit one entry photo including your name and address to the District I office at [Darla.Roache2@millelacsband.com](mailto:Darla.Roache2@millelacsband.com) no altered or photo shopped photos allowed, entries will be shared on the District I Legislative Facebook page and winners are determined by likes received. All contest entries must be received Monday, December 11, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. photos will be posted from December 12-20, 2023, and winners will be announced at the Christmas party. Representative Wind shared reminder New Year’s Eve Sobriety pow wow December 31, 2023, 5 p.m. – 12 a.m. at the new District I community center he thanked the sponsors of the specials and watch for flyer. Representative Wind closed his comments with December 20, 2023, 5 p.m. ballroom at Grand Casino Mille Lacs District I Christmas party Nay ah Shing rock band, flute music and hypnotist show need audience participation.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill opened with Sunday, December 10, 2023, District II Legislative Aide is hosting movie night (Elf) at Minisinaakwang community center 6-8 p.m. Representative Merrill shared Arts workshop and open gym on December 17, 2023, 12-6 p.m. 12

+ under must be accompanied by adult and no transportation provided. Representative Merrill shared Holiday parties December 19, 2023, will be Minisinaakwang and December 20, 2023, will be Chiminising 5:30-7:30 p.m.

District III Representative Harry Davis opened with used furniture giveaway Thursday and Friday if there's bikes parked out there it's not included. Representative Davis closed his comments with District III community meeting/Christmas celebration is Friday, December 22, 2023, 5 p.m. social hour 6 p.. dinner 7 p.m. entertainment.

**Workshop**

**December 7, 2023**

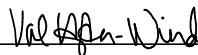
Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding draft bill for Title 8, Section 401, draft bill to enact a cannabis code, draft bill for Title 17, and Chapter 1 revolving loan fund.

**Workshop**

**December 8, 2023**

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding draft bill for Title 8, Section 401., draft bill to enact a cannabis code, draft bill for Title 17, and Chapter 1 revolving loan fund.

*The next Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.*

  
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Valerie Harrington-Wind  
Chief Communications Officer