



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: February 12-16, 2024

Joint Session of the Band Assembly Meeting

February 12, 2024

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

The Joint Session of the Assembly approved Joint Session Record: January 22, 2024, and Joint Session Record: January 25, 2024.

The Joint Session of the Assembly discussed and reviewed Certification of Candidates: Chief Executive, District I Representative, School Board positions, partially in executive session.

The Joint Session of the Assembly discussed and reviewed Certification of Election Boards: All Districts including Urban.

The Joint Session of the Assembly approved Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 21-01-10-24: A Resolution Certifying Eligible Candidates for the 2024 Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election on the Mille Lacs Reservation.

The Joint Session of the Assembly approved Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 21-01-11-24: A Resolution Appointing Reservation Election Board Members for the 2024 Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election on the Mille Lacs Reservation.

Workshop

February 13, 2024

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, staff, Commissioner of Finance, Assistant to Commissioner of Finance, Commissioner of Administration, Commissioner of Education, Commissioner of Health & Human Services, and Housing Director regarding fiscal year 24/25 budget.

Weekly Sync Meeting

February 13, 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; printing the band assembly rules; Bills to work on; the workshop schedule; workshop projects; and District Representative initiatives.

Band Assembly Meeting

February 15, 2024

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

The District Representatives took from the table, amended, and approved Band Assembly Record: February 1, 2024 (Tabled 2/7/24), approved Band Assembly Record: February 7, 2024, and approved Band Assembly Record: February 9, 2024.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-01-11-24 (A Bill Repealing and Replacing Act to correct the dollar amounts for Natural Resources and Community Development. Act 10-24 authorized 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 21-01-12-24 (A Bill authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2024).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-01-13-24 (A Bill enacting a Cannabis Code as a new chapter within Title 15 – Independent Agencies. This bill will create a Department of Cannabis Regulation, an independent entity, which will be administered by a five-person board. The Department will oversee issuance of cannabis licenses for cultivation, manufacturing, wholesale, retail, and testing within the Band’s sovereign territory. The board will hear license appeals and also approve contracts and create regulations consistent with the Code. The Department will have an executive director and staff to carry out the necessary duties to effectuate the purpose of this Code. The Code also allows for home cultivation of up to eight cannabis plants. This bill also amends Title 23 to update outdated citations to Minnesota law and update possession of cannabis within a vehicle to mirror Minnesota law.

In the creation and drafting of this bill, the legislative branch held several workshops and two public comment periods. The first public comment period, the draft bill was posted for 22 days, and the bill was discussed in every community. The legislative branch received over 50 comments with a majority of comments being positive. The second public comment period, the draft bill was posted for 13 days. The legislative branch received two comments. This bill is intended to encourage not only business opportunities for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures but also Band members, to encourage responsible use of cannabis within the communities, to support drug abuse prevention efforts through education, prevention, and treatment for the community, to provide smoke-free and clean air spaces for the community, and to continue providing a drug-free workplace for government-owned and government-operated buildings.

This bill reflects the compromise between the Chief Executive and the Band Assembly on vetoed Act 03-24).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-01-14-24 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing budget revision(s)/transfer(s) for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2023, and September 30, 2024).

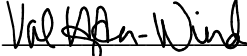
The District Representatives approved contract for Automated Election Services for the 2024 Primary Election.

In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened with thanking everybody for their hard work in compromise in getting another cannabis bill close. Representative Wind closed his comments with congratulations to community development for getting the market rate adjustments, hopefully it shows and reflects appreciation of all the hard work. Band Assembly is willing to hear and work towards solution for all the positions within the Band that are below market

District II Representative Wendy Merrill opened with exciting day that we came to a compromise on the cannabis bill and looking forward to working with everybody in the process moving forward, she thinks it's a big accomplishment. Representative Merrill shared there was an Ojibwe language table that was on Monday, our next one is February 26, 2024, from 6-8:00 p.m. at Chiminising community center. Representative Merrill shared community meetings next week on Tuesday in Minisinaakwang and Wednesday in Chiminising. Representative Merrill shared open gym & craft night scheduled in both communities on February 25, 2024. Representative Merrill shared yoga every Sunday in both communities starting at 9:00 a.m. in East Lake and 11:00 a.m. in Chiminising. Representative Merrill closed her comments with Chiminising Ziigwan pow wow date set Sunday, April 28, 2024, poster will be coming soon. Shout out to Chiminising pow wow committee and Legislative Aide Taria Aubid for creating the amazing posters.

District III Representative Harry Davis opened with District III community meeting will be tonight at 5:30 p.m. at Grand Casino Hinckley. Representative Davis closed his comments with Bernida Humetawa is working on our District III pop up pow wow hoping to get it going by March.

The next Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer