



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: September 18-22, 2023

Workshop

September 19, 2023

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

Weekly Sync Meeting

September 19, 2023

Legislative staff facilitated a Weekly Sync Meeting with elected officials to review the upcoming Band Assembly agenda items. The meeting included discussion on Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe (LCO) attendance, dinner with LCO Committee; the workshop schedule; workshop projects; and District Representative initiatives.

Band Assembly Meeting

September 20, 2023

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

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Record: September 6, 2023.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-04-61-23 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget transfer(s)/revision(s) for the Legislative and Executive Branches for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2023).

The District Representatives approved Foster Care License: District 3: Renewal: FFH2130007.

The District Representatives approved Hardship Request: District I: D1-01-02-23.

The District Representatives approved Hardship Request: District I: D1-01-03-23.

The District Representatives approved Hardship Request: District I: D1-02-03-23.

The District Representatives approved Hardship Request: District I: D1-02-05-23.

The District Representatives approved Hardship Request: District I: D1-03-05-23.

The District Representatives approved Hardship Request: District 3: D3-01-07-23.

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

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-04-39-23 (A Resolution Approving the Continuance of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Non-Gaming, and Gaming Fiscal Operations Until December 31, 2023).

The District Representatives approved contract addendum with LawVisory to continue to provide professional legal services to the Band.

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-04-40-23 (A Resolution Approving the Continuance of the Mille Lacs Band Government, Circle of Health, Gaming Regulatory Authority, Department of Athletic Regulation, Supplemental Income Program for Elders, Tribal Employment Rights Office, Housing Initiative, and Band Member Legal Services Fiscal Operations Until October 31, 2023).

In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened with the continuing resolution conversation, we are as an Assembly actively working on approved budgets for the next biennium for both Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures and Mille Lacs Band government operations, he stated that sometimes it is a painstaking process but we are way ahead of year’s prior and a lesson learned was to have written correspondence for the changes discussed. He stated prior it was said that Band Assembly was holding up the budget and they were very clear in what they wanted, lesson learned is they send correspondence immediately to enact those changes. Very important that the people know that the Band Assembly is actively working on this and is a huge part of their job’s here in the band. Representative Wind shared in Legislative news we are still working on Cannabis legislation we have made it through our second review and will leave it for District II Merrill to go into details. Representative Wind shared over the weekend this last Sunday in District I the District I office along with a number of volunteers from the community sponsored our end of the summer celebration at the new District I community center, it was a carnival themed event with a number of inflatables, Dawn Day meal, karaoke contest, we had roughly 350 people, it was a wonderful day of community coming together. Thank you to all the band departments that contributed and all the community members for coming out and celebrating. Representative Wind welcomed new Legislative Counsel, Jared Miller to the team and looking forward to the work we will do together. Representative Wind closed his comments with a reminder for the District I community meeting will be next Thursday, September 28, 2023 at the new District I community center at 5:30 p.m. this will be a meet and greet for all of our local teachers and support staff that help support and educate our children within the Mille Lacs Band. We will have Onamia Public Schools, Nay ah Shing School, Abinoojiyag, and Wewinabi the intent is to familiarize our students and parents and local staff with each other. There is an ability for those different educational departments to bring information to share with our communities, if you are looking or if you are one of those educational departments please reach out to Darla Roache in the District I office and let her know how many tables or what you need.

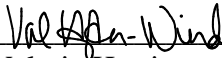
District II Representative Wendy Merrill opened with welcome to Jared Miller, she looks forward to working the next couple of years and many more. Representative Merrill shared welcome to our guests Miigwech for coming, cool to see people from LCO. Representative Merrill shared tonight we have Chiminising community meeting at 5:30 p.m. we have a speaker, Nicole Anderson, Commissioner of Health & Human Services will present and she wanted to thank Nicole Anderson and Maria Costello, Assistant Commissioner of Administration for being there and being supportive, coming to our community events and she appreciates all they do and she knows how important it is for our community members to see our commissioners in our communities, being there, volunteering, and having those tough conversations, asking, and

responding to community questions. Representative Merrill shared we will have a couple upcoming critical nominations and she always supports and appreciates all the feedback, feel free to reach out to her in regards to those. She did have a community member in Chiminising call her about some things we can work out within the community and one big thing is communication and she has reached out to other commissioners to kind of state why these band members are calling and having concerns, easy fixes, but if we can all work together we can get a lot done moving forward. Representative Merrill shared with Cannabis legislation we are 99% done and we are putting it out to public comment again because with all the feedback that we had when we did go out to the communities we wanted to integrate that into the legislation and she wants to thank Hanna Valento for working and getting the legislation done. Representative Merrill closed her comments with lastly she wants to recognize Representative Wind he always thanks everyone else, but he has to remember all the hard work he does as well, Miigwech.

District III Representative Harry Davis opened with welcome LCO dignitaries for the visit in our Band Assembly meeting today and welcome Jared Miller to our staff he wishes him well. Representative Davis shared we had to move our community meeting tomorrow to next Thursday due to personal appointment, the meeting will be moved to September 28, 2023 at Grand Casino Hinckley at 5:30 p.m. Representative Davis closed his comments with announce again our annual elder retreat activity will be going down to another casino, overnight stay will include dinner and bingo.

In the “Message from the Secretary-Treasurer” portion of the agenda, Secretary-Treasurer, Sheldon Boyd opened and closed with welcome the group from LCO and what you are seeing here is kind of the core of the government here, some of the information last night was about prior to this in the 70’s we were basically programs and there was no like government stuff happening and so taking that we’re working within that framework that was created an x number of years ago we’re in our 40th year now. We have established some, a lot of changes within the last four years and what you’re seeing is the work and collaboration of all the staff that you see in the background and the buy in by everybody involved and the procedural way that people are buying into this and we’re creating a record that folks can come take a look at for years to come. In the background there is a lot of work being done and this is the product of that and we will go over a lot of that stuff with you after we’re through here there’s a lot to share and a lot of things are the work of people in the background, we tried to create a core group called the Legislative Branch that excluded the Elected Officials cause the Elected Officials will cycle through and we tried to create this core that will stay there that’s kind of the intent of this work here and Darcie and Hanna they’re the core and Semira they’re the Legislative Branch he views these elected positions as temporary they’re terms they change over the way, kind of the way that’s supposed to happen.

The next Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer