



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

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## Weekly Review: February 26-March 1, 2024

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### **Workshop**

**February 27, 2024**

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, staff, and Commissioner of Finance regarding the two-year biennium budget.

### **Weekly Sync Meeting**

**February 27, 2024**

Legislative staff facilitated a weekly sync meeting with elected officials and staff to review the upcoming Band Assembly agenda. The meeting included discussion on letter(s) sent to the Chief Executive about nominations for the loan committee and next steps, openings on the Band Member Legal Services and Cannabis Regulation boards, bills to work on, the workshop schedule, workshop projects, and District Representative initiatives.

### **Band Assembly Meeting**

**February 28, 2024**

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 the Band Assembly Record for February 21, 2024.

Band Assembly received a monthly update from Kelly Applegate, Commissioner of Natural Resources, regarding the efforts to stop Tamarack Mine development. Jean Skinaway-Lawrence gave a statement regarding the presentation.

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 21-01-17-24 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing budget revision(s)/transfer(s) for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2024).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-01-08-24 (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 March 31, 2024).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-01-09-24 (A Resolution Approving the Continuance of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Non-Gaming, and Gaming Fiscal Operations Until March 31, 2024).

### **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 the February 28, 2024, community meeting will be held at the new District I community center at 5:30 p.m. The agenda includes a presentation by Barb Fabre, CEO All-Nations Rise, as well as Commissioner Brooke “Niiyo” Gonzalez regarding Indian education for all and data gathering. Rep. Wind reminded the community about the furniture giveaway at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Band members can pick up furniture on Thursday, February 29, 2024, and Thursday, March 7, 2024. If there is not much interest, they may give remaining furniture to Band employees or discontinue the practice, he said. Open gym dates are all Saturdays in March from 2-8 p.m. at the new District I community center. Save the date for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual District I Side Step Social. Please reach out to the District I office with any questions. Finally, Rep. Wind said the Title 6 bill 16-24 has passed, which enacted a new parental leave policy in the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Personnel Policy and Procedures manual.

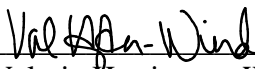
District II Representative Wendy Merrill said she was excited about passage of the Cannabis bill, which was signed into law. She noted that the National Indian Gaming Commission approved the Band’s Gaming Regulatory Act Title 15 bill. She said that community meetings in March will be the Election Forums. She said she is looking forward to seeing urban members tomorrow Thursday, February 29, 2024, at the Urban community meeting.

District III Representative Harry Davis announced the winners of the cribbage tournament: 1<sup>st</sup> place Reine Garbow, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Lisa Benjamin, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Andrew Sutton. He thanked Katie Draper and Monica Benjamin for organizing the tournament.

**Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:**

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd had no messages.

*The next Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.*

  
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Valerie Harrington-Wind  
Chief Communications Officer