



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: April 17-21, 2023

Workshop

April 18, 2023

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding discussion on Gaming Regulatory Authority (GRA) and Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) –next steps, presentation on minors’ trust, and Bill: Title 8 – Transfer of Jurisdiction.

Joint Session of the Band Assembly Meeting

April 18, 2023

The Speaker of the 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 Band Assembly amended and approved the minutes from the Joint Session of the Band Assembly meeting dated January 19, 2023.

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly approved the Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 20-03-04-23 (A Resolution Approving the Enrollments into the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for Those who meet the 1/4 Degree Requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe).

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly approved the Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 20-03-05-23 (A Resolution Denying the Enrollments into the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for Those who do not meet the 1/4 Degree Requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe).

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly approved the Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 20-03-06-23 (A Resolution Denying the Enrollments into the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for Applicants Who Were Not Born to an Enrolled Mille Lacs Band Member).

Weekly Sync Meeting

April 18, 2023

Legislative staff facilitated a Weekly Sync Meeting with elected officials to review the upcoming Band Assembly agenda items. The review included discussion regarding the last regular meeting. Special Session starts April 27; the workshop schedule; and District Representative initiatives.

Band Assembly Meeting

April 19, 2023

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

The District Representatives approved/denied the minutes from the Band Assembly meeting dated April 12, 2023.

Band Assembly conducted a confirmation hearing for Paul Sam, nominee for the Corporate Board of Directors.

Band Assembly received a presentation from John Mooers, President; Kate Grismala, MS Director of Health Services; and Alicia Finley, Human Resources Services Director regarding Blue Stone Strategy Partners Final Report.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-03-26-23 (A Bill Authorizing budget transfer(s)/revision(s) for the Executive and Judicial Branches for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2023).

The District Representatives tabled Special Revenue Resolution 20-03-02-23 (A Special Revenue Resolution to Adopt a New Burial Assistance Program).

The District Representatives denied a nomination from Chief Executive Benjamin for Samuel Moose to serve on the Corporate Board, District 2 Position. Term ends March 31, 2026.

The District Representatives tabled nomination from Chief Executive Benjamin for Shane Dunn to serve on the Corporate Board, At-Large Position. Term ends March 31, 2027.

In the “Message from the Chief Executive” portion of the agenda, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin opened with quick announcement that the Chief Executive’s community convention is tomorrow at the fitness & aquatic center at 8:00 a.m., all band members are invited to attend and if you are an employee you can attend and there will be a sign up sheet for employees, and it can be tracked on your time sheet to know that you attended. We have four topics we’re going to talk about; benefits, opportunities, challenges of being a foster parent, strategic plan, net revenue allocation, and continued conversation on enrollments. Hopefully band members if you have some time please come over, we’re trying to make sure that when we talk about these topics we give you the opportunity for additional conversations, questions, and helping you take this information back to your families so you can discuss it at home as well and help give us direction as we’re moving forward. And again all and members are welcome.

In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened with a thank you to Administration for the bluestone report, thanks for the hard work that went into that and hopefully we can figure out how to collaboratively use that information to bring the band to a better place. Representative Wind stated thank you to administration and Commissioner Towle for working through the new process of bringing budgets in line. It’s not comfortable to have those conversations sometimes but it sheds light on a need for a more accurate budget going forward. Representative Wind stated the district I office along with tribal police department, administration, and the Sam family are working together for another community search for our relative Dylan James Sam, Dylan has been missing since November 29, 2022. We did have a search for Dylan awhile back and the snow was too deep we did cover a lot of ground but with the amount of snow we received this year that search didn’t go too well, however we did have 80-90 people that day for the search. District I office is partnering with those entities and the family for another search which will be next Tuesday, April 25, 2023 we will gather at the new community center at 9:00 a.m. we will have refreshments, water, plans, and GPS maps provided by Tribal PD. He asked that volunteers come prepared for early spring weather, with boots. Still in the process of looking for information and what do we do and how do we do it because Tribal PD has done a great job in

exhausting leads, we're really coming together as a community to provide comfort for the family. Prior to this meeting Commissioner Moose, he's sure he's collaborated with Madam Chief to allow band government employees to assist with this search again, we really do appreciate that. Representative Wind stated we still have slots available for urban membership to meet with myself, please reach out to Darla Roache (320)362-0793 to schedule a time within that afternoon he still plans on attending the Urban community meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2023 that afternoon was made available for urban members to talk about their concerns within urban and band and hear their voices. Representative Wind stated the district I office is also in the final process of scheduling and sponsoring our third annual Ziigwan Round dance that will take place on Sunday, April 30, 2023 from 2-7:00 p.m. again that will take place at the new district I community center, we have some great drums, great events, a hand drum contest, some great local singers, we are looking for vendors, there will be a meal served, this event is free and open to the public, again we have a number of specials, including ribbon skirt/ribbon shirt, men's and women's side step that he's going to win now that he has some skills, boys and girls side step. Again that is on Sunday, April 30, 2023 at the new district I community center if you need any information or have any questions please reach out to Nick Cash at (320)630-3332. Representative Wind closed his comments with and again if you ever need anything or he has said something out of ordinary or out of context reach out to him at directly at (320) 630-1428. Thank you.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill opened with reminder we have our Chiminising community meeting tonight and then tomorrow evening is at Minisinaakwang at 5:30 p.m. we will have updates from Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) and Commissioner of Administration, Sam Moose. Representative Merrill stated this Sunday we have our pow wow registration is from 12-12:45 p.m. and 6-6:45 p.m. we have quite a few specials if you have seen the flyer, adding a few more, and she wanted to say miigwech to our chief executive for the meal that she's providing on Sunday. Representative Merrill stated miigwech to those that came out for our family fun night at Mcgregor lanes it was really fun, she's looking for some kind of summer events, we're going to hold off a little bit, but planning summer events, looking forward to those. Representative Merrill stated we'll have our Wellbriety feast in East Lake on Thursday, April 27, 2023 from 5:30-8:00 p.m. unfortunately she will not be there personally because she will be attending the urban meeting. Representative Merrill stated a reminder for their craft fair we're trying to host in Chiminising on May 5, 2023 from 12-4:00 p.m. if anybody is interested in coming to bring items good mother's day gift. Representative Merrill stated she has good news that she will be partnering with the Gi-niigaanizijig program for their summer youth internship, she's looking to have one summer intern and they will be working directly with her office, so they can see the day to day activities of a district representative and legislative branch. She's very excited about that and a reminder to have parents sign up for that program it's from June 12-August 4, 2023 and youth there is some guidelines in there, the information is to contact that program if there are any questions and she is excited to have an intern this summer. Representative Merrill stated we're asking for public comment on proposed legislation for extended family visitation rights, which she did see an email go out yesterday, miigwech for those that contributed to that. Representative Merrill closed her comments with Urban meeting with District I Representative on April 27, 2023 that she will be attending.

Workshop

April 20, 2023

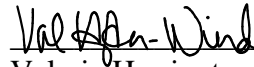
The elected officials and staff attended the Chief Executive's Community Conference.

Workshop

April 21, 2023

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, legislative staff, Commissioner of Administration, Assistant Commissioner of Administration, Human Resources Director, and Deputy Solicitor General regarding proposed revisions to HR personnel policies and procedures.

The next Band Assembly meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 10:00 AM.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer