



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

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## Weekly Review: January 22-26, 2024

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### **Joint Session of the Band Assembly Meeting**

**January 22, 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 Band Assembly Record: January 9, 2024.

The Joint Session of the Assembly approved Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 21-01-04-24 (A Resolution Designating the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Office of the Solicitor General as the Entity Responsible for Conducting the Criminal Background Investigations of 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 21-01-05-24 (A Resolution Appointing an Election Court of Appeals Judge for the 2024 Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election on the Mille Lacs Reservation).

### **Band Assembly Meeting**

**January 22, 2024**

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

The District Representatives tabled Band Assembly Record: January 17, 2024.

Band Assembly conducted a compromise hearing regarding Vetoed Act 03-24 Enacting a Cannabis Code as a new chapter within Title 15 – Independent Agencies. The hearing commenced at 1:53 p.m. with an opening statement from Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin. Following the opening statement there was a statement from the sponsor, District II Representative Wendy Merrill, and District I Representative Virgil Wind. The compromise hearing was closed at 2:07 p.m.

Band Assembly went into executive session at 2:08 p.m. to discuss a confidential personnel matter and exited executive session at 2:32 p.m.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Van Norman Law, PLLC, to assist the Band's HR Department.

In the "Messages from the Representatives" portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened and closed with letting band membership know the cannabis bill and the compromise hearing will be scheduled soon. His intent is to get this enacted with a reminder that the Band has already invested in the cannabis growth operation, in getting some legislation passed to support that, and reaping benefit on the economic side. Stay tuned, we will let you know when the compromise hearing is set up.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill opened and closed with looking forward to going through the compromise and getting that approved.

District III Representative Harry Davis opened and closed with notice to any band members that want to stop out at Aazhoomog for a potluck today from 2-4:30 p.m. everyone welcome.

**Workshop** **January 23, 2024**

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, staff, and roads department staff regarding draft transportation plan.

**Weekly Sync Meeting** **January 23, 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 Compromise Hearing for the Cannabis Code – Next steps; Letter(s) sent to the Chief Executive about nominations for the Loan Committee – Next steps; Bills to work on; the workshop schedule; workshop projects; and District Representative initiatives.

**Band Assembly Meeting** **January 24, 2024**

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

The District Representatives took from the table and approved Band Assembly Record: January 17, 2024; then approved Band Assembly Record January 22, 2024.

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 21-01-09-24 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget revision(s)/transfer(s) for the Executive, and Legislative Branches for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2023, and September 30, 2024).

The District Representatives amended and approved Resolution 21-01-04-24 (A Resolution in Support of a Memorandum of Agreement Between the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to Prevent and End Homelessness).

The District Representatives approved contract for Degerstrom & Sons Construction, LLC, to provide labor and materials for a renovation project at a private elder residence in Garrison, MN.

The District Representatives approved contract for Degerstrom & Sons Construction, LLC, to provide labor and materials for a renovation project at a private elder residence in Mora, MN.

The District Representatives approved contract addendum for Aniwahya Consulting Services LLC, to continue providing professional skills and services for assisting the Band with Money Follows the Person Tribal Initiative contract. This addendum also extends the contract date from December 31, 2023, to December 31, 2024.

The District Representatives approved contract for Citon Computer Corporation to provide the third year of the strategic plan for Technology Infrastructure updates, capital projects, monthly service fees and annual license fees.

The District Representatives approved contract for St. Cloud Refrigeration to provide predictive and preventative maintenance for heating and cooling, technical support and management of building systems at senior living units D1 & D3.

The District Representatives approved contract for St. Cloud Refrigeration to provide predictive and preventative maintenance for heating and cooling, technical support and management of building systems at Health & Human Services buildings.

The District Representatives approved contract for CentraCare to continue EPIC community connect electronic health records.

The District Representatives tabled contract addendum for the Long-Term Homeless Support Service Grant contract to extend the date to December 31, 2025, due to added funding grant.

The District Representatives approved at a reduced amount Hardship Request: District I: D1-02-08-22.

The District Representatives approved at a reduced amount Hardship Request: District I: D1-03-08-22.

The District Representatives denied Hardship Request: District I: D1-01-09-22.

The District Representatives denied Hardship Request: District I: D1-02-09-22.

The District Representatives denied Hardship Request: District I: D1-03-09-22.

The District Representatives denied Hardship Request: District I: D1-04-09-22.

In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened with chairs were updated at the old District I Community center and the old chairs are still structurally useful, if you would like chairs, please contact Nick Cash (320) 630-3332

Representative Wind shared MMIWR march on February 14, 2024, if interested in attending this march, District I Office has a good relationship with MMIWR and would like to support the event at East Phillips Center if you would like to ride one of the shuttles contact Nick Cash (320) 630-3332 the shuttle will leave at 9:00 a.m. if you are attending please wear red and have a sign that is in support of MMIWR.

Representative Wind shared ceremonial dance dates for Spring 2024 flyer has been sent and included ceremonial dances out of Mille Lacs to promote and entice people to become involved.

Representative Wind shared District I community meeting January 31, 2024, at new DI community center at 5:30 p.m. on agenda is DI welcome/update and waived services Jennifer Ballinger and Shelly Day.

Representative Wind closed his comments with district I open gym dates for February will one day a week with Eldayshun Big Bear. Reminder for parents must fill out participation/emergency contact form. March 16, 2024, at the new DI center AAU tryouts 13U and 15U 2 p.m.-4 p.m. and 16U and 17U 4 p.m.-6 p.m., there is no fee to try out, fee applies if you when and if selected for a team.

District III Representative Harry Davis opened and closed with the Aazhoomog community center renovation will begin construction soon, sorry for any inconvenience at that location and hotel furniture will have mattresses available this Thursday and Friday and will be distributed at the Meshakwad parking lot.

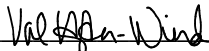
**Joint Session of the Band Assembly Meeting**

**January 25, 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 Band Assembly considered a personnel issue in executive session.

*The next Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.*

  
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Valerie Harrington-Wind  
Chief Communications Officer