



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: March 4-8, 2024

Workshop

March 4, 2024

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

Weekly Sync Meeting

March 5, 2024

Legislative staff facilitated a weekly sync meeting with elected officials and staff to review the upcoming Band Assembly agenda. The meeting included discussion about the Chief Executive's refusal to nominate Revolving Loan Fund Committee members and next steps, open seats on the boards for Band Member Legal Services and Cannabis Regulation, bills to work on, the workshop schedule, workshop projects, and District Representative initiatives.

Band Assembly Meeting

March 6, 2024

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

The District Representatives approved the Band Assembly Record for February 28, 2024.

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 21-01-18-24 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2024).

The District Representatives approved a contract with St. Cloud Refrigeration to provide seasonal maintenance, emergency repair services on heating systems and kitchen refrigeration, emergency services, and plumbing repair for Early Education sites in Districts 1, 2, and 3.

The District Representatives approved Hardship Request: District II: D2-01-02-24.

The District Representatives approved Hardship Request: District II: D2-02-02-24.

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 reminded the community about the furniture giveaway at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Band members can pick up furniture on Thursday, March 7, 2024. This is the final push for band members to come pick up furniture, as this portion of the project is near completion. Watch for a flyer for the 4th Annual District I Ziigwan Side Step Social coming out soon. Representative Wind remind Band members of the spring cleanup, which will be held on April 20-28, 2024. He said elders should call (320)532-7448 a week before cleanup to

schedule their pick up. They must have their piles ready two days after clean up starts. Open gym dates are all Saturdays in March from 2-8 p.m. at the new District I community center. Ceremonial dance dates are set starting soon. The District I Community meeting is Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at new District I community center. Finally, he said his office is planning a Sunday Fun Day tentative date for Sunday, March 24, 2024, from 12-5:00 p.m., with more details to come later.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill said that community meetings this month will be the Election Forums. She said to look for fliers about the Elder trip to find out how to sign up. She added that there is a “For the People” social pow wow on March 17, 2024, from 12-5:00 p.m. It’s a community pow wow with no honorariums.

District III Representative Harry Davis said the 1st Annual pop-up pow wow will be Saturday, March 16, 2024, in the evening at Grand Casino Hinckley. He said the community meeting will be Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at Grand Casino Hinckley.

Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:

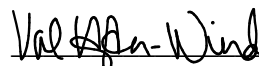
Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd used his comment time to discuss an interesting fact about the Band Assembly Rules of procedure. He said the Band Assembly considered many sources when developing the rules, and adopted one provision from the Minnesota Legislature that has origins in indigenous culture. He explained that just before the Assembly votes on any motion, he asks the District Representatives whether they have questions and comments about the subject of the motion, and then he counts to four before he recognizes anyone to speak. This pause, he said, is intended to provide the District Representatives time to think and reflect before they speak; to give each of the Representatives time to consider what they are going to do with every specific item. He said he knows it gets tedious and repetitive, but that’s the purpose behind it. He explained that this pause is a democratic innovation invented and developed by the Iroquois Confederacy, and later adopted by non-Native legislative bodies. He said it demonstrates the “circle of democracy,” which originated with tribes, and which many different legislative bodies put to use today, including the Mille Lacs Band.

Workshop

March 8, 2024

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

The next Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer