

**Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Foundation Advisory Committee Annual Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2024**

Call to Order and Roll Call: Sheldon Boyd, Chairperson of the Advisory Committee called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m.

Roll Call:

Sheldon Boyd, Chairperson -	Present
Melanie Benjamin, Vice Chairperson -	Present
Virgil Wind, Advisory Committee Member	Present
Wendy Merrill, Advisory Committee Member	Present
Harry Davis, Advisory Committee Member	Present via Zoom

Also Present: Brianna Boyd, Legislative Affairs Director; Emily Johnson, Strategic Policy and Communications Coordinator, and Taria Aubid, District II Legislative Aide.

Via Zoom: Angel Daher, Managing Attorney for the Office of the Solicitor General and Mel Towle, Commissioner of Finance.

Approval of Agenda:

Advisory Committee Member Merrill motioned to approve the Agenda for May 28, 2024. Seconded by Vice Chairperson Benjamin.

5/For 0/Opposed 0/Silent Vote taken and motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from October 17, 2023

Advisory Committee Member Merrill motioned to amend the minutes for October 17, 2023, seconded by Vice Chairperson Benjamin.

5/For 0/Opposed 0/Silent Vote taken and motion carried.

Advisory Committee Member Merrill motioned to approve the minutes as amended for October 17, 2023, seconded by Vice Chairperson Benjamin.

5/For 0/Opposed 0/Silent Vote taken and motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from November 7, 2023

Advisory Committee Member Merrill motioned to amend the minutes for November 7, 2023, seconded by Vice Chairperson Benjamin.

5/For 0/Opposed 0/Silent Vote taken and motion carried.

Vice Chairperson Benjamin motioned to approve the minutes as amended of November 7, 2023, seconded by Advisory Committee Member Wind.

5/For 0/Opposed 0/Silent Vote taken and motion carried.

Donation Applications Received

a) Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy (MLA). Request: \$1,000,000

Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy (MLA) provided a presentation to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Foundation Advisory Committee members.

Discussion took place regarding MLA as they did not submit all the required documents for the complete Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Foundation Advisory Committee donation packet. However, Mel Towle, Commissioner of Finance and Advisor to the Advisory Committee, recommended that the committee approve a waiver of the year-end income and expense budget requirement by majority vote. He noted that this aligns with the bylaws and emphasized that MLA consistently submits a budget reflecting the requested amount, making this a minor adjustment.

Vice Chairperson Benjamin motioned to waive the year-end income and expense budget for MLA donation request. Seconded by Advisory Committee Member Davis.

5/For 0/Opposed 0/Silent Vote taken and motion carried.

Advisory Committee Member Merrill motioned to approve the Donation Request for Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy's request at \$1,300,000.00. Seconded by Vice Chairperson Benjamin.

5/For 0/Opposed 0/Silent Vote taken and motion carried.

Discussion took place regarding Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy's utilities that were not included in the previous approval of Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy Donation Request. Advisory Committee Member Merrill said she would like to correct the language in the approval to include Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy's utilities.

Advisory Committee Member Merrill motioned to rescind her motion to approve the Donation Request for Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy's request at \$1,300,000.00. Seconded by Vice Chairperson Benjamin.

5/For 0/Opposed 0/Silent Vote taken and motion carried.

Advisory Committee Member Merrill motioned to approve the Donation Request for Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy's request at \$1,300,000.00 including utilities. Seconded by Vice Chairperson Benjamin.

5/For 0/Opposed 0/Silent Vote taken and motion carried.

b) Native American Community Clinic (NACC). Request: \$500,000

Native American Community Clinic (NACC) provided a presentation to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Foundation Advisory Committee members.

Discussion took place regarding NACC in relation to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Foundation Advisory Committee's goals and funding priorities. Advisory Committee Members Merrill, Davis, and Vice Chairperson Benjamin expressed openness to funding NACC at a reduced amount, highlighting its ability to serve Native Americans and address urban homelessness. Advisory Committee Member Wind, however, emphasized the importance of prioritizing education in the foundation's funding decisions.

Vice Chairperson Benjamin motioned to approve the Donation Request for Native American Community Clinic at a reduced amount of \$300,000.00. Seconded by Advisory Committee Member Davis. During the vote Advisory Committee Member Wind opposed.

4/For 1/Opposed 0/Silent Vote taken and motion carried.

V. New Business

None

VI. Unfinished Business

- a) Times, Dates, & Places for FY 2023 Regular Meetings. *Tabled 11/17/22, 02/21/23, 10/17/23.*
- b) FY 2022 Funding Priorities. *Tabled 11/17/22, 02/21/23, 10/17/23.*

VI. Adjournment

Vice Chairperson Benjamin motioned to adjourn the meeting. Advisory Committee Member Davis seconded the motion.

A vote was called on the motion:

5/For 0/Opposed 0/Silent Vote taken and motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at: 4:10p.m.


Sheldon Boyd, Chairperson

12-30-2024
Date