



THE MILLE LACS BAND OF
OJIBWE INDIANS

Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

RESOLUTION 20-03-22-23

**A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO
JOIN THE MISSISSIPPI – GRAND RAPIDS WATERSHED
COLLABORATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- WHEREAS, the Mille Lacs Band Assembly (“Band Assembly”) is the duly elected legislative body of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (“Band”), a federally recognized Indian Tribe; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to 3 MLBS §§ 3(d) and 3(f), the Band Assembly is empowered to adopt resolutions to promote the general welfare of the people of the Band and to ratify agreements, contracts, cooperative and reciprocity agreements, and memoranda of understanding; and
- WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources has developed policies for coordination and development of comprehensive watershed management plans, also known as One Watershed, One Plan, (1WIP) consistent with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.801, Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; and
- WHEREAS, under the authority of Minnesota Statutes, counties, through their respective Boards of Commissioners, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the Band are “governmental units” that can join together for purposes of entering into agreements to cooperatively exercise common powers. Such an agreement has been reduced to writing and is entitled *Memorandum of Agreement* (“MOA”), a copy of which is attached to this Resolution; and
- WHEREAS, the Band’s Department of Natural Resources has the authority to manage the Band’s natural resources and strives to work cooperatively and collaboratively with other governmental agencies with which it shares an interest in maintaining, managing, and protecting natural resources; and
- WHEREAS, the Band’s Department of Natural Resources has a common interest in developing a comprehensive watershed management plan for the Mississippi River – Grand Rapids Watershed area (Hydrologic Unit Code 07010103), such area is outlined on Attachment A to the MOA; and

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WHEREAS, the Watershed's geographical area consists of those portions of Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, and Itasca counties, and N. St. Louis and S. St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Townships of Salo (McGregor) and Logan in Aitkin County (Palisade), and portions of Band land that are situated within and are contiguous to the Mississippi - Grand Rapids Watershed Area (Band land is depicted on the map, Attachment A to the MOA, as orange shapes in the southern area of the Watershed); and

WHEREAS, parties signing the MOA will be members of the "*Mississippi – Grand Rapids Watershed Collaboration*" to develop and adopt a coordinated watershed management plan and must agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the MOA, including but not limited to the bylaws, policies and procedures to be created and adopted by the Policy Committee; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of the Band entering into the MOA, its Department of Natural Resources' representatives will have a seat, with voting power, on the Collaboration's Policy Committee; and

WHEREAS, in fulfilling the duties and obligations of the Band's Department of Natural Resources, its Commissioner desires to become party to the MOA in order to work cooperatively with other governmental bodies, monitor and participate in activities and projects that will both protect the Band's sovereignty and benefit the Band and the Mississippi – Grand Rapids Watershed Area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Band recognizes and supports watershed-scale planning efforts consistent with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.801, also known as One Watershed, One Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Band welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the counties and soil and water conservation districts within the Mississippi River – Grand Rapids Watershed for watershed-scale planning efforts in the future; and

BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED that the Band Assembly finds that it is in the best interests of the Band to ratify the *Memorandum of Agreement* allowing the Department of Natural Resources to become a party to the Mississippi – Grand Rapids Watershed Collaboration.

WE DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was duly concurred with and adopted at a special session of the Band Assembly, in Legislative Council assembled, a quorum of legislators being present, held on the 10th day of May, 2023, at Nayahshing, Minnesota, by a vote of 3 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 SILENT.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the Band Assembly, hereunto cause to have set the signature of the Speaker of the Assembly.


Sheldon Boyd, Speaker of the Assembly

OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE BAND



Sponsor: District I Representative