



THE MILLE LACS BAND OF  
**OJIBWE INDIANS**  
*Legislative Branch of Tribal Government*

**RESOLUTION 21-02-01-25**

**A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
JOIN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER - SARTELL WATERSHED  
COLLABORATIVE 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 for the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (“Band”), a federally recognized Indian Tribe; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to 3 MLBS § 3(d), the Band Assembly has the authority to adopt resolutions; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to 3 MLBS § 1(m), a “resolution” is defined as “a formal expression of the opinion, will, or intention” of the Band Assembly; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to 3 MLBS § (f), the Band Assembly has the authority 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, (1W1P) 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

**DISTRICT I**

43408 Oodena Drive • Onamia, MN 56359  
(320) 532-4181 • Fax (320) 532-4209

**DISTRICT II**

36666 State Highway 65 • McGregor, MN 55760  
(218) 768-3311 • Fax (218) 768-3903

**DISTRICT IIA**

2605 Chiminising Drive • Isle, MN 56342  
(320) 676-1102 • Fax (320) 676-3432

**DISTRICT III**

45749 Grace Lake Road • Sandstone, MN 55072  
(320) 384-6240 • Fax (320) 384-6190

**URBAN OFFICE**

1404 E. Franklin Avenue • Minneapolis, MN 55404  
(612) 872-1424 • Fax (612) 872-1257

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 – Sartell Watershed area, such area is outlined on Attachment A to the MOA; and

WHEREAS, the Watershed's geographical area consists of those portions of Benton, Morrison, and Stearns Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and portions of Band land that are situated within and are contiguous to the Mississippi - Sartell Watershed Area; and

WHEREAS, parties signing the MOA will be members of the "*Mississippi – Sartell Watershed Collaborative*" 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 bylaws, policies and procedures to be created and adopted by the appropriate committee(s) as outlined in the MOA; 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 Collaborative's various policy and decision-making committees; and

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

WHEREAS, the Band holds treaty rights to lands and resources within the Mississippi - Sartell Watershed Area under the 1837 Treaty; and

WHEREAS, nothing in the MOA, nor the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, shall infringe on the Band's treaty rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe 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 – Sartell 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 – Sartell Watershed Collaborative.

WE DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that the foregoing Resolution was duly concurred with and adopted at a regular session of the Band Assembly in Legislative Council assembled, a quorum of legislators being present on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025, at Onamia, Minnesota by a vote of 3 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 SILENT.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the Band Assembly of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe hereunto cause to have set the signature of the Speaker of the Assembly to be affixed to this Resolution.

  
Sheldon Boyd, Speaker of the Assembly

**OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE BAND**



**Sponsor: District II Representative**