



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

JOINT RESOLUTION 16-04-91-15

**A JOINT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RECOVERY OF
WALLEYE IN MILLE LACS LAKE AND MANDATING THE MILLE
LACS BAND OF OJIBWE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
TO DEVELOP AND OPERATE A FISH HATCHERY**

- WHEREAS, the Mille Lacs Band Assembly (“Band Assembly”) is the duly-elected governing body of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (“Band”), a federally- recognized Indian Tribe; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to 3 MLBSA § 2 (a) and (d), the Band Assembly has the power to enact laws which regulate internal and external affairs of the Band in order to promote the general welfare of the people of the Band, and to adopt resolutions; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to 4 MLBSA § 6, the Chief Executive has the power to exercise the executive powers of Band government; and
- WHEREAS, the Band has harvested walleye from Mille Lacs Lake for subsistence for many generations, and it is an integral part of the cultural heritage of the Band; and
- WHEREAS, over the last several years, the walleye population in Mille Lacs Lake has been declining, possibly due to factors such as climate change, an increase in water temperature, hook and line trauma, invasive species such as milfoil, spinney flea, zebra mussels, and clearer water that may limit a suitable habitat for walleye and increase their vulnerability to predators; and
- WHEREAS, the Band has worked closely with the state of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (“State”), the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (“GLIFWC”), and other tribes to manage Mille Lacs Lake; and
- WHEREAS, attempts to restock the lake with walleye fry from other lakes have been largely unsuccessful due to the unique genetic strain of the walleye in Mille Lacs Lake; and
- WHEREAS, the Band is committed to protecting Mille Lacs Lake and restoring a healthy and vital walleye population for this generation and generations to come, and will continue to cooperate and work with the State, GLIFWC, or others in this initiative; and

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WHEREAS, due to the success of other fish hatcheries, the Band Assembly and Chief Executive believe that developing a fish hatchery here on Mille Lacs Lake can contribute to the restoration and preservation of the lake's unique walleye population, thereby ensuring that the Band's cultural heritage of harvesting walleye continues as well as economic growth and jobs for the residents and business owners in the area.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Band Assembly and Chief Executive hereby support the recovery of walleye in Mille Lacs Lake; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Band Assembly and Chief Executive mandate the Band's Department of Natural Resources develop and operate a fish hatchery to assist in the recovery and growth of walleye in Mille Lacs Lake, and will continue to cooperate and work with the State, GLIFWC, or other organizations in this initiative.

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 held on the 4th day of August 2015, at Vineland, Minnesota by a vote of 2 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 SILENT.

IN WITNESS WEREOF, we, the Band Assembly hereunto cause to have set the signature of the Speaker of the Assembly to be affixed to this resolution and forwarded to the Chief Executive for Concurrence.



Carolyn Beaulieu, Speaker of the Assembly

IN CONCURRENCE, with the action of the Speaker of the Assembly, I hereunto set my hand to this resolution.



Melanie Benjamin, Chief Executive

OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE BAND