



THE MILLE LACS BAND OF  
**OJIBWE INDIANS**

*Legislative Branch of Tribal Government*

**JOINT RESOLUTION 17-03-46-17**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE (“BIA MRO”) TO REALLOCATE TRIBAL PRIORITY ALLOCATION (“TPA”) FUNDS FOR FEE-TO-TRUST CONSORTIUM PROGRAM**

- 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(d), the Band Assembly is empowered to adopt resolutions to promote the general welfare of the people of the Band; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to 4 MLBSA § 2, the Chief Executive of the Band is empowered to exercise the Executive Branch powers of the Band; and
- WHEREAS, the Band Assembly and Chief Executive have established as a priority the improvement of spiritual, physical, mental, social and economic well-being of the people of the Band; and
- WHEREAS, the Band Assembly and Chief Executive have consistently recognized that the greatest single obstacle to the full function and exercise of tribal sovereignty is the continuing inability of the Band to put land into trust; and
- WHEREAS, a continuing source of this difficulty is the under-financing and staffing of realty operations, specifically concerning fee to trust applications at the BIA MRO in addition to the current backlog of pending fee to trust applications with new applications continually being added, creating greater demand on BIA staff and impacting the provision of other realty services; and
- WHEREAS, the BIA has a responsibility to the Band to assist in the fee to trust process, as delineated in 25 CFR 151, including performance of inherently federal functions that cannot be transferred to the Band under P.L. 93-638 Titles I and IV; and
- WHEREAS, the Band wishes to promote the acquisition of certain tribal fee lands into trust status with the United States of America; 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 is currently participating in the Division of Fee to Trust (“Division”) and has been able to process the Fee to Trust acquisitions more efficiently; and

WHEREAS, the Band understands that the current Memorandum of Understanding between the Division and the Band will end on September 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Consortium, is designed to help tribes who participate in processing fee to trust acquisitions in a more timely fashion, to reduce backlog of applications, and to improve the delivery of all BIA realty services for all tribes in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Band wishes to enter into another Memorandum of Understanding with the Division starting on October 1, 2017 and ending September 30, 2026; and

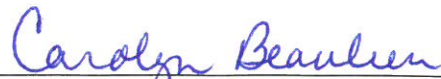
WHEREAS, the Band understands that reallocation of TPA funds will be needed for participation in the Consortium; and

WHEREAS, the Band Assembly and Chief Executive acknowledges that the participation fee for the first fiscal year under this MOU is \$215,000.00.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Band Assembly and Chief Executive hereby supports and directs that the Memorandum of Understanding for fiscal years 2018-2026 between the Band and the BIA MRO be established for the purpose of the Midwest Region Division of Fee to Trust and to commit from its allocated TPA funds, the requisite amount of funds necessary to be a full participant in the Division for the duration of the Memorandum of Understanding.

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 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017 at Chi Minising, 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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carolyn Beaulieu, Speaker of 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**