



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians  
*Legislative Branch of Tribal Government*

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## Weekly Review: October 3-7, 2022

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### **Work Session**

**October 4, 2022**

Legal staff facilitated a work session for the elected officials and staff regarding the legislative priorities survey results.

### **Legislative Branch Weekly Sync Meeting**

**October 4, 2022**

Legislative staff facilitated a Weekly Sync Meeting with elected officials to review the upcoming Band Assembly agenda items. The review included discussion about the workshop schedule and representative legislative agendas, ideas, and requests

### **Band Assembly Meeting**

**October 5, 2022**

The Speaker of the Assembly convened a meeting of the Band Assembly and the District Representatives amended the agenda to add new business items (g) contract with LawVisory; (h) contract with Ziontz Chestnut; (i) contract with Lockridge Grindal Nauen; and (j) contract with Lockridge Grindal Nauen. The District Representatives then approved the amended agenda.

The District Representatives approved the minutes from the Band Assembly meeting dated September 28, 2022.

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 20-02-84-22 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget transfer/revision for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2022 and September 30, 2023).

The District Representatives approved a contract for Hartl Enterprises, LLC dba Ron's Roll-Offs to provide supply, delivery and pick-up dumpsters for various Community Development projects in District 3 Hinckley, Sandstone, Lake Lena and surrounding areas.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Thomson Excavating, LLS to provide supply and delivery of black dirt to multiple Community Development project sites in District 1, District 2, District 2a, District 3 and surrounding areas.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Garrison Disposal Co. Inc. to provide supply, delivery and pick-up of dumpsters for various Community Development project sites in District 1, District 2, District 2a and surrounding areas.

The District Representatives approved Foster Care License: District I: New: FFH2210007.

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-02-39-22 (A Resolution Authorizing the Submission of an Application for Elder Services Funding from the Administration for

Community Living/Administration on Aging Older Americans Act Title VI Nutrition, Supportive Service and Caregiver Grants (Parts A/B and C) and Participation in Cycle VIII of the National Resource Center on Native American Aging Needs Assessment “Identifying Our Needs: A Survey of Elders”).

The District Representatives approved a contract for LawVisory to provide professional legal services related to sensitive financial matters for the Band.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Ziontz Chestnut to provide professional legal services for the lawsuit with Mille Lacs County and other matters as requested.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Lockridge Grindal Nauen to provide professional legal services for local representation in the lawsuit with Mille Lacs County.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Lockridge Grindal Nauen to provide professional legal services in regard to the proposed Talon Metals mine near Tamarack, Minnesota.

In the “Messages from the Chief Executive” portion of the agenda. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin shared she met with staff of the Treasurer for the United States, Chief Lynn Malerba regarding funding process direct to Mille Lacs Band and not to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Chief Benjamin also shared the importance of Mille Lacs Band being on the tribal registry for funding opportunities. Chief Benjamin shared representatives would like to view area and share the impact of Talon mine and she will share any updates. Chief Benjamin shared the Secretary of Interior, Deb Haaland is coming this week and she is trying to keep Mille Lacs Band in the forefront of all these entities and keep Mille Lacs Band in forefront on initiatives.

In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind expressed the difficulty of making important decisions when considering appropriations and what we do as a Band moving forward. Representative Wind stated that the questions he asks are relevant to his statutory duty as what we are appropriating, what we are spending funds on, and that all funds are spent appropriately. Representative Wind stated that sometimes it may seem like he is not in support of things when realistically it really is that more detail would help. Representative Wind thanked everyone who participated in the legislative priorities survey and the surveys were reviewed with a plan to move forward. Representative Wind shared that the District I Halloween event is being planned with details to follow soon. Representative Wind stated that the fantasy bingo recipients of the non-buy-in drawing were contacted and that the Vikings tickets raffle is Thursday, October 6, 2022. Interested Band members should call (320)630-1428 with questions or concerns.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill echoed Representative Wind’s first statement, stating that questions asked by the District Representatives are for increased understanding, as she has been in her position for three months. Representative Merrill also stated that the Band needs more communication and planning. Representative Merrill stated that the legislative priorities summary of Band member and Band employee issues will be shared. Representative Merrill also stated that mailers will be sent out for community events and flyers and that the Minisinaakwaang elder/bingo will be October 12, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by Gi-Niigaanizijig and the District II Representative’s Office. Representative Merrill stated that a meeting with the Band’s Health & Human Services Department regarding the start of upcoming sobriety feasts will occur on Thursday, October 6, 2022. Representative Merrill also shared that community meetings will occur on October 19, 2022, at Chiminising and October 20, 2022, at

Minisinaakwaang. Representative Merrill closed her comments by providing the dates of upcoming Halloween parties (Chiminising on October 26, 2022; Urban on October 27, 2022; and Minisinaakwaang on October 28, 2022).

District III Representative Harry Davis shared that he plans to host a Halloween party at Meshawkwad. Representative Davis stated that no date has been selected, but the festivities will occur on a Saturday. Representative Davis shared the elder activity Saturday, October 8, 2022, overnight at Black Bear Casino with dinner and bingo. Representative Davis closed his comments by stating that the District III Office is working on the purchase of Vikings tickets.

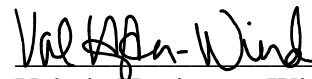
In the “Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer” portion of the agenda. Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd stated that the “Messages” section of the Band Assembly agenda is relatively new. Previously, there was no platform get messages out to constituents and members in such a manner. Secretary-Treasurer Boyd thanked the staff for helping to get this type of media in place.

**Work Session**

**October 6, 2022**

Legal staff facilitated a work session for the elected officials, staff, and the Commissioner of Corporate Ventures regarding proposed revisions to Chapter 1 (Gaming Regulatory Authority) of Title 15 (Independent Agencies).

*The next Band Assembly meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, October 19, at 10:00 AM.*



Valerie Harrington-Wind  
Chief Communications Officer