



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: July 25-29, 2022

Work Session

July 25, 2022

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

Work Session

July 26, 2022

Legal staff facilitated a work session for the elected officials and staff regarding the proposed revisions to Title 3 (Legislative Branch).

Legislative Branch Weekly Sync Meeting

July 26, 2022

Legislative staff facilitated a Weekly Sync Meeting with elected officials to review the upcoming Band Assembly agenda items. The review also included discussion about the meeting and workshop schedule, the upcoming self-governance conference, and Gaming Regulatory Act workshops.

Band Assembly Meeting

July 27, 2022

Band Assembly approved the minutes from its meeting on July 20, 2022.

The District Representatives took action on New Business items by introducing and reading Band Assembly Bill 20-02-62-22 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget transfer/revision for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022); Band Assembly Bill 20-02-63-22 (A Bill amending Title 12 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes to increase the stipend paid to members of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Housing Advisory Board for their attendance of regular meetings); and Band Assembly Bill 20-02-64-22 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget transfer/revision for the Legislative Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022). The District Representatives voted to approve both bills. The District Representatives also voted to approve Resolution 20-02-27-22 (A Resolution Approving the FY 2023 Required Match for the United States Administration for Children and Families Tribal Child Support Enforcement Grant).

The District Representatives denied a contract with Cobra Construction Inc. to provide labor and materials for a remodel of the Men’s Halfway House as identified in the outline scope of work. The purpose of the denial was so that the Department of Health and Human Services could resubmit the contract using a long-form construction contract which more adequately protects the Band’s interests.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Ebert Construction to provide labor and materials to construct a building addition and partial renovation of the District 2 Head Start building in McGregor. The District Representatives also approved a contract with Firm Ground Architects & Engineers, Inc. to provide complete Architecture, Surveying, Civil, Structural, Mechanical, and Electrical Engineering, project planning, construction and project closeout for the renovation of Nay Ah Shing Upper School and Nay Ah Shing Lower School.

The District Representatives tabled the nomination of Melissa “Baabiitaw” Boyd to serve as Commissioner of Administration. The Chief Executive had previously nominated Ms. Boyd to the position on July 13, 2022.

The District Representatives voted to amend the agenda to add Hardship Request D1-04-06-22 under extenuating circumstances. The District Representatives thereafter approved the Hardship at the requested amount.

The District Representatives voted to amend the agenda to allow testimony from Mille Lacs Band Elder. Ms. Benjamin thereafter expressed her concerns about the inadequacy of Band laws that protect women from being accosted and sexually assaulted.

In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind announced that the District I Community meeting would be canceled that night due to an unforeseen circumstance and would not be rescheduled. Representative Wind also shared that he would not be attending the Urban community meeting the following day, but would still be available directly by phone or by appointment.

Representative Wind also announced that the following evening there would be a Ge-Niigaanizijig Round Dance and, on August 2, Tribal Police would be hosting a National Night Out from 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Representative Wind closed his comments by thanking the community for reaching out and having the courage to stand up for other Band members. Representative Wind stated that he has a number of Gaming Regulatory Authority applicants that he will review and notify soon. Representative Wind lastly thanked Madam Parliamentarian and the Administration for the convenience of the Outlook calendar and the ability to find Administration Policy Board documents.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill stated that she would like to be part of the conversation stemming from the concerns expressed by Mille Lacs Band Elder Irene Benjamin.

Representative Merrill expressed gratitude to everyone who attended the East Lake Powwow and welcomed Band members to become involved with the Powwow Committee. Representative Merrill shared that the first Family Activity Night in Chiminising would occur on August 11, 2022; that the community meeting in Chiminising would occur on August 19, 2022; and that the Minisinaakwaang community meeting would occur on August 18, 2022. Representative Merrill also shared that she will be attending the August Urban Meeting. Representative Merrill closed her comments by offering condolences to a District II family that had suffered a recent loss.

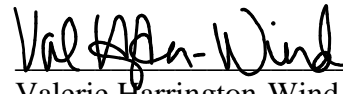
District III Representative Harry Davis asked to be informed about how to upgrade camera equipment at the Meshakwad Community Center. Representative Davis stated that the camera equipment had been recently damaged due to vandalism.

Work Session

July 28, 2022

Legal staff facilitated a work session for the elected officials and staff regarding proposed revisions to Title 3 (Legislative Branch) and proposed revisions to Chapter 4 (Tribal Employment Rights Office) of Title 15 (Independent Agencies).

The next Band Assembly meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, August 3, at 10:00 AM.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer