



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: January 30-February 3, 2023

Workshop

January 30, 2023

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding proposed revisions to Subsection (a) of Section 102 (Creation and Term of Office of Commissioner of Finance) of Title 22 (Taxation), review of three proposed options for Title 4 (Executive Branch), and Chapter 3 (Band Member Legal Services) of Title 15 (Independent Agencies).

Legislative Branch Weekly Sync Meeting

January 31, 2023

Legislative staff facilitated a Weekly Sync Meeting with elected officials to review the upcoming Band Assembly agenda items. The review included discussion about MLCV budgets, the workshop schedule, and District Representative initiatives.

Workshop

January 31, 2023

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding proposed revisions to Title 4 (Executive Branch) and Chapter 3 (Band Member Legal Services) of Title 15 (Independent Agencies).

Band Assembly Meeting

February 1, 2023

The Speaker of the Assembly Pro Tem convened a meeting of the Band Assembly. The District Representatives approved the agenda.

The District Representatives approved the minutes from the Band Assembly meeting dated January 18, 2023.

The District Representatives received an introductory presentation from Gussie Lord and Laura Berglan (Tribal Partnership Program - Earth Justice). The presentation was made in executive session.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-03-04-23 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget transfer/revision for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2023).

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 20-03-05-23 (A Bill Authorizing budget revisions for the Executive and Legislative Branches for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2022 and September 30, 2023).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-03-04-23 (A Resolution Supporting the Formal Request of the Gaming Regulatory Authority for a Full Time Attorney to be Assigned by the Office of the Solicitor General).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-03-05-23 (A Resolution in Support of a Memorandum of Agreement Between the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the Federal Bureau of Investigation).

The District Representatives approved Special Revenue Resolution 20-03-01-23 (A Special Revenue Resolution Authorizing the Commissioner of Finance to Execute, Deliver, and Cause the Performance of a Third Amendment to Mortgage with MLCV STLP, LLC).

The District Representatives approved a contract with Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Mielke & Brownell, LLP to provide legal services at the direction of the Secretary-Treasurer, Commissioner of Finance, and the Solicitor General.

The District Representatives approved a contract addendum with Aniwahya Consulting Services LLC to continue professional skills and services assisting with Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe money follows the person tribal initiative and also extending the contract date to December 31, 2023.

The District Representatives approved Foster Care License: District I: Renewal: FFH0230001.

The District Representatives approved/denied Foster Care License: District II: Renewal: FFH1420005.

In the “Message from the Chief Executive” portion of the agenda, Madam Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin started her message with a Chi-miigwech to Commissioner of Finance Mel Towle and his involvement with the Administration of the Executive Branch and he is always willing to work with us on issues if we have any kind of issues or questions regarding directions from his position as Commissioner of Finance, we work well together and that’s been on an ongoing relationship since Mel was confirmed as Commissioner of Finance, so I just wanted to note that he’s very good to work with and he answers our questions even if we don’t understand maybe sometimes and I need to spend a little more time with him on the new initiative on these line item salary positions when they’re changed or updated I need to make sure we’re all on the same page with that and I cannot direct my commissioners unless I am 100% clear on the direction and as we all know that the Executive Branch submitted the biennium budget on time and it wasn't passed for many, many, many months and then after it was passed there was some new initiatives that caused some questions and concerns but we’re committed to making sure we continue to work with Mel so we can move this forward coming up and knowing we’re all on the same page appreciate Mel all the work you do on behalf of the Band and working across all branches. Chief Executive Benjamin shared we did have a couple of community meetings regarding enrollments and the secretarial election as I stated before that there is a lot of questions still and a lot of education on this topic and we are scheduling our next series of meetings we want to go to District II and also the urban area, and then have more meetings on that as well. The notices will go out and it’s a hard topic if you haven’t been involved the majority of your tenure as band members if you don’t know anything about enrollments it’s kind of a hard topic to absorb but hopefully as we go along we can get a lot of the questions answered. Thank you Miigwech have a good day to all band members and congratulations to Ryan for being confirmed as Band Member Legal Services Board member.

In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened up with stating change isn’t easy and sometimes there are some after affects to statutorily change or after affect to ordinances that are signed into law by our Chief Executive one of them being 59-22 and the language that was clearly in it some of that was seen today right? That adherence to budgets and the amount that we pay our government employees and you know the fact that we’re just not there yet and there are some shortfalls within that budgeting process, I however will never support the slop pail mentality of reaching in and grabbing any money and any funding that’s in a salary line, I’ve been very clear when I voted no on the budget that it needs to be done on a per position basis and that’s what we’re advocating for when we approve those budgets, new initiatives are tough and the willingness to come together and have those hard conversations is very important sometimes they always say when you’re pointing a finger at somebody there’s three pointing back at you and we’ve done nothing but try to work through the process and the program to ensure nobody’s pay was ever held up unfortunately those conversations stalled in the executive branch and we have failed to have some follow through within that, looking forward to thanks to the work to mirror some of what Madam Chief said about Mel Towle and his persistence, really thank you Mel for driving that forward and making sure that we’re made aware and all on the same team here. Representative Wind stated that last Friday Representative Merrill and myself attended MCT in Fondulac to find out there’s a lot going on, also last week I did attend a community meeting here, there’s huge MCT happenings, you know being a person late to the party I am here and I will be here and I will put in a lot of time to ensure my statutorily obligation to represent the district from which I was elected is fully fulfilled, with that being said I believe that there is information that isn’t and hasn’t been shared with all of our band membership and something as monumental our TEC members voting at the last TEC meeting to bring forth 32-15 a secretarial election to encompass other ojibwe blood should be a determination we make upon ourselves these huge implications coming out of that sadly as a District Representative had I not been on that TEC meeting I probably wouldn’t have known that, that the secretarial election was happening and very sad that as an Elected Official of the Mille Lacs Band that I don’t receive at least quarterly updates from the MCT or our TEC members regarding the happenings that are going on so that I do ask that at the very least we’re brought up to date so that I can share that with my constituency, again to the band members out there listening if you have any questions concerns, comments, you want to tell me I’m dumb I’m fine with that too call me my number is (320) 630-1428 and in closing I want to thank Madam Speaker Pro Tem Representative Merrill for a great job today thank you guys.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill stated we do have Aadizookaan traditional story telling that’s happening tonight from 6-8pm at the East Lake Community Center. This is a potluck style dinner we’re having our story teller Niib Aubid tell some traditional stories we will have prizes for main dish appetizer and dessert. Representative Merrill stated the we do have a craft fair on Friday, February 3, 2023, 11-4 p.m. No vendor fees also at the East Lake Community Center. Representative Merrill shared I just sent out a flyer for the Roundy of the Legends I’m calling it because we do got a lot of really good singers sponsored by me, but there’s Fawn Wood, Dallas Waskahat (that’s her significant other), Skip Churchill, Tommy Benjamin, Hokie Clairmont, Opie Day, Jeremiah Churchill, Scotty Matrious, and Les Gahbow, we’re going to start that at 6:00 p.m. February 24, 2023, which is a Friday night so hopefully anybody who is listening everyone is welcome come up there of course.

District III Representative Harry Davis shared our boxing is coming up well and we got our club certification done that’s posted and somebody keeps taking down signs in our Meshakwad Community Center about our policies and I don’t know who’s doing that but we need to get a

handle on that and stop that from happening and boxing is Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 5:30-7:30/8:00 p.m. Representative Davis shared the community meeting is at the Casino again and that will be mid-February I don't have the exact date.

Workshop

February 2, 2023

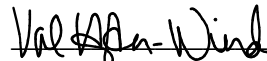
Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding proposed revisions to Subsection (a) of Section 102 (Creation and Term of Office of Commissioner of Finance) of Title 22 (Taxation) moving forward to public comment, final option for Title 4 (Executive Branch) moving forward to public comment, Chapter 3 (Band Member Legal Services) of Title 15 (Independent Agencies) moving forward to public comment, Resolution – Expressing Support for the Housing Department's Commitment to NAHASDA Funds to Subsidize Rent for Ventura Project, and Title 8, Chapter 13 (ICWA Transfers/Jurisdiction).

Workshop

February 3, 2023

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding proposed revisions to Title 8, Chapter 13 (ICWA Transfers/Jurisdiction).

The next Band Assembly meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 10:00 AM.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer