



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: February 20-24, 2023

Legislative Branch Weekly Sync Meeting

February 21, 2023

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 District Representative initiatives.

Band Assembly Meeting

February 22, 2023

The Speaker Pro Tem of the Assembly 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 February 8, 2023.

The District Representatives took from the table and denied Resolution 20-03-03-23 (A Resolution Approving the Amended Public Law 102-477 Plan for the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for the Time Period Beginning October 1, 2022, Through September 30, 2025).

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 20-03-08-23 (An Appropriation Bill Repeal and Replacing Act 06-23 to remove the FY2022 section of the Administration Policy Board Request. Act 06-23 Authorized a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget transfer/revision for the Executive and Judicial Branches for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2022 and September 30, 2023).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-03-09-23 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget transfer/revision for the Executive and Judicial Branches for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2022 and September 30, 2023).

The District Representatives approved a contract with Optbit LLC to provide professional consultation for information technology strategic planning to update systems to industry standards and regulatory compliance – Year two of I.T. strategic plan.

The District Representatives approved a contract with CentraCare to move Health and Human Services to the EPIC electronic health record to meet the core requirements of clinical integration, interoperability, safety and quality in care delivered.

The District Representatives approved a contract with DeepEarth Technologies, Inc. to the remediation of former Mille Lacs Marine site.

In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind opened up with a thank you to the Mille Lacs Band for sending him and one of his office staff to the “Healing Together Conference” last week in Arizona. It was a very wonderful conference with very great information. It was put on by four separate entities: being Native Wellness Institute, Wellbriety Movement, Native American Fatherhood & Families Association, and The Native Dads Network. Representative Wind shared a couple of the things that really stood out to him throughout the course of the conference, a couple quotes, sayings, and notes that he took: “Family is at the heart of our Culture.” Also there was a huge messaging based around healing and another one was “Feel worthy of healing” and “Everything reverts back to family,” “Learn to love the truth,” “Learn to live the truth,” and another one was, “We are the link to our future generations so really act like it.” That information being shared was wonderful really was about healing and supporting our fathers and supporting our communities in coming together as communities, so it was really a wonderful conference to attend. Primarily everything was based around how we can come together as a family and a community. That information was very important and wonderful to hear. Representative Wind stated that he did have our community meeting that evening that will start at the new District I community center at 5:30 p.m. On the agenda there will be a Representative update and we also have the MCT delegates that will be there tonight with program information and they’re going to share their report with the community. Danielle Smith and Michele Palomaki will be there. We have a wonderful meal provided by Dawn Day again that is 5:30 p.m. at the new District I community center. We kind of reverted out District I community meetings into a sit down at a table meal as opposed to the gymnasium style seating that we’re all accustomed to. It’s really been nice to sit at a table and have conversations. Representative Wind issued a reminder that there are a bunch of draft legislation out there on the Tribal Register right now. Thanks to the other representatives and the whole staff here. We have been pounding through legislation and we’re kind of waiting some of that public comment period to end. Representative Wind stated we had a very successful sledding day here in District I on Monday. We had 300+ people show up had lots of fun, up and down the hills we wrecked about 40 tubes on the sharp ice. I want to really thank of course the DI staff for putting in the work and getting it done. Also all the volunteers, the hot chocolate makes, everyone that came out, the elders that came out to help flip burgers, everybody that makes this all possible, and then also the biggest portion of that is the community that comes out. We had kids that remembered it from last year and the importance of just coming together as a family and coming together as a community. It was 100% a great day. I get all smiley when I think about it: I snuck over to the porta-potty and, when walking back, you could feel the energy in the air being so positive and the kids laughing and everybody having fun. It was just an amazing day. So, again, just a huge thank you to all the volunteers, DI staff, public works, Administration that’s helped out. Thank you so much. With that being said, we are planning a round 2 for the Sledding fun day at the same spot on Gichiyaabe loop that will happen this coming Sunday from 12-4 p.m. An important note is that a portion of Gichiyaabe loop will remain closed for the duration so we initially planned on having it only closed for last Friday until this Monday after the event. We decided to extend that with the incoming snow fall so again come on out on Sunday. We got some new tubes ordered, bring your sleds. It’s going to be a good time.

We will have a light meal provided, snacks again provided, warming shacks for whoever comes out. A very interesting thing about this weekend is we will have some fresh fluff, so we’re looking forward to that. Representative Wind stated that he wanted to congratulate newly appointed Commissioner Sam Moose. Thank you for your interest and welcome to the team. We really look forward to the work that we’ll do together. Representative Wind closed his

comments with something that came out of today's meeting and thank you to Education and thank you to Administration. The number was really surprising to me and a couple of my kids benefit from was 260 band members and descendants receiving scholarships or some type of incentive from the Mille Lacs Band Scholarship Program, my kids couldn't do it without some of that help and it makes it a lot easier for them and I really do appreciate the work of prior leadership and putting that stuff together and I appreciate the work of the current representatives for supporting that work and thank you guys so much and again as always if you have any questions comments for me please reach out directly my number is (320)630-1428.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill opened with mentioning our Roundy that we have going on Friday. Hopefully the weather will be alright because I feel like a lot of things are moving to Friday, a lot of basketball games. But we do have some great things happening. I'm a little concerned about the parking, but I think we'll be alright. Having a lot of people is going to be great for the community, but we will be starting at 5:00 p.m. Again, we are expecting a great turnout. I've been to a couple of the round dances in Wisconsin and it's quite a lot of people, so we have a bunch of great specials, ribbon shirt, ribbon skirt contests, youth specials, women side steps specials, youth specials for both boys and girls, men's side step, three-man contest, women's back up contest. I just want to say Miigwech to all of our sponsors that we have. The representatives here did donate, so a lot of these donations kind of help me out with my budget too. Representative Merrill stated congratulations to Sam. We are very excited to have you on board and looking forward to the things that you will bring. Representative Merrill stated the Mille Lacs Band delegates are looking for two Chiminising community members and they are to contact Mick Davis at (218) 820-9140. I'm not sure kind of what that details are, but they should contact Mick and they can get that information. I do have a lot of information I usually post on my FB page. If there's not a lot of people that don't have it we are planning our family activity nights. I did have a flyer sent out, so on March 12, 2023, in Chiminising that's going to be Isle Bowling Pizza from 3-6 p.m. Everybody is welcome to that and then April 16, 2023, at the McGregor Lanes from 3-6 p.m. These are private events, so we will have both of those rented out. Representative Merrill closed her comments with looking forward to seeing everybody on Friday. Miigwech.

District III Representative Harry Davis shared to make a note we are getting our Meshakwad policies near to being finalized with those plans. We're trying to get our Band members and youth involved in our Meshakwad Community Center. Before closing and finalizing our policies and make them official, I would like to give it to our new Commissioner of Administration Sam Moose and also Maria Costello a chance to review before signing and making official. Representative Davis stated he has been working with Bernida Humetewa at having a small dance and feast and pow wow for our Band members. We are getting close on finalizing plans for that.

Workshop

February 23, 2023

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, legislative staff, Solicitor General, OSG attorneys, Native Affairs Outreach Director, and Family Services Director & personnel regarding proposed revisions to Title 8 (Children and Families) ICWA jurisdiction/transfers.

Workshop

February 24, 2023

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, legislative staff, Commissioner of Administration, Assistant Commissioner of Administration, Human Resources Director, and Deputy Solicitor General regarding proposed revisions to HR personnel policies and procedures.

The next Band Assembly meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 10:00 AM.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer