



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: August 8-12, 2022

Work Session

August 8, 2022

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

Work Session

August 9, 2022

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

Legislative Branch Weekly Sync Meeting

August 9, 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 and a legislative priorities survey.

Band Assembly Meeting

August 10, 2022

Band Assembly amended the agenda to remove the following items: confirmation hearing for the Housing Board nominee Ronald Smith, Resolution 20-02-30-22 Approving a Waiver of Sovereign Immunity for the Granicus Master Subscription Agreement, and for a Natural Resources contract with Beehive Strategic Communication.

Band Assembly approved the minutes from its meeting on August 3, 2022.

Band Assembly took from the table the nomination of Melissa “Baabiitaw” Boyd as Commissioner of Administration and denied the nomination with a roll call vote.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-02-66-22 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022).

The District Representatives tabled Band Assembly Bill 20-02-67-22 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures for Wewinabi Inc. for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 20-02-68-22 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the September 2022 Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act (TGWEA) Assistance Payment Program for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 20-02-29-22 (A Resolution Authorizing a Land Lease for Commercial Purposes to Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures).

The District Representatives voted to approve both Mary Boyd and Jessica Churchill to serve on the Mille Lacs Band Housing Board.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Optbit, LLC to continue working on Phase I of the strategic planning and implementation concerning the Health & Human Services electronic medical records, as well as to move into phase II of the project.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Jones Construction to provide material and labor for installation of a septic system for the D3 Early Education building and also approved Foster Care License FFH2010007 (D1).

In the “Messages from the Chief Executive” portion of the agenda, the Chief Executive Benjamin requested a meeting between other leaders regarding Minnesota Indian Gaming. Chief Executive Benjamin thanked everyone for attending the meeting the previous day regarding the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe referendum vote. Chief Executive Benjamin shared that there would be a court hearing the following day regarding the lawsuit against Mille Lacs County. Chief Executive Benjamin also shared that there would be an event Friday following the Joint Session meeting at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. She then invited Band members to hear court case discussion from Mr. Marc Slonim.

In the “Messages from the Representatives” portion of the agenda, District I Representative Virgil Wind thanked constituents for communication when considering candidates. Representative Wind also thanked the other Representatives for supporting adult Band members receiving extra support for school supplies. Representative Wind announced that the Iskigamizigan Pow Wow will occur on August 19-21, 2022, and thanked the pow wow committee for their work. Representative Wind shared there will be a District I first-come, first-serve State Fair tickets limited amount distribution Tuesday, August 16, 2022, and Wednesday, August 17, 2022, 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Band members must show ID. If there are any questions, please contact the D1 Representative’s Office at 320-532-7423 or Representative Wind directly at 320-630-1428. Representative Wind shared that the District I End of Summer event will occur Friday, September 2, 2022, at the new community center.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill stated that the Family Fun Night would occur tomorrow, August 11, 2022, from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Chiminising Community Center. Representative Merrill stated that sign-up is still available and notified Band members to watch for construction signs. Representative Merrill shared that community meetings will occur on August 17 and 18 with information tables. Representative Merrill closed her remarks by stating that she will be attending the Urban meeting August 25, 2022, in partnership with Representative Wind.

District III Representative Harry Davis stated that the District III community meeting will occur August 17, 2022, at Grand Casino Hinckley. Representative Davis stated that he had hired Monica Benjamin as his administrative and assistant and thanked Kiana Morrison and Brianna Boyd for assisting. Representative Davis also stated that State Fair tickets and ride tickets will be purchased.

Secretary-Treasurer Boyd was not present for the August 10 Band Assembly meeting.

Work Session**August 11, 2022**

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

Joint Session of the Band Assembly Meeting**August 10, 2022**

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly convened and tabled the minutes from its meeting on July 9, 2022. The Joint Session thereafter received a presentation from Marc Slonim and Beth Baldwin (Ziontz Chestnut) regarding an update on the reservation boundary litigation.

The next Band Assembly meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, August 17, at 10:00 AM.

Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer