



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Band Assembly Weekly Update: Week of October 18-22, 2021

Tuesday, October 19, 2021: Legislative hosted a Pre-Band Assembly meeting to discuss the agenda items. **Approval of Minutes:** October 15, 2021. **Reports and Presentations:** None. **Unfinished Business:** Nomination: Housing Board: Percy Benjamin, Kelly Miller, Tony Pike, and Carmen Weous (pick 2 names) and Band Assembly Bills for MLCV, Non-Gaming, and Gaming FY2022 Budget. **New Business:** BAB 19-04-02-22 (D1 Rep): Bill amending Title 3, BAB 19-04-03-22 (D1 Rep): Bill for MLCV FY2022 budget, BAB 19-04-04-22 (D1 Rep): Bill for Non-Gaming FY2022 Budget, BAB 19-04-05-22 (D2 Rep): Bill for Gaming FY2022 Budget, Contracts (Judicial) Dixie Kamimura and Jeannie Reams Guardian Ad Litem Services, Contract (GRA): MLCV Leasing for GRA office space, and Foster Care License (D1): FFH1910007. **Other:** None. There was discussion, comments and questions on each item. Discussed various items. Work Session schedule. Master Projects List review. Representatives lastly held open discussion of their legislative agendas, ideas and requests.

Wednesday, October 20, 2021: Band Assembly occurred in Band Assembly Chambers and through conference call and zoom.

- **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order.
- **Roll Call:** Roll call was completed all Representatives present.
District I Representative, Virgil Wind
District II Representative, Marvin Bruneau via Zoom
District III Representative, Wallace St. John Sr.
- **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was approved.
- **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a) **Band Assembly Record:** October 15, 2021. Record was approved.
- **Reports and Presentations: None.**
- **Unfinished Business:**
 - a) **Nomination:** Per MLBS 12 Chapter 4 § 306 (a) (10) “The Chief Executive and the Speaker of the Assembly shall each select two (2) persons from the at Large area and the Band Assembly shall confirm two (2) of the four (4) for appointment to the Housing Board.” The Chief Executive has nominated Carmen Weous and Percy Benjamin. The Speaker of the Assembly has nominated Kelly Miller and Tony Pike. **Tabled 09/29/21.** Nomination was taken from the table. A roll call vote was called for Carmen Weous and nomination passed. A roll call vote was called for Kelly Miller and nomination passed.
 - b) **Band Assembly Bill 19-04-71-21:** A Bill for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (“Corporate Ventures”), a corporate body politic of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (“Band”), for the

purpose of appropriating funds and authorizing expenditures to Corporate Ventures for its operations, and capital and economic development projects for the period beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022. **Tabled 09/29/21.**

Sponsor: District I Representative. Bill was taken from the table and denied. *new bill added to agenda.

- c) **Band Assembly Bill 19-04-72-21:** A Bill for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (“Corporate Ventures”), a corporate body politic of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (“Band”), for the purpose of appropriating funds and authorizing expenditures to Corporate Ventures for the operations, and capital and economic development projects of any current or future non-gaming business managed or operated directly or indirectly by Corporate Ventures (“Non-Gaming Businesses”) for the period beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022. **Tabled 09/29/21**

Sponsor: District I Representative. Bill was taken from the table and denied. *new bill added to agenda.

- d) **Band Assembly Bill 19-04-73-21:** A Bill for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (“Corporate Ventures”), a corporate body politic of the Mille Lacs Band (“Band”), for the purpose of appropriating funds and authorizing expenditures to Corporate Ventures for the operations, and capital and economic development projects of Grand Casino Hinckley and Grand Casino Mille Lacs (“Casinos”) for the period beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022. **Tabled 09/29/21**

Sponsor: District II Representative. Bill was taken from the table and denied. *new bill added to agenda.

- **New Business:**

- a) **Band Assembly Bill 19-04-02-22:** A Bill amending Title 3 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes (“MLBS”) to establish legislative sessions and authorize the Speaker of the Assembly to call special sessions of the Band Assembly under exigent circumstances. This bill clarifies that official hearings of inquiry shall be conducted according to rules adopted by the Band Assembly.

Sponsor: District I Representative. Bill was introduced with the preamble and statement of purpose read, followed by a waiver of the remaining formal reading, and approved.

- b) **Band Assembly Bill 19-04-03-22:** A Bill for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (“Corporate Ventures”), a corporate body politic of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (“Band”), for the purpose of appropriating funds and authorizing expenditures to Corporate Ventures for its operations and capital and economic development projects for the period beginning October 1, 2021, and ending September 30, 2022.

Sponsor: District I Representative. Bill was introduced with the preamble and statement of purpose read, followed by a waiver of the remaining formal reading, and approved.

- c) **Band Assembly Bill 19-04-04-22:** A Bill for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (“Corporate Ventures”), a corporate body politic of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (“Band”), for the purpose of appropriating funds and authorizing expenditures to Corporate

Ventures for the operations and capital and economic development projects of any current or future non-gaming business managed or operated directly or indirectly by Corporate Ventures (“Non-Gaming Businesses”) for the period beginning October 1, 2021, and ending September 30, 2022.

Sponsor: District I Representative. Bill was introduced with the preamble and statement of purpose read, followed by a waiver of the remaining formal reading, and approved.

- d) **Band Assembly Bill 19-04-05-22:** A Bill for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures (“Corporate Ventures”), a corporate body politic of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (“Band”), for the purpose of appropriating funds and authorizing expenditures to Corporate Ventures for the operations and capital and economic development projects of Grand Casino Hinckley and Grand Casino Mille Lacs (“Casinos”) for the period beginning October 1, 2021, and ending September 30, 2022.

Sponsor: District II Representative. Bill was introduced with the preamble and statement of purpose read, followed by a waiver of the remaining formal reading, and approved.

- e) **Contract (Judicial):** A contract for Dixie Kamimura to provide Guardian Ad Litem Services within all three districts (including urban) for the Court of Central Jurisdiction appointed/assigned cases. Contract end date is September 30, 2022. Contract was approved.
- f) **Contract (Judicial):** A contract for Jeannie Reams to provide Guardian Ad Litem Services within all three districts (including urban) for the Court of Central Jurisdiction appointed/assigned cases. Contract end date is September 30, 2022. Contract was approved.
- g) **Contract (GRA):** A contract for MLCV Leasing LLC to provide office space in the Corporate Office building to the Gaming Regulatory Authority Office of Compliance and Regulation. Contract end date is September 30, 2022. Contract was tabled.
- h) **Foster Care License:** Renewal: District I FFH1910007. A memorandum supporting a change of character was provided for the record by Family Services. Following a review of the provided memorandum the License was approved.

- **Other Business: None.**
- **Messages from the Chief Executive-** Not present
- **Messages from the Representatives-District I Representative-** First off I’d like to congratulate the new Housing Board appointees. It was a very tough decision to come by and together we deliberated and came up, the field was very skilled so we worked hard together to come to come consensus so I really appreciate those that applied. Please don’t feel slighted if you weren’t chosen, just working through the process so you know we are chosen to pick two of four in that scenario and we try to do that fairly so thank you guys. The current revenue ordinances that were passed today I think they are an important part of moving forward in trying to find some collaboration between the Band Assembly and Corporate Ventures and bring things up to date. The intent of this was to take something that has been dragging along for some time and hopefully bring it to the forefront so we can that we can resolve whatever issues there were within them so the attempt to bring them back forward and approve something and

hopefully work together for a solution was the attempt. **District II Representative**- No message. **District III Representative**- Tonight the community meeting is still going on for those who care to attend. Speakers will be Chief Executive and Secretary Treasurer. Mr. Wind you are invited and any Commissioners who care to come over and have a nice supper you are invited to come over and be a part of the community. Piggyback off of what Mr. Honorable Wind was reiterating on. There wasn't a wrong choice for the Housing Board. Regardless of who we choose there wasn't a wrong, we feel was a wrong choice. And those of you that didn't get chosen, you have a vast knowledge of the Band's operations within the category we're talking about. So it's also important to have other Band Members gaining knowledge about certain policies and operations within the departments of the Executive Branch. The more of our people that are educated and gain more knowledge as to the operations of our government I think we become a stronger nation or people. Rest assured that everybody was highly qualified it's just the way it goes, don't be slighted, don't feel offended. We just did what we did. Mi'iw.

- **Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer**- No message.

Joint Session of the Band Assembly occurred in Band Assembly Chambers and through conference call and zoom.

- **Roll Call:** Roll call was completed four Representatives present.
Chief Executive, Melanie Benjamin
Secretary-Treasurer, Sheldon Boyd
District I Representative, Virgil Wind-Not present.
District II Representative, Marvin Bruneau
District III Representative, Wallace St. John Sr.
- **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was amended and approved.
- **Minutes:**
 - a) **Joint Session Record:** September 30, 2021. Record was approved.
- **Unfinished Business:**
 - a) **Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 19-04-16-21:** A Resolution Adopting Rules of Procedure for the Joint Session of the Band Assembly **Tabled 9/30/2021**
- **New Business:**
 - a) **Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 19-04-01-22:** A Resolution Approving the Enrollments into the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for Those Who Meet the 1/4 Degree Requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Resolution was approved.
 - b) **Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 19-04-02-22:** A Resolution Denying the Enrollments into the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for those Who Do Not Meet the 1/4 Degree Requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Resolution was approved.

- **Other:** None.

District III Representative hosted a community meeting. The agenda speakers were the Chief Executive and the Secretary Treasurer.

Thursday, October 21, 2021:

Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly members, Legal Counsel, Revisor of Statutes, Staff Attorney, Legislative Staff, OSG Attorney, and Commissioner of Natural Resources.

Work Session Agenda: Workshop: Bill – HEARTH Act Adam Candler

Legal Counsel presented on HEARTH Act draft bill. Review of the draft bill comments on each section with discussion, questions, and comments.