



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Band Assembly Weekly Update: Week of March 28-April 1, 2022

Monday, March 28, 2022: 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
District III Representative, Wallace St. John Sr.
- **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was approved.
- **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a) **Band Assembly Record:** March 23, 2022. Record was approved.
- **Reports and Presentations:**
 - a) 9:00 a.m. Compromise Hearing
Re: Vetoed Band Assembly Bill 20-01-31-22. Compromise hearing was completed with summary of veto reasons, summary analysis, questions and comments. Part of the Compromise Hearing was completed in Executive Session. Veto agreed upon will reconvene 4/21/22.
- **Unfinished Business:**
 - a) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-30-22:** A Bill amending Title 5 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes (“MLBS”) to establish a Healing to Wellness Court to provide intensive services and more frequent court intervention to facilitate the reunification of Band families and to prevent the breakup of such families; improve the safety and well-being of children whose families are affected by substance abuse, trauma, and mental health conditions; prevent the prenatal exposure of infants to alcohol and controlled substances; expedite family reunification and reduce the lengths of children’s out-of-home placements; strengthen families’ indigenous cultural, traditional, and community ties; reduce recidivism rates of substance abuse and promote recovery; and develop future healthy generations of Band members by promoting health and wellness for participants, their families, and Band communities.
Sponsor: District III Representative Tabled 3/9/22, 3/23/22
 - b) **Nomination:** A letter dated March 7, 2022 from Chief Executive Benjamin nominating Anthony Pike for the position of Commissioner of Community Development. The current 4-year term end date is June 30, 2023. **Tabled 3/17/22.** Nomination was taken from the table and removed from the agenda. (Madam Chief rescinded the nomination and will submit new nomination)

- **New Business:**

a) **Nomination:** A letter dated March 18, 2022 from Secretary-Treasurer Boyd nominating five (5) separate investment professionals to serve on the newly created Institutional Investment Committee. Per 17 MLBS § 204(g)(1), Secretary-Treasurer Boyd nominates the following individuals:

1. Carol Peterfeso to serve a 1-year term ending on December 31, 2022.
2. Andy Christensen to serve a 2-year term ending on December 31, 2023.
3. Susanna Gibbons to serve a 3-year term ending on December 31, 2024.
4. Ellen Brownell to serve a 4-year term ending on December 31, 2025.
5. Amy Jensen to serve a 4-year term ending on December 31, 2025. Nomination was tabled.

- **Other Business: None.**

- **Messages from the Chief Executive-** Madam Chief stated very lively conversation on one of the bills and good to hash out some of the issues brought forth on any of this legislation. She also stated she a duty to sign into law if it meets certain requirements, this legislation will be signed into law once the verbiage and making sure that Supreme Court decisions and any other kind of Legislation in the legal field is all addressed. She stated she is glad and thankful for the opportunity to discuss and put all the issues on the table and move forward in a positive way. Miigwech to Speaker Boyd and District Representatives for all the hard work they're doing in moving this legislation, amendments, new legislation and moving forward making sure our laws are strong, first time in many years that I've seen this kind of action, special shout out to Speaker Boyd for being the leader in the Legislative Branch that really is having an impact on all of us Band Members. Miigwech.

- **Messages from the Representatives-District I Representative-** Representative Wind stated we are currently working diligently to push forward legislation that can affect positive change within our communities. Some of it really isn't easy topics and easy issues that we're dealing with the one we talked about today is a very important one and although it isn't easy and it isn't bright and colorful we're trudging forward I do appreciate the work of everybody that's there and working with the Executive Branch to try to figure out how we can enact this legislation to help protect our people even further. He stated in a Nonpolitical way that the Candidate Forums are all week this week. I don't have the particular days but I am heading down with a Spiritual Advisor to the Urban one this afternoon and then they are throughout the week and I am sure the information is out there, be sure to get out and vote and figure out who you want to support. Reminder this Wednesday at the Old District Community Center starting at 5:30 p.m. we will have the District I Community Meeting on the agenda is Travis Zimmerman with Minnesota Historical Society update on some work we worked on together this summer to update the exhibits in the museum here in District I also have Commissioner Nayquonabe with an update on MLCV and he stated he will be there for questions, concerns and a Legislative Update. Looking forward to seeing you all there. Thank you. **District II Representative-** Representative Bruneau stated remind everybody that Primary Election is next week April 5, 2022. Things are posted for your information. Community Meeting in Minisinaakwang East Lake Thursday, March 31, 2022 Michael Davis will be there to talk about the Elder Assistance Program and hope to see you there. Miigwech. **District III Representative-** Representative St. John was not present at time of messages.

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

Joint Session of the 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 1 Representative absent.
Chief Executive, Melanie Benjamin
Secretary-Treasurer, Sheldon Boyd
District I Representative, Virgil Wind
District II Representative, Marvin Bruneau
District III Representative, Wallace St. John Sr. (excused/late)
- **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was amended and approved.
- **Minutes:**
 - a) **Joint Session Record:** February 23, 2022. Record was amended and 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 20-01-17-22:** A Resolution Appointing Reservation Election Board Members for the 2022 Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Resolution was approved.
 - b) **Discussion: Duties of the Solicitor General.** The discussion was complete with agreement that this discussion doesn't meet criteria for a Joint Session.
- **Other: None.**

Tuesday, March 29, 2022: Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

Work Session Agenda: Bill: Title 11 – Animal Protection, Bill: Title 6 – Government Employees Ethics Code (review comments), and Bill: Title 5 – Court of Appeals (review comments).

Legal Staff presented on Title 11 – Animal Protection draft red/blue line version with discussion, questions, and comments. The other agenda items will be discussed at an upcoming work session.

Legislative hosted a Pre-Band Assembly meeting to discuss the agenda items. **Approval of Minutes:** March 28, 2022. **Reports and Presentations:** None. **Unfinished Business:** Bill 20-01-30-22: Amending Title 5 – Healing to Wellness and Nomination: Secretary-Treasurer nominated 5 members to

the Institutional Investment Committee. **New Business:** Resolution 20-01-16-22: Waiver of Sovereign Immunity for OSG to become a subscriber to the Minnesota Court Information System and Resolution 20-01-17-22: Waiver of Sovereign Immunity for Aanjibimaadizing to enter agreement with Global Payments Direct, Inc. **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, March 30, 2022: 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
District III Representative, Wallace St. John Sr.
- **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was amended and approved.
- **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a) **Band Assembly Record:** March 28, 2022. Record was approved.
- **Reports and Presentations: None.**
- **Unfinished Business:**
 - a) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-30-22:** A Bill amending Title 5 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes (“MLBS”) to establish a Healing to Wellness Court to provide intensive services and more frequent court intervention to facilitate the reunification of Band families and to prevent the breakup of such families; improve the safety and well-being of children whose families are affected by substance abuse, trauma, and mental health conditions; prevent the prenatal exposure of infants to alcohol and controlled substances; expedite family reunification and reduce the lengths of children’s out-of-home placements; strengthen families’ indigenous cultural, traditional, and community ties; reduce recidivism rates of substance abuse and promote recovery; and develop future healthy generations of Band members by promoting health and wellness for participants, their families, and Band communities.
Sponsor: District III Representative Tabled 3/9/22, 3/23/22. Bill was taken from the table, discussed, and re-tabled.
 - b) **Nomination:** A letter dated March 18, 2022 from Secretary-Treasurer Boyd nominating five (5) separate investment professionals to serve on the newly created Institutional Investment Committee. Per 17 MLBS § 204(g)(1), Secretary-Treasurer Boyd nominates the following individuals:
 1. Carol Peterfeso to serve a 1-year term ending on December 31, 2022.
 2. Andy Christensen to serve a 2-year term ending on December 31, 2023.
 3. Susanna Gibbons to serve a 3-year term ending on December 31, 2024.
 4. Ellen Brownell to serve a 4-year term ending on December 31, 2025.

5. Amy Jensen to serve a 4-year term ending on December 31, 2025. **Tabled 3/28/22**

- **New Business:**

- a) **Resolution 20-01-16-22:** A Resolution Approving a Waiver of Sovereign Immunity for the Limited and Sole Purpose for the Office of the Solicitor General to Become a Government Subscriber to the Minnesota Court Information System (MNCIS). Resolution was approved with a waiver of the formal reading.
- b) **Resolution 20-01-17-22:** A Resolution Approving a Waiver of Sovereign Immunity for the Limited and Sole Purpose for Aanjibimaadizing to Enter into a Card Services Agreement with Global Payments Direct, Inc. Resolution was approved with a waiver of the formal reading.
- c) **Hardship Request:** D1-01-03-22. Hardship was approved.
- d) **Hardship Request:** D1-02-03-22. Hardship was approved.
- e) **Contract (BMLS):** A contract for McKinnis and Doom to provide ongoing Legal services to Band Members that are not eligible for services through BMLS due to a conflict of interest. Contract end date is September 30, 2022. Contract was approved.

Other Business: None.

- **Messages from the Chief Executive-** Madam Chief was not present at the time of messages.
- **Messages from the Representatives-District I Representative-** Representative Wind was not present at the time of messages. **District II Representative-** Representative Bruneau stated Aaniin everyone listening and gave information on the upcoming Community Meeting in East Lake tomorrow night 5:30 p.m. and he stated Primary Election is next week on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. He also quoted “Apathy is the Enemy of Democracy”. Miigwech. **District III Representative-** Representative St. John stated the District III Candidate forum is tonight at Aazhoomog dinner will be provided. He asked for people to spread the word and show up it’s very important also Forum for the Secretary Treasurer make yourself available come on down and hear different points of view on our government. He also stated if you need a ride reach out now if you need a ride from Hinckley it’s very important for everybody to attend who are physically able to attend. Mi’iw.
- **Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer-** Secretary Treasurer Boyd had no message.

District I Representative hosted a community meeting for District I Community.

Thursday, March 31, 2022: Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

Work Session Agenda: Bill: Title 11 – Animal Protection, Bill: Title 6 – Government Employees & Ethics Code (review comments), and Bill: Title 5 – Court of Appeals (review comments)

Legal Staff presented on Title 11 – Animal Protection draft red/blue line version with discussion, questions, and comments. Moving forward with public comment letter.

Legal Staff presented on Title 6 – Government Employees & Ethics Code reviewed public comments with discussion, questions, and comments. The other agenda item will be discussed at an upcoming work session.