



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Band Assembly Weekly Update: Week of May 2-6, 2022

Monday, May 2, 2022: Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

Work Session Agenda: Biennium Budgets Discussion

Legal Staff facilitated discussion on proposed budgets with a review.

Tuesday, May 3, 2022: Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

Work Session Agenda: Biennium Budgets Discussion

Legal Staff facilitated discussion on proposed budgets with a review.

Wednesday, May 4, 2022: Legislative Office Closed

Thursday, May 5, 2022: Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

Work Session Agenda: Biennium Budgets Discussion

Legal Staff reviewed budget considerations.

Legislative hosted a Pre-Band Assembly meeting to discuss the agenda items. **Approval of Minutes:** April 27, 2022. **Reports and Presentations:** Compromise Hearing – Vetoed Band Assembly Bill 20-01-43-22 and Annulment Hearing – Opinion of the Solicitor General 45-22. **Unfinished Business:** None. **New Business:** Band Assembly Bill 20-01-48-22: Appropriation Bill for Property Taxes, Band Assembly Bill 20-01-49-22: Appropriation Bill Repealing/Replacing Ordinance 59-20 (October 2020 Economic Support Payment), and Hardship Request D2-01-05-22. **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.

Friday, May 6, 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 with 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:** April 27, 2022. Record was amended and approved.
- **Reports and Presentations:**
 - a) 10:15 a.m. Compromise Hearing
Re: Vetoed Band Assembly Bill 20-01-43-22. Compromise hearing was started with a summary of the veto reasons, followed by questions and comments. Hearing was completed and an upcoming date will be scheduled to continue the hearing for negotiation by May 21, 2022.
 - b) 11:00 a.m. Annulment Hearing
Re: Opinion of the Solicitor General No. 45-22. Annulment Hearing was complete with discussion, questions, and comments. The Opinion of the Solicitor General No. 45-22 will continue the process of annulment by May 11, 2022.
- **Unfinished Business: None.**
- **New Business:**
 - a) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-48-22:** A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures for the Executive Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022. This bill has been drafted based on formal documents submitted by the Assistant Commissioner of Administration via Commissioner's Order 2022-09 on April 29, 2022.
Sponsor: District I Representative. Bill was introduced, read, and approved.
 - b) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-49-22:** An Appropriation Bill repealing and replacing Ordinance 59-20 for disbursement of funds for an Adult Band Member Economic Support Payment for the month of October 2020 in the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2021.
Sponsor: District III Representative. Bill was introduced and approved with a waiver of the formal reading.
 - c) **Hardship Request:** D2-01-05-22. Hardship was approved.
- **Other Business: None.**
- **Messages from the Chief Executive-** Madam Chief Benjamin provided update on attending Minnesota Indian Affairs Council Meeting, purpose of that is to work with Governor's Commissioners to discuss and work with the state to communicate and implement programs for our own Band Membership. She gave information on TEC meeting vote passed to include referendum questions. The questions are 1. Should we continue to require blood quantum 2. Should each Band determine their own enrollment criteria. She explained these two questions on the ballot are not binding, what it really is about is getting your opinion as a band member

regarding enrollments. There was a work group that met for 15 weeks to determine the best questions. It's confusing at this point, the next step will be to go out and give explanations to the tribal members. If you vote yes for both questions it puts the wheels in motion on how we move forward and the Department of Interior will need to get involved. If you vote no it kind of dies along the way. Information will be mailed and meetings will be had so you can ask questions and get more information and she would like to stress that this is not binding. There would be a strategic plan associated with what our next steps would be and how this would be implemented. How this information will go to the Department of Interior. This is a good gauge at how members are looking at enrollment. Miigwech.

- **Messages from the Representatives-District I Representative**- Representative Wind thanked everybody for the two wonderful events they had this past week in District I both occurred at the new District Community Center. The first was the They are remembered event, about 50 community members came and together to share stories, have some tears and laughter. It was a magical event thank you to everyone that came to express the need for help and support in our community, very important. The event was followed by a Ziigwan Roundy, awesome event with 300 people that evening, great numbers of dancers and a whole lot of fun. Thank everyone for coming out. He also stated he attended a very well put together Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) event partners by HHS and Government Affairs, very grateful to have been there with lots of people in need of support of each other. Lots of stories shared and a wonderful event that brought awareness for MMIW. He also shared here in District I and all around the lake fishing season let's come together and help each other. He spent a couple days at the landing and he it was good to see everyone coming together to help each other. Really cool to see everyone come together and have a great time. He also stated to hope to get through this fishing season safely. He thanked the Executive Branch Madam Chief, Kelly Applegate, Alyssa, and everyone that's been a part of planning the rez roads clean up event coming up Friday May, 20th 9am-12pm kicking off at the old Community Center. Community Members welcome to attend. Very grateful to the entire Executive Branch for collaborating on a very well needed event, being done in all districts. For the legislation currently passed, the process works. We look through our lenses and Madam Chief looks through her lenses and we don't always agree but ultimately we all have the same goal in mind and that is to provide a better life for our Band Members and through those disagreements I think we're moving to a better place, appreciate the conversations. Miigwech. **District II Representative**- Representative Bruneau thanked all those responsible for putting on the Chiminising Pow Wow last Saturday, it turned out really good he appreciates that, also upcoming is the McGregor Independent School District 4 Pow Wow May 19, 2022 12-3:30 p.m. Get out enjoy the weather, enjoy the weekend. Miigwech. **District III Representative**- Representative St. John for those online listening and those in chambers, my colleagues it's been pretty hard on me dealing with a lot of issues out here and sometimes I bring those frustrations here. They say elected officials have to be held to a higher standard, but we're human beings and we're subject to the human condition. Before we can be anything in this world whether its and elected official, attorney, judge, doctor, lawyer, engineer, we have to be human first because we're born into this human condition so we're subject to all the downfalls and rewards that come with it. We're subject to frustration all the elected officials, and attorneys I mentioned we're subject to frustrations, hurts and being upset, that's just human. I've spent the last 30 years disciplining this so I can be somebody for the people and be a role model but at times I fall short I am far from perfect, sometimes I go on rants and say things, it's the human condition. I am going to stop right there and he apologized and doesn't mean to offend anyone and at times he hurts. Apologize and will continue to fight for what is right for the people. Mi'iw.

- **Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer-** Secretary Treasurer Boyd shared he would like to say Congratulations to Legislative Affairs Director Brianna Boyd who is graduating today with her Bachelors of Science in Business Management at Central Lakes College, everyone congratulate her.