



*Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians*  
*Legislative Branch of Tribal Government*

**Band Assembly Weekly Update: Week of March 14-18, 2022**

**Tuesday, March 15, 2022:** Legislative hosted a Pre-Band Assembly meeting to discuss the agenda items. **Approval of Minutes:** March 9, 2022. **Reports and Presentations:** Annulment Hearing – Opinion of the Solicitor 44-22. **Unfinished Business:** Bill 20-01-29-22: Supplemental Appropriation, Bill 20-01-30-22: Amending Title 5 – Healing to Wellness, and Bill 20-01-31-22: Amending Title 2. **New Business:** Bill 20-01-35-22: Supplemental Appropriation, Nomination: Anthony Pike – CMD Commissioner, Foster Care License: District I: New: FFH1910007, and Foster Care License: District I: New: FFH2110009. **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 16, 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 9, 2022. Record was approved.
  
- **Reports and Presentations:**
  - a) 10:15 a.m. Annulment Hearing  
Re: Opinion of the Solicitor General No. 44-22. Annulment hearing was completed with a summary, history, and decision of the request for a Solicitor’s Opinion with discussion, questions, and comments. Opinion was annulled.
  
- **Unfinished Business:**
  - a) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-29-22:** 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 Administration Policy Board on February 14, 2022. **Tabled 2/23/22, 3/2/22.**  
**Sponsor: District I Representative.** Bill was taken from the table, discussed, amended, and approved.

b) **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.**

c) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-31-22:** A Bill repealing Chapter 4 of Title 2 of Mille Lacs Band Statutes, repealing Section 8 of Title 23 of Mille Lacs Band Statutes, enacting Chapter 4 of Title 2 of Mille Lacs Band Statutes, amending and re-enacting Section 603 of Subchapter 7 of Chapter 1 of Title 10, amending and re-enacting Section 10 of Chapter 1 of Title 18, and amending and re-enacting Section 102 of Chapter 2 of Title 21.

**Sponsor: District I Representative Tabled 3/9/22.** Bill was taken from the table, changes read, and approved with a waiver of the formal reading.

• **New Business:**

a) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-35-22:** A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures for Wewinabi Inc. for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022. This bill has been drafted based on formal documents submitted by the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs on February 18, 2022.

**Sponsor: District I Representative.** Bill was introduced, read, amended, and approved.

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. Nomination was tabled.

c) **Foster Care License:** District I: New: FFH1910007. License was approved.

d) **Foster Care License:** District I: New: FFH2110009. License was approved.

• **Other Business: None.**

• **Messages from the Chief Executive-** Just want to say Miigwech to the Band Assembly members, I think it’s very helpful when we have some lively discussion about things and it helps us move through the process and I just want to note that under the leadership of Secretary Treasurer Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Boyd that you guys are doing an outstanding job you really are and I really appreciate it that we can have candid discussion and we get that out on the table and make the decision or not and we move forward so that’s very helpful I think that makes us stronger as a Government for that so I say Miigwech. A couple of items I wanted to mention for District II members we did send out a letter and a survey versus Sandy Lake Rice Lake issue and if you have the opportunity to please send the survey back to the Chief

Executive this discussion will be at the Tribal Executive Committee meeting in April so that would be beneficial if you have the time and you may call our office if you need more explanation or things of that sort (320)532-7486 and also had elder meeting yesterday a couple of times and then hopefully are trying to schedule the next elder meeting 4-6 weeks that will be done by zoom, usually takes longer when we have to coordinate food and things like that but we are going to be very cautious about that. As a reminder Treaty Rights Day is coming up on Friday we have a lot to celebrate and from our past leaders to our current leaders. So hopefully you have the opportunity to attend that by virtual zoom opportunity. Just as a reminder that our office is open we have people that can take your calls and help you maneuver through government if you have some issues and our two staff that are at the front desk is Lindsey Mitchell very new very energetic and wanting to help as much as possible and Christine Pawaush and they can help you get your questions and issues answered if you do desire that. With that Miigwech I will talk to you soon.

- **Messages from the Representatives-District I Representative-** I'd like to follow-up Madam Chief's lead here and thank the scuttle right the scuttle button push back and forth I think makes us better I'm very appreciative of the conversations that we have and sometimes I think we need to have more of them you know so we're not bottling stuff up and you know I look forward to future conversations and getting all of that stuff taken care of. Never really out of disrespect at all you know what I mean I hope it's not taken that way. Very excited for the Treaty Rights Day celebration excited for Spring. One of the things that we had last Sunday was we had a very awesome sledding event here in District I some prior leadership you know seen it to build a sledding hill by the new Community Center and the new HHS building with the spoil from those two projects, so we utilized that in prompt to sledding hill this last weekend it was a very great event we had 250 people attend we had some you know food and snacks and handmade hot chocolate that we gave out to people and the energy was electric you know you could just feel the positive vibes and the laughter and the camaraderie in the community and it was awesome. So again we are having another one with any luck the snow on the hill will hold this weekend we are having another one across from the Cultural Grounds this weekend it's a longer more rolling hill so we're hoping that you know let kids get a little extra speed the other one was a little shorter but we're having that again this Sunday unless the snow diminishes and we have to put wheels on our tubes we're still planning on that if there are any questions about that reach out to me directly my cell (320)630-1428 there will be some signage and stuff but it will right across from the Cultural Grounds here in District I looking forward to seeing you out there. **District II Representative-** Community Meetings will be the 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Chiminising Center and on March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Minisinaakwang Community Center at 5:30 pm. I want to encourage, reiterate what the Chief Executive had said, if you have any concerns or considerations about the Sandy Lake question please feel free to contact myself or the Chief Executive's Office. If you have any questions I encourage you to educate yourself, it's a very important decision that's going to be made probably at the TEC level please do so. Also I want to let everybody know that I'm still working on the Animal Protection Code, actually there will be a workshop tomorrow that will be instrumental in kind of helping Representative St. John out with the canine problem, with this animal protection code it includes all animals and they deserve to be treated well also. Gitchi-Manidoo put them here for a reason to be our friends and I think that we should take care of them. Other than that I wish you a good day. Miigwech. **District III Representative-** Tonight District III Community Meeting we're going to have barbeque ribs of skunk cause they're coming out again so might as well utilize them we never waste right? (Joking). So please show up come have a good time listen to our speaker we will have Hanna Valento our Revisor of Statutes assisted by the legendary Adam Candler. Also some of you constituents have felt a pinch you know we had saturation of police out in the

District due to the dog ordinance that I have been telling everybody that I am going to enforce I relayed the message to Solicitor General Dog Eagle who in turn gave the information to his staff the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Police along with the Conservation Officer (CO) so they were out there they did pick up some dogs that weren't wanted and I don't think anybody got ticketed but just be aware that once you were talked to and your dog is not being tied up, penned up, or even the electronic fencing that they have I'm sure you can afford to put that in you know if you're spending a lot of money on cigarettes or in the casino which is you know, that's your business but if you can afford that you can afford to take care of your dogs so just be aware of that it's going to be continued perpetual and it's going to on and on from here on you know cause there's a lot too many complaints versus you know what's going on in our community we can't have it no more a lot of dogs are being attacked by other dogs and they take it to the vet so that's an expenditure on the owner also the garbage getting spread out it's going to look terrible once the snows gone it's all under the snow and when it melts you're going to see your community littered with garbage is because mostly dogs getting into the garbage so take care of your dog and garbage. What else was there, I can't think of it right now if I remember I'll let you know at the Community Meeting. Mi'iw.

- **Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer-** Not present.

**Thursday, March 17, 2022:** Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

**Work Session Agenda:** Bill: Title 5 – Healing to Wellness, Bill: Title 25 – Cleanup Bill, Bill: Title 11 – Animal Protection, and Bill: Title 6 – Government Employees & Ethics Code (review comments)

Legal Staff presented on Title 5 – Healing to Wellness red line and blue line version with a review of Tribal Court & Office of Solicitor General's comments with discussion, questions, and comments. Moving forward the blue and red line versions will be combined. The other agenda items will be discussed at an upcoming work session.