



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Band Assembly Weekly Update: Week of December 6-10, 2021

Tuesday, December 7, 2021: Legislative hosted a Pre-Band Assembly meeting to discuss the agenda items. **Approval of Minutes:** December 1, 2021. **Reports and Presentations:** 10:30 am: Formal Public Hearing re: Healing-to-Wellness Court legislation and 11:00 am: Formal Public Hearing re: Exclusion & Removal legislation. **Unfinished Business:** Foster Care License: Address change: D1: FFH18100010 (Tabled 11/24/21), Special Revenue Resolution 19-04-02-22: approving continuation, modification, and extension of MLCV loans (Tabled 12/1/21), and Contract (GRA): MLCV to provide IT for GRA at both casinos (Tabled 12/1/21). **New Business:** DAR Nomination (D1): Donald Graves & Russel Thomas, DAR Nomination (D2): Phillip Brennen & Maurice Benjamin, and DAR Nomination (D3): Briana Matrious & Vanessa Gibbs. **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, December 8, 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
District III Representative, Wallace St. John Sr.
- **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was approved.
- **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a) **Band Assembly Record:** December 1, 2021. Record was approved.
- **Reports and Presentations:**

10:30 a.m. Formal Public Hearing
Re: Healing-to-Wellness Court. The Formal Public Hearing for the Healing-to-Wellness Court public hearing was completed with public comments accepted during the hearing.

11:00 a.m. Formal Public Hearing
Re: Exclusion & Removal. The Formal Public Hearing for the Exclusion & Removal public hearing was completed with a summary of the draft legislation and public comments accepted during the hearing.
- **Unfinished Business:**

- a) **Foster Care License:** Address Change: District I FFH18100010 **Tabled 11/24/21.** License was taken from the table, discussed in Executive Session, and approved.
- b) **Special Revenue Resolution 19-04-02-22:** Special Revenue Resolution Approving Continuation, Modification, and Extension of the Maturity of Certain Band Pass-Through Loans to Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures and its Operating Subsidiaries **(Executive Session) Tabled 12/01/21.** Resolution was taken from the table and approved with a waiver of the formal reading.
- c) **Contract (GRA):** A contract for MLCV to provide Information Technology services for Gaming Regulatory Authority, services will be performed at both Grand Casino Hinckley and Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Contract end date is September 30, 2022. **Tabled 12/01/21**
- **New Business:**
 - a) **Nomination (DAR):** On November 10, 2021, pursuant to 15 MLBS § 804 (b) 3, the Legislative Affairs Director submitted, on behalf of the District 1 Representative, a letter to Chief Executive Benjamin nominating Donald Graves and Russel Thomas to serve on the Department of Athletic Regulations. 15 MLBS § 804 (b) 3 states that “Within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of the nominations by the Chief Executive, the Chief Executive shall ratify one (1) of the two (2) nominees....”. 15 MLBS 804 (b) 4 states that “If the Chief Executive or Secretary-Treasurer does not ratify one individual from any of the nominations sent to them within the time prescribed, then the Band Assembly shall select a Commissioner by majority vote”. Nomination for Donald Graves was approved with a roll call vote and the nomination passed.
 - b) **Nomination (DAR):** On September 30, 2021, pursuant to 15 MLBS § 804 (b) 3, the Legislative Affairs Director submitted, on behalf of the District 2 Representative, a letter to Chief Executive Benjamin nominating Phillip Brennen and Maurice Benjamin to serve on the Department of Athletic Regulations. 15 MLBS § 804 (b) 3 states that “Within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of the nominations by the Chief Executive, the Chief Executive shall ratify one (1) of the two (2) nominees....”. 15 MLBS 804 (b) 4 states that “If the Chief Executive or Secretary-Treasurer does not ratify one individual from any of the nominations sent to them within the time prescribed, then the Band Assembly shall select a Commissioner by majority vote”. Nomination was tabled.
 - c) **Nomination (DAR):** On September 15, 2021, pursuant to 15 MLBS § 804 (b) 3, the Legislative Affairs Director submitted, on behalf of the District 3 Representative, a letter to Chief Executive Benjamin nominating Briana Matrious and Vanessa Gibbs to serve on the Department of Athletic Regulations. The correspondence was submitted via email to Chief Executive Benjamin on November 10, 2021. 15 MLBS § 804 (b) 3 states that “Within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of the nominations by the Chief Executive, the Chief Executive shall ratify one (1) of the two (2) nominees....”. 15 MLBS 804 (b) 4 states that “If the Chief Executive or Secretary-Treasurer does not ratify one individual from any of the nominations sent to them within the time prescribed, then the Band Assembly shall select a Commissioner by majority vote”. Nomination for Briana Matrious was approved with a roll call vote and the nomination passed.

- **Other Business: None.**
- **Messages from the Chief Executive-** Not present.
- **Messages from the Representatives-District I Representative-** A couple things. I really thank the people that came in and everybody that commented on the legislation that was here for that today for public hearing, really appreciate that and look to making better law that addresses some of those concerns. District I Office is planning a sobriety pow wow New Year's Eve will be held at the New District Community Center. Multiple details will be shared very soon. Multiple specials, very great food, looking forward to a very exciting night. Another announcement gift card distribution for the Christmas Holiday Season. Those distributions will be next week December 15, 2021 in the Urban area 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. District I on December 16, 2021 & December 17, 2021 from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the old community center. Would like to let everybody know there is a gift card gift give back option. Basically if you want to donate your card back to children that are in foster care for the Mille Lacs band we are allowing that to happen via email. If you would like to give your card back without showing up in person please email Darla Roache at Darla.Roache2@millelacsband.com we will also have boxes at the distribution site if you would like to give back to those less fortunate and in foster care. We are still planning our Community Meeting that will be on the last Wednesday of this month. Want to give a special shout out to Tribal Police Department for helping us through a situation today, really do appreciate the ability and willingness to help when times are tough. Without getting into any detail I really do appreciate your help. Thank you. **District II Representative-** Holiday Gathering at Chiminising on December 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. and also on December 21, 2021 5:30 p.m. at Mininsinaakwaang. Wish you all well. Miigwech. **District III Representative-** Pay attention to our Aazhoomog page whatever pertinent and important information that we send out there regards to bingo coupons, community meetings, Christmas parties, things such as that as an example. Check it every day, we post important things there. There are some elder jackets yet remaining. If you have not received yours and have not received the one and you ordered one. Make sure to let me know or talk to Denise Sargent the department responsible for that. Check at Meshakwad there's still some there. We have some at the Lake Lena Center, call down there find out if your jacket is available so we can get your name crossed off and can send the list back in. If you know people who are interested in some of the bingo coupons have them call down to the community center. Not everybody logs in on live stream here so they don't really get the updates that I speak of at the end of the meeting. Stay in touch, check the websites, check face book page and wish everyone well. Mi'iw.
- **Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer-** This is a message to everyone here and those online those on zoom. I would like to say Miigwech to Representative Wind for chairing the meeting last week, I was watching online. Last week the Band Assembly passed the Institutional Board bill unanimously and then forwarded to Chief Executive Benjamin who signed that into law on December 3, 2021 and I would like to thank everyone involved with that. What that does is that it's a great achievement by the staff here and by all those involved who got together and understood where the issues that were at hand and were doing their best to protect the assets of the people of the Band. This Investment Board law puts those processes in place by law and we'll look to build those out and make that law work. Very important there's a before and after. This law brings structure to kind of the counterpart or the counter weight and this is all considered finances, the counterpart the counter weight to the casinos and gaming industry

that's the investments of the Band, the financial security. And I've always said that we're good at making money, but not so good at management. Now with this law in place and proper implementation of the law, Mille Lacs Band will be good at making money and good at managing its money. With that I'll stop there. Miigwech.

Thursday, December 9, 2021:

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

Work Session Agenda: Workshop: Letter – Legislative Priorities Hanna Valento and Joe Jensen

Legislative Counsel presented on Legislative Priorities Draft Letter. Review of the draft letter with discussion, questions, and comments on various parts. Moving forward letter will be distributed.