



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

**Band Assembly Weekly Update: Week of October 11-15, 2021**

**Monday, October 11, 2021: American Indian Day**

**Tuesday, October 12, 2021:** Legislative hosted a Pre-Band Assembly meeting to discuss the agenda items. **Approval of Minutes:** October 6, 2021. **Reports and Presentations:** Carmen Weous Confirmation Hearing (Housing Board). **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:** Contract (Judicial): Pamela Chichila, Contract (Judicial): Cynthia Bahe, and Contract (Judicial): Tammy Swanson. **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 13, 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 two Representatives present.  
District I Representative, Virgil Wind  
District II Representative, Marvin Bruneau-Excused  
District III Representative, Wallace St. John Sr.
- **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was approved.
- **Approval of Minutes:**
  - a) **Band Assembly Record:** October 6, 2021. Record was approved.
- **Reports and Presentations:**

10:15 a.m. Carmen Weous  
Re: Housing Board Confirmation Hearing. Confirmation hearing was completed with a summary and opening statement of the Nominee followed by questions and comments.
- **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**
  - 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**

- 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**

- 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**

• **New Business:**

- a) **Contract (Judicial):** A contract for Pamela Chichila 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.
- b) **Contract (Judicial):** A contract for Cynthia Bahe 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.
- c) **Contract (Judicial):** A contract for Tammy Swanson (Swanson, Drobnick & Tousey, P.C.) to provide Special Magistrate Services for assigned court cases which includes holding hearings and drafting court orders; and participating in the Family Healing to Wellness court planning Teams for the Court of Central Jurisdiction in District I. Contract end date is September 30, 2022. Contract was approved.

• **Other Business: None.**

• **Messages from the Chief Executive-** Not present

- **Messages from the Representatives-District I Representative**- First off I want to mention I forgot last week to mention that we are still currently working on the Draft Exclusion & Removal statute that’s out there, really trying to strengthen that up. There were a number of people from employees to constituents that reached out with comments and concerns about the draft legislation that’s out there, just wanted to say thank you to those that reached out with

comment with concerns. It's a beautiful process right, which lenses are we looking through and getting everyone's lenses and everybody's picture of how it can affect different people is very important. It's still out there, still in draft form so please reach out with concerns, you can reach me directly at any time at the District I Legislative Office. Other news the District I Office is currently looking for cooks to cook for our community meetings, community meetings typically happen last Wednesday of the month, so looking for some variety and some different people within the community that want to come out and cook for the day and provide a great meal for our community members during our meetings. As far as I know unless somebody got rich and didn't tell us, we didn't have any big fantasy bingo winners, which is very sad. Was hoping that someone won the big money. Want to reach out and say that the District I Office is always here for you, so if you have concerns or questions reach out to us at any time. No question doesn't deserve an answer reach out at any time and we will do our best. What I always tell people is I might not get you the answer that you want but I will strive to get you an answer none the less.

**District II Representative**- Not present. **District III Representative**- Lot of you have been paying attention to our monthly calendar, that's at the back of or Tribal newspaper the Inaajimowin. There were two dates in there that said District III Community meeting, the first one had said tonight. But before it got printed I did reach out to Brett before he left and told him to change that and he said he would, but he didn't take off the one that said there's a meeting tonight. That's probably a good prank, something I probably would do. I got a good laugh out of it kudos to him. The community meeting is not tonight it's next Wednesday, if people ask you to those listening that there is no community meeting tonight, just forget about it being tonight. One thing I think that is important for everyone to hear is that because we are in this COVID 19 situation we are providing you with a means to help your families financially, but rest assured this will not be a permanent thing. Don't get comfortable with the idea that there's always going to be that per capita & supplement economic support payment. It's just for this era of time that we are going through to kind of alleviate some worry and stress about this damn virus going around. But at some point it's going to go back to just whatever the casino is distributing as far as bonus payments/per capita payments. I think that's important for you guys to swallow, you know when you bite it, chew it, taste it, swallow it cause at some point it will. But for now we are going to do our darndest and our best to keep you well taken care of. And it's out there it's common knowledge that the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is one of the tribes that takes care of its people financially the best, not the best but one of them that take care of their people financially and with every service we provide. Don't get disgruntled don't be discouraged we made it through tougher times without this economic support and we will do it again. Mi'iw.

- **Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer**- Speak to the comments by District III Representative St. John about the economic support that the members of the assembly and the Chief Executive sign into law that those funds are distributed to membership on a monthly basis. There was a letter that went out and staff has requested that I give some clarification of the letter that went out that was the source of the funding the ARPA funds and in that letter it mentioned an amount of money that was going to be disbursed to membership as part of the monthly economic support payment that it's the same. The Assembly during the pandemic increased that amount with the assist of federal funding and that part of the economic is coming from different sources along with casino revenues. The amount mentioned by District III Representative St. John is the ongoing amount for this month and most likely next month. But the Bill for December hasn't been before the Assembly yet. And so we have authorized spending through October & November. That Bill will be coming though fairly soon for

December, but those economic support payments and those levels have been stable for the year and the end of last year that's just to clarify that letter. Miigwech.

**Thursday, October 14, 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: Bill – Revenue Ordinances and Workshop: Bill – Title 7 (Procurement) Adam Candler.

Legal Counsel presented on Revenue Ordinances and Title 7 Procurement draft bill. Review of the draft bill comments on each section. There was discussion, questions, and comments on bills.

**Friday, October 15, 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:** October 13, 2021. Record was approved.
  
- **Reports and Presentations: None.**
  
- **Unfinished Business:**
  
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**Tabled 09/29/21**

**Sponsor: District II Representative**

● **New Business:**

- a) **Contract (Admin):** A contract for KAGR Jensen Inc. to provide public relations and crisis media management to the Band. Contract end date is September 30, 2022. Contract was approved.
- b) **Contract (Admin):** A contract for The Rotunda Group to provide professional services including strategic government affairs counsel and direct lobbying services at the State Government level for the Band. Contract end date is September 30, 2022. Contract was approved.
- c) **Contract (OSG):** A contract for LawVisory. Contract end date is December 31, 2021. Discussed in Executive Session and contract was approved.

● **Other Business: None.**

● **Messages from the Chief Executive-** Not present

● **Messages from the Representatives-District I Representative**- Just one message I’m not sure for the other members Band Assembly, we were asked to attend a meeting with the Executive Branch Commissioners this afternoon, I however cannot make that meeting I had some prior engagements. I have reached out to try to reschedule that because it’s involving some COVID response and I believe it’s very important. I however cannot make this meeting at noon work today. If there is anybody that can reschedule that I would appreciate it. Other than that I covered all the stuff I needed to on Wednesday. **District II Representative**-I had no forewarning of this meeting, I have other prior engagement. So I will not be able to attend the meeting. I’m hoping that it can be rescheduled, it’s a very important matter. That’s all I have. **District III Representative**- Due to the fact that Representative Wind and Representative Bruneau can’t be there I don’t think there’s any point of having discussion with the Chief Executive and Executive Branch. I think it’s best we reschedule that next week. That’s all.

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