



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

**Band Assembly Weekly Update: Week of January 17-21, 2022**

**Tuesday, January 18, 2022:**

Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly members and Legislative Staff

Work Session Agenda: Bill: Title 5 – Healing-to-Wellness Court Adam Candler

Legislative Counsel presented on Healing to Wellness Court draft bill. Reviewed red line version comments with discussion, questions, and comments.

Legislative hosted a Pre-Band Assembly meeting to discuss the agenda items. **Approval of Minutes:** January 12, 2022. **Reports and Presentations:** 10:30 am: Leana DeJesus Re: Confirmation Hearing for Corporate Board of Directors and Continued Compromise Hearing Re: Vetoed HEARTH Act Bill 19-04-18-22. **Unfinished Business:** Nomination: Leanna DeJesus – Corporate Board At-Large Position (Tabled 12/15/21) and Rule 14. Hearing of Inquiry. **New Business:** Band Assembly Bill 20-01-22-22 (D3): Band’s Biennium Budget, Band Assembly Bill 20-01-23-22 (D2): Repeal and Replacing 12-22 due to an error, and Band Assembly Bill 20-01-24-22 (D1): Appropriation/Revision for OMB. **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, January 19, 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:** January 12, 2022. Record was approved.
- **Reports and Presentations:**
  - a) 10:15 a.m. Leana DeJesus  
Re: Confirmation Hearing for Corporate Board of Directors. Confirmation hearing was completed with a summary and opening statement of the Nominee followed by questions and comments.
  - b) 10:45 a.m. Continued Compromise Hearing  
Re: Vetoed Band Assembly Bill 19-04-18-22: A bill enacting the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership Act. The Compromise Hearing continued with

summary of veto reasons with questions, comments, and discussion. There was discussion on scheduling follow up meeting and legal counsel meeting.

- **Unfinished Business:**

- a) **Nomination:** A letter dated November 30, 2021 from Chief Executive Benjamin nominating Leana DeJesus to serve on the Corporate Commission Board At-Large position. The current 4-year term end date is March 31, 2025. **Tabled 12/15/2021**
- b) **Rule 14. Hearings of Inquiry Tabled 01/12/22.** Rule 14 was taken from the table and approved.

- **New Business:**

- a) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-22-22:** A Bill of Appropriation for Governmental Operations of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches; Circle of Health; Economic Development; Department of Athletic Regulation; Supplemental Income Program for Elders; Tribal Employment Rights Office; and Band Member Legal Services of the Mille Lacs Band Tribal Government for fiscal years ending September 30, 2022, and September 30, 2023. This bill has been drafted based on formal documents submitted by the Office of Management and Budget and the Commissioner of Administration.

**Sponsor: District III Representative.** Bill was introduced, formal reading waived and tabled.

- b) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-23-22:** A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the January 2022 Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act (TGWEA) Assistance Payment Program for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022. This bill has been drafted based on formal documents submitted by the Office of Management and Budget on November 9th, 2021. Moreover, this law repeals and replaces Ordinance 12-22 to correct an error made in the account number.
- Sponsor: District II Representative.** Bill was introduced, read, and approved.

- c) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-24-22:** A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing an expenditure and budget revision for the Legislative Branch for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2021 and September 30, 2022. This bill has been drafted based on formal documents submitted by the Office of Management and Budget on January 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- Sponsor: District I Representative.** Bill was introduced, read, and approved.

- **Other Business:** None.

- **Messages from the Chief Executive-** Lot of issues to discuss with Band Assembly on the Administration of various Executive Branch responsibilities, as the Commissioner of Administration stated that this discussion is very good and we can get a lot of issues resolved as we're going forward when we take the time to sit and listen to the issues and a lot of people have opinions and but for us as Elected Officials we're mandated to follow the laws in how we govern, so it's a lot of good discussion glad I was able to attend the Band Assembly meeting today and I know we have a Joint Session at 1:00 p.m. and just for the Band Members that are online, sometimes I am in person in the Chambers with this COVID I am concerned about being in such close distances with the other Elected Officials I have some huge family responsibilities

that I have to ensure that I keep myself safe so going forward I probably will be attending via zoom and also that the Chief Executive's duties by band statutes do not dictate that I'm sitting at the table every single time there is a Band Assembly meeting. Just so the Band Members understand that my duties as Chief Executive sometimes takes me in a totally different direction when there is a scheduled Band Assembly and with that I say thank you to the Band Assembly Speaker Boyd for these professional meetings that you organize and a lot of good discussion and as the Commissioner of Administration stated that he's open for any and all questions that you may have and willing to come forward with any data that you may need to justify their request to Band Assembly. Also as a reminder and for the Band Members purposes as well that the Commissioner of Administration is mandated to have a budget prepared and submitted to the Band Assembly in August, and so that was submitted in August 2021. So his responsibility of that submission by Band Statutes was followed and now we're just waiting for the Band Assembly to get that passed or to get their additional questions they have about the budget to get those answered so we can have a budget that we can operate from. I know a lot of our granting agencies that has a big part of our reporting as well and so just so the timing we do realize that Administration within Executive Branch did submit that budget in August when it was required, so we just sit back and wait for Band Assembly to make their determination. So thank you all and see you at 1:00 p.m. when we do the Joint Session. Miigwech.

- **Messages from the Representatives-District I Representative-** It was kind of talked out today. I do appreciate the collaboration and the work that it takes to help our Band Membership and really assist them and the service to Band Membership always being the utmost importance to us all and being able to shift and meet the needs of those Band Members and we really do appreciate the work of Madam Chief and Commissioner Nayquonabe on trying to compromise and figure out how we can best work together so I appreciate that. We do have our District I Community Meeting planned at the old Community Center next Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. I'll go into greater detail about that just wanted that our there. The mailing should be in your mailbox here any day just a reminder next Wednesday our Community Meeting will happen. That's all I got. **District II Representative-** Tomorrow night will be the Community Meeting at Chiminising at 5:30 p.m. you're welcome to attend, please make sure you're feeling well and up to it. Also the Community Meeting will be held next week at Minisinaakwaang at East Lake 5:30 p.m. Thursday, January 27, 2022. Just a reminder to you there are elections coming up this year the election cycle is this year and the Secretary-Treasurer, District II Representative, and District III Representative positions are going to be determined in an upcoming primary election and general election, so there you go. Miigwech. **District III Representative-** Everybody in District III tonight's Community Meeting we have Tammy Wickstrom from Aanjibimaadizing, she's going to give updates on some of the services and programs that are available to you. We had a meeting with her last week and she discussed that some people are not aware of these things that are available to you to help you through this tough time, so she will be there, they'll have a table also and maybe an application for you whatever you need. So please attend it's very important that you know these things so that you get help if it's needed. Also Brianna Matrious will be there with updates on Historical Trauma White Buffalo teaching I believe the first meeting is today if I'm not mistaken. So I hope you guys take advantage of this because it's very well needed, put together, and planned. It really helps. You know she often mentions that I went through that which I did there were things that were buried so deep that I completely forgot about them, but it couldn't come at a better time just at the beginning of my administration there and it really helped me excel at the wellness, how more well defined or a healthy mind helps you excel at governing for the people, you know governing in a more passionate compassion way. So it also helps you and helps the community. If you're

community minded of course you know it starts in house. Then we get well within the home and it ripple effects out into the community etcetera so on and so forth. So be there it starts at 5:30 p.m. I don't have anything else for you, I do have a little video coming out on YouTube was a year in the making supposed to be last year at this time finally got around to doing it, just a lack of communication I guess. That's all. Mi'iw.

- **Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer-** Just a note to membership to comply with the new Institutional Committee law that was passed. We're working on getting members of the Investment Committee ready to bring to Band Assembly for approval. We have interest from a number of vary qualified folks from other similar type boards and we're bringing those forward. We also have completed our round of seeking out a qualified Band Member and we will be having interviews with those folks this week and will be submitting a name to the Assembly and we will get that Investment Committee staffed and moving forward A.S.A.P. Miigwech.

**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 all Elected Officials present.  
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.
- **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was approved.
- **Minutes:**
  - a) **Joint Session Record:** October 20, 2021. 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 20-01-03-22:** A Resolution Approving the Enrollments into the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for Those Who Meet the 1/4 Degree Requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Resolution was approved.
  - b) **Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 20-01-04-22:** A Resolution Denying the Enrollments into the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for those Who Do Not Meet the 1/4 Degree Requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Resolution was approved with a waiver of the formal reading.

- c) **Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 20-01-05-22:** A Resolution Denying the Enrollments into the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for Applicants Who Were Not Born to an Enrolled Mille Lacs Band Member. Resolution was amended and approved with a waiver of the formal reading.
  
- d) **Joint Session of the Band Assembly Resolution 20-01-06-22:** A Resolution Designating the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Office of the Solicitor General as the Entity Responsible for Conducting the Criminal Background Investigations of Candidates for the 2022 Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election on the Mille Lacs Reservation. Resolution was amended and approved with a waiver of the formal reading.
  
- **Other:** None.

**Thursday, January 20, 2022:**

Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, Legislative Staff, Commissioner of Finance, Assistant Commissioner of Finance, Commissioner of Administration, Commissioner of Health & Human Services, and HHS Financial Staff.

Work Session Agenda: Bill: Title 2 – Exclusion and Removal Joe Jensen and Bill: Title 5 – Healing-to Wellness Court Adam Candler

Staff Attorney will present on Exclusion and Removal Draft Bill at upcoming work session.

Legislative Counsel will present on Healing to Wellness Court draft bill at an upcoming work session.

Work Session agenda was revised for Biennium budget discussion on various items.