



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

**Band Assembly Weekly Update: Week of April 18-22, 2022**

**Monday, April 18, 2022:** Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

**Work Session Agenda:** Bill: Title 15 – Reorganization Bill, Bill: Title 6 – General Revisions, and Bill: Title 5 – Court of Appeals (review comments)

Legal Staff reviewed proposed amendments pertaining to a Title 15 (Reorganization) bill, Title 6 (Government Employees) bill, and Title 5 (Judicial Branch) bill.

**Tuesday, April 19, 2022:** Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

**Work Session Agenda:** Bill: Title 15 – Reorganization Bill, Bill: Title 6 – General Revisions, and Bill: Title 5 – Court of Appeals (review comments)

Legal Staff reviewed proposed amendments pertaining to a Title 15 (Reorganization) bill, Title 6 (Government Employees) bill, and Title 5 (Judicial Branch) bill.

Legislative hosted a Pre-Band Assembly meeting to discuss the agenda items. **Approval of Minutes:** April 13, 2022. **Reports and Presentations:** Annulment Hearing – Commissioner’s Order 2022-03, Annulment Hearing – Commissioner’s Order 2022-04, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Delegates Presentation, and Confirmation Hearing for Brooke Gonzales Commissioner of Education Nominee. **Unfinished Business:** Investment Committee Nominations Tabled. **New Business:** Band Assembly Bill 20-01-37-22: Bill repealing Title 6 & enacting a new Title 6, Nomination of Brooke Gonzales as Commissioner of Education, Foster Care License FFH2010001 (DI – New), and Foster Care License FFH2120001 (DII – New). **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, April 20, 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 13, 2022. Record was approved.

• **Reports and Presentations:**

10:05 a.m. Annulment Hearing

Re: Department of Administration Commissioner's Order 2022-03. Annulment hearing was completed with a summary, discussion, questions, and comments.

10:15 a.m. Annulment Hearing

Re: Department of Administration Commissioner's Order 2022-04. Annulment hearing was completed with a summary, discussion, questions, and comments.

10:30 a.m. Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Delegates Presentation. Presentation was completed with a power point presentation with a summary, budget, discussion, questions, and comments.

1:00 p.m. Confirmation Hearing for Brooke Gonzales Commissioner of Education Nominee. Confirmation hearing was completed with a summary and opening statement of the Nominee followed by questions and comments.

• **Unfinished Business:**

a) **Nomination:** A letter dated March 18, 2022 from Secretary-Treasurer Boyd nominating five (5) separate investment professionals to serve on the newly created Institutional Investment Committee. Per 17 MLBS § 204(g)(1), Secretary-Treasurer Boyd nominates the following individuals:

1. Carol Peterfeso to serve a 1-year term ending on December 31, 2022.
2. Andy Christensen to serve a 2-year term ending on December 31, 2023.
3. Susanna Gibbons to serve a 3-year term ending on December 31, 2024.
4. Ellen Brownell to serve a 4-year term ending on December 31, 2025.
5. Amy Jensen to serve a 4-year term ending on December 31, 2025. **Tabled 3/28/22**

• **New Business:**

a) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-37-22:** A Bill repealing Title 6 in its entirety and enacting a new Title 6.

**Sponsor: District I Representative.** Bill was introduced and approved with a waiver of the formal reading.

b) **Nomination:** A nomination letter dated April 8, 2022, from Chief Executive Benjamin, nominating Brooke Gonzalez to fill the current vacant Commissioner of Education position. The current term expires June 30, 2025. Nomination was tabled.

c) **Foster Care License:** District I: New: FFH2010001. License was approved.

d) **Foster Care License:** District II: New: FFH2120001. License was tabled.

• **Other Business: None.**

- **Messages from the Chief Executive-** Madam Chief Benjamin reiterated delegates presentation today and gave information regarding upcoming Constitutional reform would like any interested band members to reach out to attend and learn about that when meetings are scheduled. If you are on and heard the confirmation hearing for Commissioner of Education candidate and we have a very talented person who is willing to submit her name for the position, look forward to the vote next week. Elder trip reminder in May contact Nora Benjamin in Chief Executive Office (320)532-7486 she has the information. Next week is the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe meeting to be held in Boise Forte if you are interested in attending please contact Baabiiaw Boyd (320)532-7486 and the Chief's Office can assist with that. Art Gahbow Day coming up soon and will celebrate the life of our past chair who was very progressive in many areas. Last week was unable to be on video but will catch up this week. Miigwech.
- **Messages from the Representatives-District I Representative**- Representative Wind offered thanks to Madam Chief for signing the Healing to Wellness legislation that's a monumental day in Band History and creating that avenue for family restoration. He went on to state the vast amount of work that went into that legislation and commended Tribal Court, Madam Chief, Legislative Counsel, Secretary Treasurer Boyd, and Office of Solicitor General. Gave information on upcoming events in place of the monthly Community Meeting. In place of the meeting the two events that will take place next Wednesday are the Talking Circle (They are Remembered) event where people can bring photos and memories of their loved ones. Have community support grieving families. Dish setting and invocation will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the New District Community center and will have elders and support staff to show support for everyone suffering during this time. Second event to start at 5:00 p.m. which is the second annual Ziigwan Round Dance for healing (Together we Heal). Good time to come together for dance, food, and fun. First 20 singers will receive an honorarium, ribbon skirt/ribbon shirt contest, side step contest, and spot dances. Huge shout out to Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Band Member recruitment for the partnership on the event, come on out and support our community members and then let's heal together by dancing and having some fun. He also stated he still sits on the Onamia Public School's chairperson and there was a draft policy that came out yesterday, there are some concerns on the restrictions of the smudge and pipe policy. It's out for public comment. If you have any questions, concerns or how to make the policy better please reach out to him directly (320)630-1428 otherwise email him. Miigwech. **District II Representative**- Representative Bruneau offered congratulations to Secretary Treasurer and his successor Wendy Merrill who will do an awesome job and wished his sitting colleague the best of wishes in the upcoming election. Community meeting at Chiminising tomorrow 5:30 p.m. and East Lake will be April 28, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Annual Pow Wow will be April 30, 2022. He gave information on a movement under way to start a women's healing group in East Lake and hopes to start one in Isle as well. Concern of losses that unfortunately occurred in our community and there is sadness that prevails hopefully with help from Gitchi-Manidoo and everybody working together we will get through this as we always do. **District III Representative**- Representative St. John also thanked Madam Chief for signing the Healing to Wellness bill and stated there were some stubborn moments, but thankful for it and hopes no one took it personal it was for the overall good of the people. Grateful for staff that helped create that bill. Many hours, many days in the work shops, public comments and very happy about the bill and feels it will be a strong success. It has to be implemented and manifest itself in the Tribal Court. District III Community meeting good food tonight, please attend. Will have DNR and HHS to give updates. Lots of good information being shared about fishing, netting and lots of new and repeat information. Updates on preferred one and circle of health

coverage for families which was brought up as a concern last month. If you have any concerns please attend, see you there. Miigwech.

- **Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer-** Secretary Treasurer Boyd stated thank you to the voters of the Mille Lacs Band for allowing more time to continue the work that was done. He mentioned that to his son this morning as they were standing there he said we owe a lot it's such a big thing to have people kind of give you the nod, so many people and it means a lot to my son and I and our house. Miigwech.

**Thursday, April 21, 2022:** Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

**Work Session Agenda:** Bill: Title 15 – Reorganization Bill, Bill: Title 11 – Animal Protection, Discussion: Legislative Order 37-22 – Procedure for Nominations from CE or ST, Discussion: Resolution 20-01-19-22 – Adopting Form for Construction Contracts, and Discussion: Commissioner's Orders 2022-03 and 2022-04

Legal Staff reviewed proposed amendments pertaining to a Title 15 (Reorganization) bill and Title 11 Animal Protection bill. Legal facilitated discussion on Legislative Order 37-22, Resolution 20-01-19-22, and Commissioner's Orders 2022-03 and 2022-04. Title 11 and Title 15 will move forward to Band Assembly Agenda for next week.