



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Band Assembly Weekly Update: Week of March 7-11, 2022

Monday, March 7, 2022: Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

Work Session Agenda: Bill: Title 5 – Structure of the Court of Appeals and Elder Panel
Legal Staff presented on Title 5 – Structure of the Court of Appeals and Elder Panel draft red line version changes with discussion, questions, and comments.

Tuesday, March 8, 2022: Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

Work Session Agenda: Bill: Title 5 – Structure of the Court of Appeals and Elder Panel
Legal Staff presented on Title 5 – Structure of the Court of Appeals and Elder Panel draft red line version changes with discussion, questions, and comments.

Legislative hosted a Pre-Band Assembly meeting to discuss the agenda items. **Approval of Minutes:** March 2, 2022. **Reports and Presentations:** None. **Unfinished Business:** Band Assembly Bill 20-01-29-22: Re: 2.14.22 APB minutes. **New Business:** Band Assembly Bill 20-01-30-22 (D3 Rep): Healing to Wellness, Band Assembly Bill 20-01-31-22 (D1 Rep): Exclusion and Removal, Band Assembly Bill 20-01-32-22 (D2 Rep): April and May 2022 Per Cap, Band Assembly Bill 20-01-33-22 (D3 Rep): April and May TGWE Payment, Band Assembly Bill 20-01-34-22 (D1 Rep): Re: 2.24.22 APB minutes, and Contract (CMD): Re: addendum for Busch Architects, Inc. to D2 Headstart Facility. **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 9, 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 2, 2022. Record was amended and approved.
- **Reports and Presentations:** None.
- **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

• **New Business:**

- a) **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. Bill was introduced and tabled.
- b) **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. Bill was introduced, read findings and determinations, amended, and tabled.
- c) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-32-22:** A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the April and May 2022 Tribal Per Capita Distribution for Adults and Minor Trust 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 March 2, 2022.
Sponsor: District II Representative. Bill was introduced, read, and approved.
- d) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-33-22:** A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for April and May 2022 for the 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 March 2, 2022.
Sponsor: District III Representative. Bill was introduced, read, and approved.
- e) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-34-22:** 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 March 2, 2022.
Sponsor: District I Representative. Bill was introduced, read, and approved.

f) **Contract (CMD):** A contract addendum for Busch Architects, Inc. for additional architectural and engineering services for the expansion of the District II Head Start facility. Contract end date remains December 31, 2022. Contract was approved.

- **Other Business: None.**

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

- **Messages from the Representatives-District I Representative-** I would like to take a moment to thank everybody in the Band, Legislative Counsel, yourself Mr. Speaker the other Representatives, we do have two huge pieces of legislation that kind of coincide and go hand in hand one is the creation of a family Healing-to-Wellness court that Wally has sponsored and really the great things that can come from that right family unification and that and that really ties to I hope to the initiatives that we're pushing forward. The other one a little darker however Removal & Exclusion again a huge piece of legislation that we have put countless hours in trying to get right just want to add to the process you know we went out again to public comment public hearing there's been a great number of people that have added to it and made the law better you always hear me speak of lenses that we all look through; my lens isn't necessary the same as everybody else's but I do my best to represent the interest of the district. Removal and exclusion is a tool that we hope we never use but it's a tool however that I believe that we have to have in our arsenal to keep our community safe, so with that I want to commend the hard work of every individual within the Band private Band Members that have given commentary for it either in support or against certain portions of it as Joe had mentioned earlier those comments are always very appreciated as they help us to write better law but very awesome to the process and then back to something a little lighter District I is planning a sledding event behind the new community center this Sunday we will have warming shacks hot chocolate some snacks there for the kids great great fun we will have some tubes for the kids to utilize just come out everybody is welcome we did make it accessible to the public so we're hoping to have some area for elders to sit and kind of enjoy the whole thing we will have tables and chairs and coffee on so anybody wants to just come out and hang out we do have a few volunteer snowmobiles and some nice otter sleds for those of us that can't make it up the hill a million times so we're really looking forward that event however the weather is melting the snow as we speak so we did have that event planned for this Sunday the 13th and next Sunday the 20th so we're hoping the current snow pack will hold but looking to forward to seeing everybody there if you have any questions about that event please give me a call directly on my cell (320)630-1428 other than that we hope to see you all there. Thank you. **District II Representative-** Just a couple of things the Community Meeting in Isle Chiminising will be 5:30 p.m. on the 24th of this month and East Lake Minisinaakwang 5:30 p.m. on the 31st the last day of the month. I am still working on an animal protection code for the Band I believe it's long overdue there are problems people don't take care of their pets and that's a personal problem with me when that becomes a problem. Miigwech. **District III Representative-** Virgil touched on some really good points I'm going to piggy back off some of his comments about these bills that we're sponsoring and trying to get to finality. The Healing-to-Wellness is still in the works we thought we had a finalized version but there's still some work we will always take comments and direction from either departments or Band Members so it's very helpful to hear from you folks I appreciate that also the Removal & Exclusion you know these are some of the initiatives that each of us Representatives Elected Officials are tasked with at the beginning of our administration, you the constituents recognized the issue we have with you know either the selling of drugs, distribution of drugs, and even the usage of you know substance abuse etcetera and so on with the abuses. So when we produce legislation that helps

assist that it's not to attack the common good people, you know there are some people within our community and we know who they are whether we're related to them, or we're friends with them, or just somebody across the street that kind of an eye sore within the community. These are our steps to help alleviate some of the suffering some of the problems that exist in our communities. So it's not that we're just going to go Band wide to finger people, you know we know who the abusers are the ones that you know that don't care about the general community, those who sell, those who distribute etcetera. So they have an opportunity to make a correction in their life so they will not be a part of this, right now it's a bill but once it passes if it passes it will be codified into law become statute so you have a chance to stay out of there but if you don't you know these are our responsibilities we promised our constituents when they put us into office that we're going to make this correction so however bad it hurts you know we got a job to do, we have to look after the people because we were tasked with that you know Healing-to-Wellness Court that's one of the things one of my initiatives along with other things with zero drug tolerance which now exists in the Housing Policy. These are some of the initiatives that we're tasked with to figure out how can we get rid of these this terrible thing which is band wide, state wide, county wide, etcetera, nationwide, whatever you want to call it. So this is our version, this is our best work with the full team, Legislative attorneys, the Legislatures, the Executive Branch, and the Judicial Branches to come together to try to alleviate the situation. You know and I'll leave it there with those right now. Also I did send out a notice last week to the Solicitor General and his office in regards to the dog ordinance that exists keeping your dogs, penned or electronic fencing, I don't know if that's written in there but you could use electronic fencing with you know you can put a collar on your dog and there's certain boundaries that your pet can stay within those bounds of those confinements of the yard and I did have a conversation also with the Sergeants, I don't know if he's a Police Chief but Sergeant West on how to tackle that issue and I said you know whatever the statute says that's what your tasked to do and if you had any kind of feedback or kickback on that at least in my District to reach out to my office because I have to enforce the law as its written and that's what's going to happen. You know if you're not going to take care of your dogs let them run around let them go into other people's yards eat garbage eat their food etcetera you're going to get ticketed and if you have no claims to those dogs or don't want to take care of them they will be removed. So just to let you know what's coming so you know you can't say "well I didn't know" you know I've been saying this for over a year now. There's a dog ordinance tie them up pen them up. Also the Community Meeting next week next Wednesday we will have our Legislative Attorney Joe Jensen and also the Revisor of Statutes Hanna Valento to give the presentation we will be having barbeque ribs with potato salad and beans and all the fixings so everybody try to show up support the community and have a good time. Mi'iw.

- **Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer**-Listening I think for the viewers and for some of those first time viewers that the Gentlemen to my right represent three distinct communities, three geographic communities, and are the territories that the services and jurisdiction cover a big chunk of Minnesota and Marvin drives in an hour and Wally down there drives in an hour they have distinct geographical communities out to the northeast and the east and the communities are separate and apart. In the interest of the three overlap and sometimes they don't and there's also deliberation over the laws and statute they're trying govern or regulate the services and jurisdiction within those very different communities and they always like to point out that there's a lot going on in the background between the three they're all different, Virgil here is on the west side of the lake where there's a huge community over here so that's always a reminder to kind of what's going on in background with the members of the Assembly and I'd like to at least refer to the Institutional Investment Committee our first Band Member member of the Institutional Investment Committee is in chambers today that would be Kate Davis from

District III welcome Kate and we will recognize you just give a wave that's all and we're working with Band Assembly, we're getting ready to staff up that Institutional Investment Committee as soon as we can and breathe some life into that statute that was passed a number of weeks ago with that I also thank the members of the Assembly and Madam Chief for signing that into law.

Thursday, March 10, 2022: Elected Officials attended a Special Tribal Executive Committee Emergency Meeting

Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

Work Session Agenda: Bill: Title 5 – Structure of the Court of Appeals and Elder Panel, and Bill: Title 25 – Cleanup bill

Legal Staff presented on Title 5 – Structure of the Court of Appeals and Elder Panel draft red line version changes with discussion, questions, comments, and plan to draft letter for public comment.

Legal Staff presented on Title 25 Cleanup bill with questions and comments.