



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Band Assembly Weekly Update: Week of December 13-17, 2021

Tuesday, December 14, 2021:

Elected Officials attended a Special Tribal Executive Committee Meeting

Legislative hosted a Pre-Band Assembly meeting to discuss the agenda items. **Approval of Minutes:** December 8, 2021. **Reports and Presentations:** 10:10 am: John Moores (Bluestone Strategy Group) re: Update and 10:40 am: Joseph Nayquonabe re: Formal notifications and requests (New Business items c and d). **Unfinished Business:** Contract (GRA): MLCV to provide IT for GRA at both casinos (Tabled 12/1/21) and Nominations (DAR): Phillip Brennen and Maurice Benjamin (Tabled 12/8/21). **New Business:** Contract (Judicial): Law Office of Cynthia Miller, Nomination: Leana DeJesus – Corporate Board At-Large Position, Formal Notifications: Grand Casino Hinckley (3) and Grand Casino Mille Lacs (5) and Resolution 19-04-07-22. **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 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 amended and approved.
- **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a) **Band Assembly Record:** December 8, 2021. Record was amended and approved.
- **Reports and Presentations:**
 - a) ~~10:10 a.m. John Moores, Bluestone Strategy Group~~
Re: Update regarding initial findings. Item was removed from the agenda,
 - a) 10:40 a.m. Joseph Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs
Re: New Business items “c” and “d” (**Executive Session**). Report and Presentation for New Business items “c” and “d” was completed in Executive Session.
- **Unfinished Business:**

- a) **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.** Contract was taken from the table and removed from the agenda.

- 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”. **Tabled 12/8/21.** Nomination was taken from the table, Maurice Benjamin was approved, and with a roll call vote the nomination passed.

- **New Business:**

- a) **Contract (Judicial):** A contract for the Law Office of Cynthia Miller to provide technical assistance and training to the Guardian Ad Litem at the direction of the Court Administrator. Contract end date is September 30, 2022. Contract was approved.

- b) **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. Nomination was tabled.

- c) **Formal Notification** dated November 26, 2021 (received December 10, 2021 via email) from Joseph Nayquonabe, Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, of FY2022, Capital Projects that reads as follows:

Please accept this letter as a formal notification that we intend to open FY2022 Q1 capital projects. Per the revenue ordinance we must provide notice at least ten (10) business days before expending the money on a project equal to or exceeding \$25,000 and less than \$250,000. If the Band Assembly fails to stay the project within ten (10) business days after receiving notice, then Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures may expend money on the project.

Grand Casino Hinckley Projects:

- 1) Grand Casino Hinckley - Cleveland Tilt Skillet Project (H22-FPK-01)
- 2) Grand Casino Hinckley - Telecom Hardware and Software Project (H22-SYS-02)
- 3) Grand Casino Hinckley - Scoping Services Project (H22-PRO-01)

Grand Casino Mille Lacs Projects:

- 1) Grand Casino Mille Lacs - Information Technology New Devices and Computer Growth Project (M22-SYS-01)
- 2) Grand Casino Mille Lacs - Telecom Hardware and Software Project (M22-SYS-01)

- 3) Grand Casino Mille Lacs - Carpet Extractor Project (M22-EVS-01)
 - 4) Grand Casino Mille Lacs - Tractor Salt Spreader Project (M22-GRD-01)
 - 5) Grand Casino Mille Lacs - Scoping Services Project (M22-PRO-01). Formal notification was accepted.
- d) **Resolution 19-04-07-22:** A Resolution Authorizing the Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures to Expend Funds from FY2022 Capital Budget for Grand Casino Hinckley and Grand Casino Mille Lacs Quarter 1 Capital Projects. Resolution was approved.
- **Other Business: None.**
 - **Messages from the Chief Executive-** Remind everybody about COVID variants that are going on throughout our community, the state of Minnesota, the United States, and the whole country. On my videos I talk a lot about if you are not vaccinated so please consider doing so. The Health and Human Services has a lot of clinics that they conduct out in all of the districts and that there are some stronger protocols now in the government buildings again. Making sure that everybody wears their mask, checking temperatures and making sure if meetings can be done virtually by our employees to do so and there are certain protocols that have to happen when people travel outside of the community outside of the state. There are a lot of personal opinions about the vaccine. I was talking to elders and I did a survey with the elders which we will share those results soon and the concern is that the elders that are vaccinated and have their boosters they have to take extra precautions against people that don't have the vaccination or are not very good about wearing their mask, so now all the folks that are vaccinated have to accommodate for the people that are not vaccinated and have to be concerned about their safety. All the medical data we received that states the vaccine is the best defense against this disease. Just to remind folks if they're not vaccinated please consider that. We are coming up on the holiday season please visit the website to know what days that the Executive Branch Government's offices will be closed during the holiday season. Reminder to folks that need to have prescription filled, please make sure you schedule that and get that done there are some long weekends coming up. We want to make sure people are prepared for that. Attended Minnesota Chippewa Tribe special meeting yesterday and a couple items on there were the election ordinance, election timeframe, discussion on sports betting, and a resolution to go back to look at business that was done in the past. Short meeting done by noon which is very unusual for the MCT. Also had a meeting with the Tribes regarding the Boarding Schools and met with the Church that was the Catholic Church and I asked for data that they have on any Mille Lacs Band Members that may have attended Boarding School so we can get information on that. I think a lot of people realize, it was in the news where there were graves, many graves of young Indian people in Canada so that sent an alert here in the states to find out if any of those graveyards that have children in there what was the causes of their death. A cool statement regarding one of the Government Officials that came to the Mille Lacs Reservation and was upset with the Mille Lacs Band parents and he said that they come up with these trivial excuses for not wanting their kids to go to boarding school examples were that they're going to miss their kids or something might happen to their kids when they're in boarding school and they may not know about it, they need their kids at home and to not send them to boarding school. I thought that was pretty cool in terms of how a Government Official felt that those were trivial excuses and ridiculous excuses when these parent should have sent their kids to these boarding schools, but it showed that a lot of the Mille Lacs Band parents did not want to lose their kids and not have them at home on a day to day basis, so I am very proud of our ancestors for making those comments and making sure that their kids stayed home with them. I thought that

was pretty cool and interesting. The Catholic Church has committed to additional meeting to continue this dialogue and I also asked if there is any support that the church can offer because they're were one of the reasons why a lot of the kids lost their ability to learn their languages when they were in boarding schools and because it has a long term impact on children that we feel that impact still today and that involves mental health, self-esteem, all of these things that children normally get at home and because when they were shipped off to boarding schools that they didn't have the opportunity to have that strong bond in those teachings that usually come from when you are at home. Just wanted to mention a couple of those this morning and I will provide continuous updates as they occur. Many many meetings with the Governor and State Commissioners and there's dozens and dozens of meetings every single day, my staff and myself really have to continuously attend these meetings to make sure that Mille Lacs sits at the table and we get our voice heard and making sure that we are high priority with any entities out there. Miigwech as we go along the holiday season is coming up for the students hope you have fun and get to relax and get re-interested in school after your long breaks and do well in school. Miigwech.

- **Messages from the Representatives-District I Representative**- A few updates. 1. This update for those constituents out there watching gift card distribution for the holiday season taking place this week 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. today we are down in the Urban Office we will be down here until 4:00 p.m. this afternoon reminder to bring documentation Tribal or State ID and also bring documentation for your dependents. We are also allowing elders to have their cards picked up by somebody else as long as they give their tribal ID to somebody. Another reminder very exciting we are currently working on a sobriety pow wow in partnership with SUD and District I Office. A very special thank you to everybody that has contributed to all the specials, it's going to be a very awesome event, to Madam Chief's point we are going to recognize all safety protocols they will be in place for that event, masks and everything. We will have a special elder section to try to keep people away from elders the best we can, however they will be masked as well. Very full night of some fun events and I thank everybody that has generously contributed to that event. One last final thing we are having our December 29, 2021 Community Meeting at the old District I Community Center, come on out it starts at 5:30 p.m. We have a good agenda, will be some really good food. I almost forgot as part of the gift card distribution we are orchestrating and partnering with family services in a gift card give back option for those out there that feel the need to give during the holiday season this give back option is a partnership with family services and basically you email your intent to give that card back to children in placement to Darla.Roache2@millelacsband.com and that will work as your confirmation that you're giving your card back, we've been working with OMB to make that admissible, so just to update you out there so far there's some very good numbers so we're really looking to make a lot of the kids in placement very happy this year and I thank everybody that has decided that their \$25.00 gift card would be better served with children in placement so thank everybody. Thank you. **District II Representative**- I would like to take some time to thank all the young people here today, stay in school keep it up, proud of you, it's impressive. Party tomorrow night in Chiminising Center 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided and Santa Claus will be there and also the Christmas party for Minisinaakwang will be on December 21, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. next Tuesday. Thank you all be safe. Miigwech. **District III Representative**- Want to also comment on some of the things that Chief Executive was talking about the COVID vaccinations, you know that's a big issue out there. If you choose to get vaccinations that's ok, we all the freedom of choice to do or not to do. I know the one thing in this world, the only thing that can cure sickness is your immune system. A doctor cannot give you a miracle drug, the only thing that fights against viruses, bacteria, colds, cancer etc...Is a strong immune

system. And the way you get a strong immune system is you got to have a proper diet you have to eat right. Don't eat the junk foods that's only meant to get you fat and a lot of us in this day and age including me sitting here we get kind of heavy. Be sure to eat a lot of organic fruits and vegetables stuff you find out in the bush. And when we were kids, young like these kids here and even some the elders can attest to this that we went picked blueberries, raspberries, black berries, pink cherries, hazelnuts, etc. and so on and we were healthy we had a strong immune system because we ate all the natural stuff that nature provided and nature comes from the Creator. So we know Creator isn't going to give us something that's going to destroy us, he will only give us something that's going to enhance our life and enjoy our beautiful life and part of that is being healthy so stay away from processed foods, processed cheese, and processed meats. There's other means. I'm sure the kids are not in control of that but as parents you can get healthy foods. Deer meat is one of the healthiest foods you can eat cause all they eat is plants, bark, and roots. Also with other animals we eat, raccoon, moose, elk. They don't go to the grocery store they eat what's out there so they're healthy. It's ok to eat that stuff to strengthen our immune system, that's the only thing that can cure your sickness is your immune system. So you got to give it what it needs to fight and exercise, get plenty of oxygen in your blood and in your brain. If your brain doesn't receive enough oxygen from lack of movement you start to stress you start to worry and when you do that you start taking shallow breaths and that way you're not getting enough oxygen, and when you don't get enough oxygen some more you start to stress some more. So get out there and do some road work, take a walk out in nature. Oxygenate your blood, neutralize your blood from acidic blood that's a cause of a lot of our sicknesses, is our blood is acidic it's not healthy. We are just a cesspool of sickness walking around when we come that way. I got to tell it the way it is. I'd be remised in my duties as, you elected me into this position not only to take care of administrative dollar stuff but also to lead, but lead with common sense and caring and loving, unconditional love. You always see my motto "Love is the key" and if we care each other that way we'd have no worries, we won't have no stress, we won't be fighting and I'll leave it there with that take care of yourselves. Our District III Christmas Community Party is next Thursday December 23, 2021 we will have some good entertainment Tatanka Means he's not a big movie star but he's been in some movies, he's been here before on a comedic level and we will have some good laughs and good supper. We will have a bunch of deer meat and raccoon. Just kidding. Road kill some of that fresh stuff. So other than that. Mi'iw.

- **Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer-** Welcome again and thank you students from Nay ah Shing for coming out and visiting always welcome to come on back. We do have some books for you here. A lot of the things that you see here are work of the staff. We have some folks that aren't in the room now and are online, we have Darcie over there and Adam over here and people in the back, all these people do all this work and make all this stuff possible. With that we will get those books to you and that's it, have a Merry Christmas. Miigwech.

Thursday, December 16, 2021:

Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly members, Legal Counsel, Revisor of Statutes, Staff Attorney, Legislative Staff, Chief Executive, Deputy Solicitor General Housing, Commissioner of Department of Natural Resources and Interim Director of Land Management.

Work Session Agenda: Workshop: Letter – HEARTH Adam Candler

Legislative Counsel presented on HEARTH Draft Bill. Review of the draft bill with discussion, questions, and comments on various sections of the red line version.