



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Band Assembly Weekly Update: Week of January 10-14, 2022

Tuesday, January 11, 2022: State of the Band Address

Legislative hosted a Pre-Band Assembly meeting to discuss the agenda items. **Approval of Minutes:** January 5, 2022. **Reports and Presentations:** 10:30 am: Leana DeJesus Re: Confirmation Hearing for Corporate Board of Directors. **Unfinished Business:** Nomination: Leanna DeJesus – Corporate Board At-Large Position (Tabled 12/15/21) and Policy Amendment: “Holiday Policy” amendment to the Bands Personnel Policy (Tabled 1/5/22). **New Business:** Legislative Order 36-22: Establishing a Uniform System for Legislative Orders, Band Assembly Bill 20-01-19-22: TGWEA Bill (District II), Band Assembly Bill 20-01-20-22: Per Cap Bill (District III), and Band Assembly Bill 20-01-21-22: Bill amending Title 6 to adopted a revised Personnel Policy (District I). **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 12, 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 amended and approved.
- **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a) **Band Assembly Record:** January 5, 2022. Record was approved.
- **Reports and Presentations:**
 - a) 11:30 a.m. Compromise Hearing
Re: Vetoed Band Assembly Bill 19-04-18-22: A bill enacting the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership Act. Compromise hearing was started and noted for record.
- **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) **Policy Amendment:** An amendment to the “Holiday Policy” within the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual. **Tabled 1/05/22.** Policy was taken from the table and removed from the agenda.

• **New Business:**

- a) **Legislative Order 36-22:** A Legislative Order Establishing a Uniform System of Numbering for Legislative Orders. Legislative Order was approved with a waiver of the formal reading.
- b) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-19-22:** A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for February and March 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 January 6, 2022. **Sponsor: District II Representative.** Bill was introduced, read, and approved.
- c) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-20-22:** A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the February and March 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 January 6, 2022. **Sponsor: District III Representative.** Bill was introduced, read, amended, and approved.
- d) **Band Assembly Bill 20-01-21-22:** A Bill amending Title 6 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes (“MLBS”) to adopt a revised Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual for the government of the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. **Sponsor: District I Representative.** Bill was introduced, read, amended, and approved.

• **Other Business: None.**

- **Messages from the Chief Executive-** Thank you to all the Band Members that sent updates regarding the State of the Band Address and people were very happy about the State of the Band Address and Speaker Boyd there was a lot of positive comments about your speech as well to me so I wanted to share that. I know it was difficult this year and we had some elders that couldn’t even get on the zoom, they tried and they were very frustrated but they didn’t know how to download the app on their own phones and things. I felt bad about that for individuals wanting to participate, the good thing is they can still view that on YouTube that’s a good thing about having that done this way. Lot of work, lot of new initiatives especially with the ARPA distribution where we can get some things moving on behalf of the band members the individuals we represent, thank you for all of your support. Like I mentioned in the speech this Band Assembly is unbelievable in all the work they have accomplished since been in their seats, I think that’s a strong message to the membership that they’re hard workers and dedicating and wanting to do positive things that impact the collective as the MLB with that I will end comments with that. Appreciate it.
- **Messages from the Representatives-District I Representative-** Thank you guys for the State of the Band Address yesterday really appreciate being there, the availability of being there in person, always nice to watch you guys speak so I do thank you for that invitation and look forward to all the work coming forward. Thank you. **District II Representative**- I just want to

announce that the community meetings in Chiminising and Minisinaakwang Isle and East Lake will continue this month at their regularly scheduled times. Please be aware there will be temperature testing and questionnaires. Full masks are required and also please I hate to say this but don't attend if you're not feeling very well. I wish you well. Miigwech. **District III Representative**- Just a reminder to the people that have tough time out there with your propane and your utilities there are some services that are available through CARES Act, DOL project and WX program. You're not really without help, but you just have to go seek it and ask for it. There's applications to fill out, I think 10-15 minutes of your writing time can help alleviate some of your stress through these cold months. January and February are always the coldest months. Take care of yourself look out for yourself there are means available for you to have it a little easier. I see a lot of cars out there on the roads that run out of gas, just to let you know that when you run out of gas in the cold months you're sucking up some of the condensation that's in the gas tank the water, you know water is heavier than gas and if you leave it sit it's going to freeze your gas line is going to freeze your fuel pump is going to freeze if that ever happens it's a mighty big bill to replace if you're going to do it by new. So also keep your car full of gas as you're going down the road taxiing down the road you don't want to stall out in-between Hinckley or Aazhoomog That's a long way out there, either walk or have somebody get to you. Look out for yourself, also reminder again if you have any elder parents out there or grandparents when you go to visit check their propane tank, yes there are some workers that help do that but also kind of step up your game too to look out for your elders in the community. Pay attention to your dogs, there's going to be some updates coming in the future in regards to that but remember there's a dog ordinance so of anything happens you were told over a year now that your dogs must be ties or penned up. You know if there's anything that happened to people walking on the road, your dog bites you're responsible for that and dogs can be destroyed by law so just take care of your animals. Other than that Miigwech. Mi'iw.

- **Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer**- I would like to give a little background to the calendar that was sent out and the sessions and kind of the reasoning behind that calendar. The Representatives can certainly, the point of it was to give structure to law making process to kind of allow the Representatives time to be Representatives. They spend a lot of time here taking care of bills and doing workshops and some of it was to give them regular time to be within their communities, take some time off, take care of themselves and more importantly work on the bills and laws that membership are looking at, kind of give them guys some prep time for these actual sessions where in theory this calendar starts to cycle through the number of years folks get used to that down time and then the sessions will be more intense with the law making and editing of laws etcetera. So that was kind of the intent behind that taking advantage of that theory of the sessions and where there's no sessions scheduled we are certainly open and can hold sessions of Band Assembly when needed to accommodate some of the needs of Executive Branch and contracts etcetera and delivery of those services. So I'll just close by that's some of the reasoning behind that calendar and it's an evolution of this law making process. Where we're going to the Band Assembly won't be not doing anything during those times where there's no sessions but we're all still around here. That's it. Miigwech.

Thursday, January 13, 2022:

Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly members, Legal Counsel, Revisor of Statutes, Staff Attorney, and Legislative 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 presented on Healing to Wellness Court draft bill. Reviewed red line version comments with discussion, questions, and comments.