



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Band Assembly Weekly Update: Week of January 3-7, 2022

Tuesday, January 4, 2022: Legislative hosted a Pre-Band Assembly meeting to discuss the agenda items. **Approval of Minutes:** December 29, 2021. **Reports and Presentations:** 10:15 am: Tammy Wickstrom Re: Aanjibimaadizing Presentation of services. **Unfinished Business:** Nomination: Leanna DeJesus – Corporate Board At-Large Position (Tabled 12/15/21). **New Business:** Band Assembly Bill 19-04-18-22: HEARTH Act, Policy Amendment: “Holiday Policy” amendment to the Bands Personnel Policy, Foster Care License: District I, Renewal, FFH19100010, and Legislative Order 35-22: Repealing Legislative Orders 018 and 021. **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 5, 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:** December 29, 2021. Record was approved.
- **Reports and Presentations:**
 - a) 10:15 a.m. Tammy Wickstrom, Executive Director of Aanjibimaadizing
Re: Overview of services that Aanjibimaadizing provides. Presentation was completed by Tammy Wickstrom & Briana Matrious with questions, comments, and discussion,
- **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**
- **New Business:**
 - a) **Band Assembly Bill 19-04-18-22:** A Bill enacting the Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership Act, to be known as Leasing of Trust Lands, and

numbered in the Mille Lacs Band Statutes as Chapter 7 of Title 21. The Leasing of Trust Lands Code will grant the Band the authority to negotiate and enter into Leases without further approvals by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Specifically, the Act authorizes the Band to execute Residential Leases, Agricultural Leases, Business Leases, Wind Energy and Evaluation Leases, and Wind and Solar Resource Leases of Band Trust Lands.

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

- b) **Policy Amendment:** An amendment to the “Holiday Policy” within the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual. Policy Amendment was tabled.
 - c) **Foster Care License:** District I: Renewal: FFH19100010. License was approved.
 - d) **Legislative Order 35-22:** A Legislative Order Repealing Legislative Orders 018 and 021. Legislative Order was approved.
- **Other Business: None.**
 - **Messages from the Chief Executive-** Not Present.
 - **Messages from the Representatives-District I Representative-** First off I’d like to wish all Band Membership, Elected Officials, Constituents, Employees, even the Legislative Counsel a very Happy New Year and we’re very happy to be here for you all. Also want to relay we had a wonderful sobriety event at the new District I Community Center last Friday we had a very cooperative over 400 people that followed masking and safety requirements which was very awesome and amazing to see that everybody has learned to live in this new world that we’re in. Again over 400 people at some point in time, we had great food, great dance and a lot of fun. Want to thank everyone that was in attendance. Thank all the Band entities that donated to such a successful event. I’d like to think that through events like this and the usage of that new center that we are saving lives and creating positive outcomes you know going into the new year. We had a very wonderful time. A lot of work went into it. Again a very huge thank you to everyone that donated and everyone that volunteered, the countless volunteers that showed up to support our community and sobriety is very heart warming and endearing. Thank you.
District II Representative- The old days the Elders used to wish Happy New Year for weeks and weeks. So Happy New Year again. This year I am going to renew my efforts to establish the groundwork to construct a facility to address the scourge of alcohol and drug addiction that plays on the people of this nation. It’s long overdue. Also plan to initiate legislation to tackle the problem of animal neglect. That’s a problem that becomes much more apparent in the winter months. I hope you all agree with me that, even the animals are worthy of being taken care of. They are Gitchi-Manidoos creatures also. With that wish you a Happy New Year again. Miigwech. **District III Representative-** I hope those that were listening on live stream today were listening to Briana Matrious and her discussion of the Mending Broken Heart program. That’s a very effective program, very successful. I went through it and there were a lot of things I forgot I had. I encourage everybody, she’s going to be here speaking at our Community Meeting February 16, 2022. That’s when we’re going to have a community meeting in February, but that’s also the first day of her program over in District III. I see lots of unhappy people and I am pretty confident in my belief that a lot of that stems back to my great granddad’s time the era of time they had to go through the Boarding School trauma, some of

that past down from more times of losses. You will be surprised what's hidden deep inside yourself, humans we pack things in to try to cover it up and put on a smile and pretend everything is alright, but I can see that everything is not alright. You know over in District III I said it at our Christmas Party that you know as people you are evolving, but let's not just stop there, let's just keep going. I encourage everybody in District III to partake especially grandparents and parents so we don't continue this cycle of negativity. Also I want to piggy back on District II Representative Marvin Bruneau's comment about your animals, take care of them, keep them tied up, penned up, bring them inside when it's really cold. Because when they're puppies they're cute, but they grow up to be big ugly dogs some of them. Take care of your animals, your cats, your dogs, and take care of yourselves. Mi'iw.

- **Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer-** I think what strikes me is the live stream format that has been in place for seven plus months, as we move on to a new year. I mentioned to some of the folks who are doing their presentation today Briana & Tammy that consistently there 100 people logging into the live stream, and that is unprecedented in these legislative functions and I think 100 people viewing this you get to see the range of topics and subject matter that come before these Band Assembly members and that as Speaker of the Assembly you simply manage the processes for them and to my right have to consider a lot of things and those things no doubt weight heavily on them through their terms. And that's kind of the weight they do bear that goes on. The subject matter today of suicide prevention in the youth and that subject matter is very impactful today. If that doesn't impact a lot people on here, then you choose not to listen. Also the legislative orders the maintenance orders of this process, this Branch. The going on of the Legislative Branch are picking up and it's the work of the whole of the staff, who are taking this concept of legislation and Legislative Branch and making it grow. So I would like to commend everyone involved and so fortunate to be a part of this. Miigwech.

Thursday, January 6, 2022:

Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly members, Legal Counsel, Revisor of Statutes, Staff Attorney, Legislative Staff, Solicitor General, Commissioner of Administration, & Director of Human Resources.

Work Session Agenda: HR Personnel Policy and Procedure Adam Candler, Presentation: Results of Legislative Priorities Survey Adam Candler, Hanna Valento, and Joe Jensen, and Bill: Title 2 – Exclusion and Removal Joe Jensen.

Legislative Counsel presented on HR Personnel Policy and Procedure. Review of the draft bill with discussion, questions, and comments on the policy.

Legislative Counsel presented on Results of Legislative Priorities Survey. Review of the priorities survey comments with discussion, questions, and comments.

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