



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Band Assembly Weekly Update: Week of April 11-15, 2022

Monday, April 11, 2022: Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

Work Session Agenda: Bill: Title 25 – Cleanup bill (review comments), Bill: Title 6 – Government Employees & Ethics Code (review comments), and Bill: Title 5 – Court of Appeals (review comments)

Legal Staff reviewed proposed amendments and public comments pertaining to a Title 25 (Revisor of Statutes) bill, Title 6 (Government Employees) bill, and Title 5 (Judicial Branch) bill.

Tuesday, March 29, 2022: Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

Work Session Agenda: Bill: Title 5 – Court of Appeals (review comments)

Legal Staff presented on Title 5 proposed amendments and public comments with discussion, questions, and comments.

Legislative hosted a Pre-Band Assembly meeting to discuss the agenda items. **Approval of Minutes:** March 30, 2022. **Reports and Presentations:** Formal Public Hearing: Title 25 Cleanup Bill Formal Public Hearing: Title 5 Court of Appeals Bill. **Unfinished Business:** Bill 20-01-30-22: Amending Title 5 – Healing to Wellness and Investment Committee Nominations Tabled. **New Business:** None. **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 6, 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 two Representatives present.
District I Representative, Virgil Wind
District II Representative, Marvin Bruneau-Absent excused
District III Representative, Wallace St. John Sr.
- **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda was amended and approved.
- **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a) **Band Assembly Record:** March 30, 2022. Record was approved.
- **Reports and Presentations:**

10:00 a.m Formal Public Hearing: Title 25 Cleanup Bill. Formal Public Hearing was completed with an opening and discussion of the public comments. The hearing was completed and closed.

10:15 a.m Formal Public Hearing: Title 5 Court of Appeals Bill. Formal Public Hearing was completed with an opening and discussion of the public comments. The hearing was completed and closed.

- **Unfinished 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 Tabled 3/9/22, 3/23/22, 3/28/22. Bill was taken from the table, amended, and approved with waiver of the formal reading.

- b) **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) **Resolution 20-01-18-22:** A Resolution in Support of the Band’s Application for the Energy and Mineral Development Program Grant Through the U.S Department of the Interior Division of Energy and Mineral Development. Resolution was read and approved.

- **Other Business: None.**

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

- **Messages from the Representatives-District I Representative-** Representative Wind offered congratulations to the Secretary Treasurer and District II Representative candidates on their primary victory and Representative Wind thanked everyone for the legislation process and thanked the branches for the work and the enhancement of band members lives. He stated it’s a

long process and it gets frustrating at times and when it comes close to the end of the process and there is more work. He stated he gives thanks to the other Honorable Representatives and again stated he is very thankful to all the different departments involved. He gave information on District I Clean up that you have to bring your items to the transfer station by the water treatment plant April 23-29, 2022 open 8am-4pm, please prep and prepare for upcoming clean up and in the process of hosting an event following the cleanup. Shout out to Joseph Jensen had a birthday on Monday. **District II Representative**- Representative Bruneau was not present. **District III Representative**- Representative St. John reiterated what Representative Wind stated congratulating Secretary Treasurer and District II Representative. He stated we will have another good team and get a lot of legislation done to serve the people, we are public servants. Healing to Wellness he stated he has been very adamant of the very long process due to the work between the three branches today we come to conclusion and now will sit with the Chief Executive office for approval. He stated this is needed we're working for the wellness of the people and tackling the epidemic we are in and the surrounding community hopefully we become a role model for others. District III Clean up April 30-May 6, 2022 shared on social media there are phone numbers to call for elders and non-elders. Next Wednesday is our District III Community meeting DNR staff & HHS staff will give some updates. Everybody come and hear it's very important you understand the information being given to you the community meetings are for you please attend. Good supper as usual. Thank everyone who's upped their game not only in employment status but community status I see change and there may be some lollygaggers, but we're all part of the team. Mi'iw Miigwech. After Secretary-Treasurer's message Representative St. John stated again that he was thankful for so many involved and had a shout out to Adam Candler and Hanna. He also stated that he is thankful for all branches and all the people that work in Legislative we are a great team and good things come out when we work together.

- **Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer**- Secretary Treasurer Boyd stated to band membership affirmation for this work of the group that we have here. Recognition of the team here and that you don't see on the camera, this live viewing media that you see evidence of it today and that you can come back to take a look at. Going through statute that's what Legislative Branch does, we make law this is what we do. In the work of Hanna Joe and Adam. I got into this government business 20 years ago in 2000 at the time it never stops to update law and to make them more and clean things up. It's one of the primary goals of countless efficiency studies, updating band statutes. With this group updating statutes was done in earnest with the help of Revisor of Statutes. I sit back and listen to the give and take of those involved of making these statutes possible putting them into law, we can only wait and see the affect that they have. It's really something to see all I can do is sit and listen. Congratulations elect Merrill District II. Miigwech.

Thursday, March 31, 2022: Legislative held a work session for the Band Assembly Members, and Legislative Staff.

Work Session Agenda: Discussion: Title 11 – Animal Protection, Bill: Title 11 – Animal Protection, and Bill: Title 5 – Court of Appeals (review comments)

Legal Staff facilitated a discussion on Title 11 – Animal Protection with various Band departments and outside animal organization resources.

Legal Staff reviewed proposed comments on Bill: Title 11 – Animal Protection red line and blue line version with discussion, questions, and comments. Moving forward with public comment letter.

Legal Staff presented on Bill: Title 5 – Court of Appeals red line and purple line draft. Reviewed public comments with discussion, questions, and comments.