

OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE
STORY
AS IT'S
TOLD

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NIMI'IDIWIN

SCENES FROM THE 2017 GRAND CELEBRATION POWWOW

OPPOSITION
TO LINE 3
CONTINUES

TONS OF TRASH
COLLECTED
IN CLEANUP

CHAMELEONS
RUN AT RICE
LAKE REFUGE

FILM, MUSIC,
ART AT INDIAN
MUSEUM



Understanding MCT-Mille Lacs Band Issues

By: Syngen Kanassataga
Legal and Policy Counsel for the Office of the Chief Executive

Some leaders from other constituent Tribes of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) have challenged the Band on a few issues this year at its quarterly and special meetings. The Office of the Chief Executive has encouraged Band members to attend those meetings to voice their opinions on those issues and continues to encourage Band members to attend all upcoming meetings. The next MCT meetings will be a special meeting at 8:30 a.m. on June 29 and a quarterly meeting at 8:30 a.m. on July 10. Both meetings will be held at Northern Lights Casino in Walker. Several Band members have asked about these issues and what the Band's relationship with the MCT is. Here is a guide that hopefully provides a concise understanding by answering four questions.

First, what is the Band's relationship with the MCT? Second, how was the MCT created? Third, what are the contentious issues between the MCT and the Band? And fourth, why do these issues matter to Band members?

The Relationship Between the MCT and the Band

The Band is one of six constituent Tribes that collectively make up the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, and White Earth are the other constituent Tribes.

The Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the MCT governs the constituent Tribes in specific areas of governance. The Constitution requires that each Tribe be governed by Reservation Business Committees (RBC). Each RBC must consist of at least three members and no more than five members. Each Band must elect a Chairperson, a Secretary-Treasurer, and between one and three committeepersons. Here, the Chairperson is the Chief Executive, and the committeepersons are the three District Representatives of Band Assembly.

The Constitution provides that the MCT consists of two governing bodies: the Tribal Executive Committee (TEC) and the six RBCs of the constituent Tribes. The TEC is a 12-member body that consists of the Chairpersons and Secretary-Treasurers from the six Tribes. The TEC makes decisions for the MCT as a whole in the areas of land management, business, and distributing any money appropriated from the federal government to the six Tribes. The TEC elects from its 12 members a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin serves as the current Secretary. The six Tribes are generally free to govern themselves in all other ways not mentioned in the Constitution, such as creating and enforcing criminal laws and providing governmental services to its members.

The Constitution requires the TEC to meet every three months to conduct MCT business and permits the TEC to meet in between those quarterly meetings at "special" meetings. The quarterly and special meetings are often held interchangeably at Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Leech Lake, and Mille Lacs. These meetings are open to all members of the six Tribes, and these are the meetings the Office of the Chief Executive refers to when it encourages Band members to attend.

How was the MCT created?

The MCT is organized under the laws of the United States, specifically Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (IRA).

Continued on page 6.

State-Tribal Relations in Action: Band Public Safety Headlines Meeting with Governer

Public safety, pipelines and opioid prevention were at the top of Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin's agenda for discussion with Governor Mark Dayton at the State Capitol while attending the annual Tribal-State Summit on June 22. Leaders from the eleven federally recognized Indian tribes in Minnesota were invited to attend.

The Governor opened the meeting with a discussion about tribal concerns regarding pipeline activity in Minnesota. Chief Executive Benjamin shared a paper outlining the Band's concerns regarding the proposed Line 3 route through watersheds that support Manoomin, and other leaders echoed their concerns as well.

When the Governor brought up the topic of opioids, which led to a discussion about law enforcement and public safety on the reservations in Minnesota, Chief Executive Benjamin informed the Governor that the recent mediation that he had personally arranged between the Band and Mille Lacs County had ended without an agreement reached. Last summer, after Mille Lacs County turned down an offer of federal mediation, Governor Dayton travelled to Mille Lacs County and personally requested that they at least attempt mediation with the Band via the assistance of the Minnesota Bureau of Mediation Services.

Other tribal leaders also spoke with a collective voice in support of the Band, stating that the public safety crisis at Mille Lacs could have far-reaching impacts on the other reservations as well. "Public safety is one of the most basic rights of any community, and all our community members and neighbors have a right to feel safe and secure in their own homes," said Benjamin.

Additional topics that were addressed included education funding, support for State-Tribal relations training for state employees and the need for more support of home health care. The meeting lasted two hours, and at the conclusion the group was invited to lunch at the Governor's residence that lasted about another two hours. When language revitalization and culture came up during the lunch, Chief Executive Benjamin shared with the Governor that we have several Band Members who made mistakes earlier in their lives but have turned their lives around by immersing themselves into language and culture. She stated that she is committed to breaking down the barriers that prevent these individuals from contributing positively to our Band government. Governor Dayton responded by saying that he wants to work on streamlining the process of expungement.

For the past several years, Governor Dayton has invited the elected tribal leadership of each of the 11 federally recognized Indian tribal governments in Minnesota to sit down to discuss issues together at the Capitol. Band Statutes specifically charge the Chief Executive with conducting external relations with other governments, and conducting effective tribal-state relations is one of the most critical responsibilities of any Chief Executive.



Bradley Harrington was sworn in as Commissioner of Natural Resources on Wednesday, May 31, to finish the term that expires at the end of June. He expressed (in Ojibwe and English) his appreciation to the Chief Executive for nominating him and Band Assembly for confirming him and shared his vision for preservation of natural and cultural resources. The swearing-in took place before Judge David Christensen in the District I Government Center and a large crowd of Band employees and well-wishers, who offered their congratulations to Bradley after the ceremony.

State, Federal Politics Loom Large in Indian Country

Anyone who is paying attention to state and national politics knows that the shift in power – from Democrat to Republican – is likely to have a long-term negative impact on Indian Country.

From allowing oil pipelines to run through tribal lands to attempts to end the Affordable Health Care Act – also known as Obamacare – the progress made in the past eight years to improve the lives of Native Americans is being reversed under the Trump administration and in the state.

"We're in a place where there was a shift in power in Minnesota," said Jamie Edwards, the Band's Special Advisor for Intergovernmental Affairs. "The shift has created a dynamic of a Republican Legislature and a Democratic-controlled Governor's office."

"What it means is that it led to a contentious legislative session filled with philosophical differences," he continued. "In a year when you have to enact a budget because it's constitutionally-mandated it means that things are complicated."

Nationally, there were several things put into play that have the potential to hurt tribes – including the Mille Lacs Band. This includes healthcare, education and the responsibility for trust lands. For example, the Environmental Protection Agency is the federal agency that is charged with being stewards of protecting the land and is the primary caretaker of natural resources. The Trump administration's move to weaken or even dismantle the agency can leave tribes in a vulnerable spot.

Many of the dollars that are carved out for tribes come through the federal budget, and under this current climate, "it's an unfavorable environment for tribal interests," Jamie said. "With the flick of a pen, the President can change the course for Native Americans."

Funding cuts at the federal and state levels will impact Band members in a host of ways that are yet to be determined.



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin attended a meeting with Gov. Mark Dayton and other tribal leaders on Thursday, June 22.

Attn: MLBO Members

You are encouraged to attend MCT/TEC meetings. The next two meetings will be at Northern Lights Casino at 8:30 a.m. on June 29 and July 10. Employees please consult with your supervisor prior to attending. Carpooling is recommended. The information discussed at these meetings is valuable to our future. Please contact Katie Draper at 320-515-0846 with other questions.

Secretary-Treasurer Attends NCAI Conference in Connecticut

Secretary-Treasurer Carolyn Beaulieu attended the National Congress of American Indians midyear conference at the Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Connecticut June 12-15. Carolyn is the Midwest Region Vice President Alternate on the NCAI Executive Committee.

The theme of the conference was "Sovereign Infrastructure: Building Our Communities through Our Values."

On Tuesday, June 13, Carolyn was a presenter on a panel titled "Building Tribal-State Relationships to Advance Critical Tribal Priorities." Also on the panel were Minnesota House Representatives Peggy Flanagan and Susan Allen.

The program described the panel as follows: "In this fluid political environment, forging strong and sustainable tribal-state relationships that strengthen tribal sovereignty and advance tribal priorities is more important than ever. This collaborative session between NCAI and the National Caucus of Native American State Legislators (NCNASL) will tackle critical and timely issues requiring informed, tactical advocacy with state governments and their elected leadership, from budget and appropriations issues to preserving Medicaid expansion to implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act regulations. Tribal leaders and NCNASL representatives also will discuss how to advance pro-tribal policies at the state level through sustained relationship building and maintenance."

The first day of the conference was dedicated to task force meetings on drug and violence prevention, federal recognition, land issues, food and infrastructure, crime reduction, national monuments, economic development, and protection of indigenous traditional knowledge and culture.

On Tuesday morning the First General Assembly opened with a Call to Order by NCAI President Brian Cladoosby, followed by Presentation of the Colors and an invocation by Lynn Malerba, Chief of the Mohegan Tribe, and a welcome by Kevin Brown, Chairman of the Mohegan Tribe. Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy and Senator Chris Murphy also welcomed attendees, and Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke gave an administration update.

NCAI Executive Director Jacqueline Pata spoke that morning on the Tribal Policy Agenda: Opportunities vs. Challenges.

Afternoon breakout sessions focused on topics like juvenile justice, tribal sovereignty, the federal trust responsibility, mental health and Indian education. The day closed with subcommittee meetings.

Wednesday, June 14, began with a Sunrise Ceremony followed by Regional Caucus Meetings and a youth gathering. The Second General Assembly featured a Tribal Leader/Scholar Forum titled "A Research Response to the Federal Policy Agenda: Navigating Infrastructure, Tax, and Health Care Reforms."



Carolyn Beaulieu



Peggy Flanagan



Susan Allen

At the closing General Assembly on June 15, tribal leaders adopted a resolution supporting the Paris Climate Agreement.

"As the indigenous people of this land, it is our sacred obligation to mother earth to respect and protect her," said NCAI President Brian Cladoosby. "Our communities are on the front lines of climate change and are facing relocation in some areas, and the loss of hunting and fishing ecosystems and traditional plants and medicines in others."

Indigenous peoples in the United States and around the world depend on the health of their ecosystems and natural resources for social, economic, and cultural vitality. Climate change threatens to destroy indigenous ways of life that have been sustained for thousands of years.

Resolution MOH-17-053: "Continued Support for the Paris Climate Agreement and Action to Address Climate Change" was adopted unanimously today by NCAI Membership. MOH-17-053 commits to supporting and advocating for initiatives that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote climate resiliency, and calls on all tribal Nations to uphold the Paris Agreement.

At the end of 2015, representatives from NCAI and many tribal nations participated in negotiations with the parties to the United Nations Framework on Convention on Climate Change in Paris. Reaching a universally binding agreement to address climate change, the agreement represented a global step forward.

"The Paris Climate Agreement is an important step toward a better future for our seven generations to come," said NCAI President Brian Cladoosby. "Indigenous knowledge is a proven tool in addressing climate change and our tribal leaders represented today are committed to sharing that knowledge as leaders in the global effort to address climate change."

The Paris Climate Agreement resolution was one of 36 resolutions passed by the NCAI Membership at the Mid Year Conference. Text of the resolutions is available on the NCAI website at ncai.org/resources/resolutions-home.

About NCAI

Founded in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is the oldest, largest, and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization serving the broad interests of tribal governments and communities.

NCAI, a non-profit organization, advocates for a bright future for generations to come by taking the lead to gain consensus on a constructive and promising vision for Indian Country. The organization's policy issues and initiatives are driven by the consensus of our diverse membership, which consists of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments, tribal citizens, individuals, and Native and non-Native organizations.

For nearly seven decades since its founding, NCAI has remained true to the original purpose of the organization: to be the unified voice of tribal nations. As outlined in the NCAI Constitution, our purpose is to serve as a *forum for unified policy development among tribal governments in order to: (1) protect and advance tribal governance and treaty rights; (2) promote the economic development and health and welfare in Indian and Alaska Native communities; and (3) educate the public toward a better understanding of Indian and Alaska Native tribes.*

Source: ncai.org

Legislative Briefs

Band Assembly confirmed Bradley Harrington as DNR Commissioner and Shelly Diaz for Commissioner of Administration and completed 6-month budget reviews with the Commissioners and other Band entities including Circle of Health and the Gaming Regulatory Authority.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Financial Report

Summary of Expenditures and Financing Uses:	Approved Budget for FY 2017	Expenditures through 5/31/2017	% of Budget Expended
Administration ⁽¹⁾	16,526,040	9,827,875	59%
Department of Labor	22,923,314	4,422,968	19%
Judicial	2,193,536	696,943	32%
Department of Justice	6,864,868	3,358,475	49%
Education	17,989,060	10,470,774	58%
Health and Human Services	30,286,866	13,407,583	44%
Circle of Health Insurance	9,981,504	3,332,454	33%
Natural Resources	9,009,716	5,621,727	62%
Community Development	67,604,628	16,898,784	25%
Gaming Authority	5,465,107	2,868,496	52%
Bonus Distribution	36,831,665	31,168,643	85%
Economic Stimulus Distribution	3,742,161	3,740,585	99%
Total	229,418,465	105,815,307	46%

- (1) Administration includes chief executive, administration, finance, legislative, government affairs and district operations.
- (2) Casino operations are not reported above; however they do include government operations funded by casino distributions.
- (3) The Financial Statements of the Band are audited every year by an independent public accounting firm. Audit reports from previous years are available for review at the government center upon written request.
- (4) Economic Development appropriations have been excluded as of October 31, 1997.



Band Members and Allies State Strong Opposition to Line 3

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Over 100 people attended public meetings in Hinckley and East Lake June 12 to learn about and respond to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Line 3 pipeline. The preferred route of the pipeline, which is proposed by Enbridge Energy of Canada, would transport “tar sands” oil from Alberta through sensitive wild rice lands in the Rice Lake and Sandy Lake watersheds on its way to Superior, Wisc.

Although public meetings concluded on July 22, the deadline for submitting written comments about the Draft EIS is July 10 (see page 5 for information on how to comment).

Many Band members spoke at the Hinckley hearing, including Harvey and Algin GoodSky, Tania Aubid and Natalie Boyd. MLB descendant Justin Smith also spoke about the issue, as did White Earth Band member and Honor the Earth Director Winona LaDuke.

Harvey pleaded with Enbridge to consider the effects of its “infrastructure” project on the resources of northern Minnesota. “My infrastructure grows on the water,” he said. “I’m so glad you have appreciated your stay, since you arrived in 1492, but I really want to tell you that we don’t want your oil polluting our water.”

Tania spoke of her experience at Standing Rock protesting the Dakota Access pipeline and praying for the animals that will be harmed by an oil spill. She asked Gov. Dayton to protect his legacy as a water protector by opposing Line 3.

Natalie said Enbridge has exaggerated the need for a new pipeline and that the technology exists to reduce the demand for oil. “The only reason we can’t use these technologies is because they are suppressed by the petroleum industry,” she said. “For people concerned about their jobs, be aware that you’re being held hostage by the oil industry. We’re all being held hostage by the oil industry. Yeah, we all drive petroleum-fueled vehicles, but it’s not because we want to, it’s because we’re prisoners of the fossil fuel industry.”

Algin talked about the importance of native plants for food and medicine and asked people to think about the effects of their actions on future generations.

An even larger crowd attended the meeting at East Lake Community Center that evening. Harvey, Tania, Natalie and Winona spoke again and were joined by Dale Greene, Russell Shabaiah, Sandy and Veronica Skinaway, Michaa Aubid, Keenan Gonzales, Opitee Mushkooub and many non-Indian community members, most of whom opposed the pipeline.

Jamie MacAlister of the Department of Commerce opened the meeting by discussing the timeline for the pipeline approval process. She introduced Patrick Field of the Consensus Building Institute, who presided over both the Hinckley and East Lake meetings. He in turn introduced Tania Aubid, who offered a prayer, welcomed guests and thanked them for sharing their views. All in attendance were treated to a wild rice dinner provided by District II Band members.

Patrick also introduced District II Elder Dale Greene and asked him to speak first. Dale gave an impassioned speech about the importance of protecting Mother Earth: “My name is Kaadaak, and it means ‘roots.’ I wanted to speak to some of the listeners to voice my comments and my opinion. I’m 84 years old, and I

have seen a lot of changes. What I see now is that Corporate America is ruining our Mother. The mother is our earth, is our life. She gives us everything; we must realize that. Everything you have today comes from Mother. You’re digging in her flesh, you’re leaving scars, you’re releasing poisons. She has given you many warnings. You’ve seen the warnings but nobody is paying attention. The iron ore and the oil — I’m sorry to say this, but that’s what’s running your war machines. Seventy percent of your oil and iron ore goes to make the war machines run. It seems like corporations have lost all respect for life. I’m just wondering now, they’ve got a bounty on the wolf. Who’s next, the human being? There’s a lot more I could say, but I think I’ve said enough. I just want to remind you, think of Mother Earth, life. We are her; we are Mother Earth. That’s it. Thank you.”

Sandra said that since she first testified in opposition to the Sandpiper pipeline, the issue of climate change has become more critical. “We all need to focus on the future,” she said. “The pipeline is going to leak. They always do. We need to think about the future and the people yet to come. This pipeline coming through our water-rich area and our wild rice — this is our food. I really suggest you find an alternative route that is away from our wild rice, our waterfowl, our birds. Instead of short-term gain, we need to look seven generations ahead.”

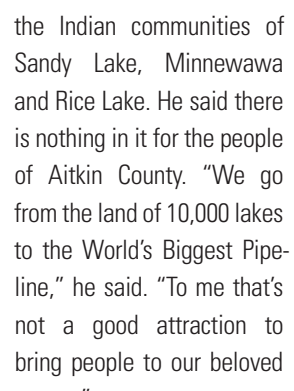
Keenan talked about his ancestors who were removed from their village when the Rice Lake Wildlife Refuge was created. He said the water was a crucial resource for food as well as transportation. “We were river people,” he said. “That was our highway, and water was life for us.”

Veronica said, “I’m a nonremovable Sandy Lake Band member, and I’m going to be here to ensure that my grandchildren are going to be able to love that wild rice. That’s my dream, and that was my ancestors’ dream, and that’s why I’m saying ‘gaawiin,’ no, we don’t need pipelines here.”

Russell said the tribes have been fighting terrorism since 1492 and asked people to consider the lives that would be affected by construction of the pipeline — mitigoog (trees), manidoon-sag (insects), nibi (water), bineshiinhyag (our ‘winged relatives’).

Winona showed a feather she’d been given by the Dine people of the tar sands region of Alberta, where the Line 3 oil would come from. “They can’t drink their water,” she said. “Their lakes are poisoned; their people are dying from cancers they never heard of; their villages are sick... It’s immoral to destroy an area the size of Florida and stuff it in a pipe.” She talked about the stresses already facing Indian communities, from suicide to drug addiction to poverty. “And now you’re asking us to deal with this one, and it’s really unfair.” She accused Enbridge of doing nothing to help the water protectors at Standing Rock who were being attacked by dogs and water cannons. She concluded by drawing attention to Enbridge’s plan to abandon the existing Line 3. “You gotta clean up your old mess before you make a new mess. That’s what I tell my children. This is our chance to stop something bad from happening and our chance to do the right thing.”

Michaa said, “The local Indians have made their point clear: no means no.” He said the new pipeline would run right between



the Indian communities of Sandy Lake, Minnewawa and Rice Lake. He said there is nothing in it for the people of Aitkin County. “We go from the land of 10,000 lakes to the World’s Biggest Pipeline,” he said. “To me that’s not a good attraction to bring people to our beloved county.”

Opitee talked about the necessity of water, the impact of the pipeline on animals, fish and birds, and her fear that her daughter will not be able to rice.

Several non-Indians who testified said they opposed the pipeline in large part because of its impact on Indian people. Richard Draper talked about the wild rice lakes and historic village sites that would be affected, saying the pipeline is “guaranteed” to leak “near an Ojibwe heritage site that will be spoiled beyond repair.” Scott Cramer said the proposed Line 3 route disproportionately affects Indian people — similar to the way the Dakota Access pipeline was re-routed to Indian lands in order to avoid the city of Bismarck. John Munter talked about “First Nations genocide” in Alberta as a reason to oppose the pipeline.

Over 20 opponents of the pipeline testified at East Lake, compared to only two who supported the project. One supporter was a member of a trade union that would benefit from the project. The mayor of the city of Tamarack also said he supported the pipeline because he did not want to see increased rail traffic in the city.

Honor the Earth has prepared a summary of the DEIS and guidelines for submitting comments. See the summary on page 5.



Make Your Voice Heard During Public Comment Period

The Line 3 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is the result of several years of battle between Enbridge, state agencies and grassroots groups working to protect the water — battles that began with the Sandpiper pipeline. The State tried its best to avoid doing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project, but a grassroots-funded lawsuit by Friends of the Headwaters was successful in overturning that decision. In September 2015, the Minnesota Court of Appeals revoked the permit for the Sandpiper and ruled that the Public Utilities Commission was required by law to start over and prepare an EIS. The public comments are intended to help shape the final draft of the Environmental Impact Statement.

How to comment

Anyone can submit written comments on the DEIS, even if you live outside the state. If you speak at a hearing, put it in writing too! The deadline is July 10, 2017. You can submit comments in three ways: email to Pipeline.Comments@state.mn.us, fax to 651-539-0109, or mail to: Jamie MacAlister, Environmental Review Manager Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 280 St. Paul, MN 55101-2198. Make sure to include the docket numbers (CN-14-916 and PPL-15-137) on all comments.

How to write good comments

The best comments point to specific sections or page numbers of the DEIS and explain how and why they are inaccurate, incomplete, biased, based on unfair assumptions, etc. It is also good to reference credible sources of information. Feel free to include personal stories or accounts of how the project will directly affect you, your rights, your community, the resources you depend on, etc. Comments such as “Please build the pipeline because I need a job” or “Water is Life, No Pipelines!” do not have much impact... but may be counted in an overall tally, so something is better than nothing!

Where we stand

Last month, Minnesota released its DEIS. The final EIS is expected in August, followed by the “contested case process” in October and November, a final report from the judge in February 2018, and a final permit decision from the Public Utilities Commission in April 2018. At some point, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will also go through a permitting process for wetlands and river crossings. If Enbridge receives the MN and USACE permits, they will start construction in MN immediately. Honor the Earth is intervening in Minnesota’s regulatory process and supporting three tribal governments to intervene: White Earth, Mille Lacs and Fond du Lac.

Following are some of the problems with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that pipeline opponents can use in their comments:

Tribal impacts

Most of the issues specific to tribal people and tribal resources are confined to a separate chapter that attempts to provide “an American Indian perspective.” They are excluded from the main chapters that assess potential impacts. This allows the EIS to avoid drawing conclusions about the impacts on tribal people. (Chapter 9)

Chapter 9, “Tribal Resources,” states that ANY of the possible routes for Line 3 “would have a long-term detrimental effect on tribal members and tribal resources “that cannot be accurately categorized, quantified, or compared (9.6). It also acknowledges that “traditional resources are essential to the maintenance and realization of tribal lifeways, and their destruction or damage can have profound cultural consequences” (9.4.3).

Chapter 11, “Environmental Justice,” acknowledges that pipeline impacts on tribal communities “are part of a larger pattern of structural racism” that tribal people face in Minnesota, which was well documented in a 2014 study by the MN Department of Health. It also concludes that “the impacts associated with the proposed Project and its alternatives would be an additional health stressor on tribal communities that already face overwhelming health disparities and inequities” (11.4.3).

The DEIS concludes that “disproportionate and adverse impacts would occur to American Indian populations in the vicinity of the proposed Project” (11.5) But it also states that this is NOT a reason to deny the project!

Chapter 6 states that Enbridge’s preferred route would impact more wild rice lakes and areas rich in biodiversity than any of the proposed alternative routes (Figure ES-10).

Most of the analysis of archaeological resources in the path of the pipeline rely on Enbridge’s surveys. For some reason, only three of their eight surveys are available, and the five missing are the most recent! In those, Enbridge found 63 sites, but claims that only three are eligible for protection under the National Register of Historic Places. (5.4.2.6.1)

The DEIS acknowledges that “The addition of a temporary, cash-rich workforce increases the likelihood that sex trafficking or sexual abuse will occur,” and that these challenges hit Native communities the hardest. But the DEIS dismisses this problem quickly, saying that “Enbridge can prepare and implement an education plan or awareness campaign around this issue” (11.4.1).

Big picture problems

Many of the environmental impacts and plans for minimizing them are drawn directly from Enbridge’s permit application (“Enbridge would do this” and “Enbridge would do that”). History shows that Enbridge continually violates permit conditions. The DEIS should analyze the likelihood of compliance.

The Alternatives chosen for comparison to the pipeline proposal are absurd — for example, the only rail alternative assumes the construction of a new rail terminal at the US border, and thousands of new railcars to transport oil to Clearbrook and Superior. The only reasonable rail option would begin in Alberta. The truck alternatives are similarly unreasonable.

The “No Build” Alternative is not genuinely considered. It is framed as “Continued Use of Existing Line 3” (Chapters 3 and 4), but nowhere is the “Shut Line 3 Down” option considered. There is no discussion of renewable energy, conservation, the rapid development of electric car infrastructure or the decline in oil demand.

There is zero discussion of where all this extra oil will go once it leaves Superior, Wisconsin. We know that they plan to build Line 66 through Ojibwe territories in Wisconsin, but they continue to deny this. Why isn’t MN asking?

The DEIS contains no spill analysis for tributaries of the St. Louis River or Nemadji River, where spills could decimate Lake Superior and the harbors of the Twin Ports.

For calculations of impact, the lifespan of the new Line 3 is estimated at 30 years. But Lines 1–4 are 55-65 years old! And hasn’t the technology improved? The lifespan should be at least 50 years.

The DEIS assumes that the Koch pipelines to MN refineries get all their oil from Line 3, but the current Line 3 does not supply enough capacity for this (390,000 barrels per day), and we know that some of it comes from Line 81, which brings oil from the Bakken in North Dakota.

Spill risk

The 7 sites chosen for spill modeling are not representative of the locations and resources put at risk along the entire corridor. A more thorough analysis of different locations is needed — for example, what about Lake Superior?

The DEIS estimates the annual probability of different kinds of spills on the proposed route: Pinhole leak, 27% (once every 3.7 years); Small Spill, 107% (once every 11 months), Medium, 7.6%, Large, 6.1%; Catastrophic = 1.1% (once every 87 years). So in 50 years, we can expect 14 pinhole leaks, 54 small spills, 4 medium, 3 large, and 1 catastrophic!

Abandonment

The risks of pipeline abandonment are not adequately assessed. For example, there is no discussion of landowner property values and the effect that an abandoned pipe could have on them (Chapter 8).

There is also no discussion of exposed pipe, how fast it will corrode, or how much currently buried pipe will become exposed once it is emptied. (8.3.1).

There is no mention of the abandonment of the other 3 ancient pipelines in Enbridge’s existing mainline corridor (Lines 1, 2, and 4), which we expect Enbridge will very soon attempt to

abandon. Nor is there any discussion of the abandonment of the NEW Line 3 in 50-60 years.

The DEIS states that it will be very risky to remove and clean up the existing Line 3 because the pipelines are very close together. (8.3.1). This is not consistent with our extensive observations and physical measurements on the land. Also, don’t they dig up pieces of pipe for maintenance purposes all the time? Why is it suddenly risky?

The DEIS simply states that “Enbridge has indicated that it would develop a contaminated sites management plan to identify, manage and mitigate historically contaminated soils and waters” found during the abandonment or removal of the existing Line 3 (8.3.1.1.1). We want to see that plan.

Construction and restoration

Chapter 2, “Project Description” states that Enbridge has requested a 750-foot route width (375 feet on each side of the Line 3 Replacement pipeline centerline). (2.1) Is Enbridge using this permit to prepare the area for more pipes in the future?

Their “restoration” plans for restoring the landscape around the corridor after installation is laughable. Enbridge’s process for restoring wetlands includes dumping the now compacted (and probably de-watered) soil back in the trench, sowing some oats and “letting nature take its course.” This is not how you re-establish a wetland.

Cathodic protection, which applies electric current to the pipeline in order to protect it from corrosion caused by nearby utility lines, will not be installed for up to 1 year after pipeline construction (2.3.2.3).

Economic impacts

Chapter 5, “Existing Conditions, Impacts, and Mitigation” states that Line 3 will create ZERO permanent jobs. (5.3.4).

Also in Chapter 5, the DOC assumes “all workers would re-locate to the area” and ZERO construction jobs will go to Minnesotans. (5.3.4).

The DEIS does not acknowledge that when the existing Line 3 shuts down, Enbridge will stop paying taxes to the MN counties along the mainline corridor.

Climate change

Line 3’s direct and indirect emissions alone would be 453,000 tons of CO₂ per year. Over a 50-year lifespan, that would cost society an estimated \$1.1 billion. (Executive Summary p.18).

The lifecycle emissions of Line 3 would be 193 million tons of CO₂ each year. Over a 50-year lifespan, that would cost society an estimated \$478 billion (5.2.7.3).

The DEIS does not discuss the unprecedented challenges of human casualty, displacement, conflict, natural disaster, biodiversity loss, etc., that climate change is causing, or the consensus from the scientific community that we must leave fossil fuels in the ground. It also fails to acknowledge that across the planet, Indigenous people are disproportionately impacted.

Other ways to take action

- Divest. Withdraw your money from the banks funding the pipeline. See MazaskaTalks.org or mazaskatalks.org/take-action/.
- Write. Letters to the editor and op-eds can be extremely effective. If you have a knack for writing, submit to local publications in your community.
- Attend public hearings. Let elected officials and Enbridge representatives see their opposition!
- Call. Governor Dayton can be reached at 651-201-3400. You can also call: your local officials, county commissioners and state and US senators and representatives.
- Host an event. If you have questions or need support, contact us at info@honorearth.org.

Stay engaged with the movement to #StopLine3: Website: StopLine3.org; Facebook: [Stop Line 3](https://www.facebook.com/StopLine3); Instagram: [@StopLine3](https://www.instagram.com/StopLine3).



MOCCASIN TELEGRAPH

Our Relationship with the Environment

By: Lee 'Obizaan' Staples

This column was originally published in the Mille Lacs Messenger as part of the Moccasin Telegraph series.

Aaniin. I am Lee Staples, an Elder of the Mille Lacs Band. I think the value of this column is to share some of our Anishinaabe teachings, because I believe we all need to have an appreciation for each other's cultures. Today, I'd like to share some of our teachings about the environment.

Indian people have a close relationship with the environment. For example, there is our relationship with Mille Lacs Lake. We recognize the lake as having a spirit, a power much greater than any human being, that we acknowledge. In our ceremonies, offerings are given to that spirit within the lake. When I was a child, the old people who raised me told me to make my offering of tobacco before I went out on Mille Lacs Lake or any of the other lakes. They told me, "Remember that there is a spirit or a power out in that lake that we need to respect as a people."

When we go out to fish, we do the very same thing — we make an offering before we go out on the lake. And before we go out to harvest wild rice on the lake, we do the same thing.

So we have a strong relationship with those powers within the lake, and therefore we don't want to hurt the lake or the fish that are there. We are taught as a people to take only what we need, and maybe sometimes take some to share with others from the community who don't have any. We are taught to stay away from greed.

We have a similar relationship with everything in the environment. The trees, for example. There is a spirit within those trees that we call Mitigwaabi wi inini. That would probably translate into English as "bow man." Years ago, when the trees were used to build wigwams, the people would do an offering before they cut the trees, to respect that spirit in the trees. This is a practice that is continued to this day.

The same is true of the earth. We believe there's a power within the earth, in the center of the earth, that we do our offerings to — even to this day. For example, we have done offerings for new projects on the reservation, like the Conoco gas station in Aazhoomog, near Hinckley. Before that project started, the Band had me come out there, and we did an offering of tobacco and food, especially for the earth where they were going to be digging and the trees that were going to be cut.

Our relationship with everything in the environment is an important part of our teachings. Our ancestors lived off the land, and so we had a lot of respect for things in the wild. There are foods we were given as a people to eat — the berries, the wild rice, the fish, the venison, the rabbits. We were taught to respect all of this.

If you take a look at environmental issues like pollution, I believe it would be good for people to learn from us. By sharing our appreciation and respect for the environment, I think it can help this world in the long run.

Continued from page 2.

With the help of the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indians Affairs, Congress passed the IRA for a number of reasons. The United States was in the middle of the Great Depression, and President Roosevelt and Congress enacted the "New Deal" to create growth within the American economy. The IRA is often considered the Indian equivalent to the New Deal in that the IRA also sought to create economic growth on reservations.

The most important component of the IRA vital to tribal economic growth focused on reversing the allotment policy of the General Allotment Act of 1887. The General Allotment Act opened reservations to non-Indian settlement. It resulted in disastrous consequences for tribes, as it reduced total Indian land holdings throughout the country by two-thirds. This led to the term "checkerboard reservations": reservations that consist of sometimes enormous amounts of non-Indian land sporadically located throughout them.

The IRA permitted tribes to organize under federal law, and, in exchange, the IRA would give tribes the power to stop tribal members from selling their lands to non-Indians. The IRA also permitted tribes to draft constitutions. However, those constitutions required the Secretary of Interior's approval. After organizing under the IRA, tribes could borrow money from the federal government and lend that money to tribal members who wanted to start their own businesses or otherwise put their lands to productive economic use. The IRA first required each tribe to hold elections to determine whether to organize under the IRA. Out of 258 tribes, 181 voted to organize under the IRA.

The six Tribes voted to organize under the IRA in 1936 and create the MCT for the purpose of stopping land loss within their reservations and to receive federal funds for economic growth. Red Lake, on the other hand, voted to reject the IRA so that it could continue to govern itself traditionally.

What issues does the MCT face in relation to the Band?

There are primarily three issues that have arisen over the past year that raise questions regarding the MCT's and the Band's authority. The first issue deals with the Band's authority to operate under a division of powers form of government. This is not the first time the TEC has questioned the Band's form of government. In 1983, a Department of Interior Field Solicitor issued a memorandum concluding that the Band's form of government did not violate the MCT Constitution, including the Band's decision to refer to its Chairperson as Chief Executive and give the Secretary-Treasurer the additional title of Speaker of the Assembly. However, some members of the Band, members of the five other Bands, and of the TEC continue to question whether it is constitutional.

The second issue is the Band's current moratorium on transfer enrollments. The Band imposed a moratorium

in 2005 that prevents members from the other five Tribes from transferring their enrollment to Mille Lacs. The Band imposed the moratorium in response to a sudden rise in transfer enrollments following the Band's economic success from its casinos at Mille Lacs and in Hinckley. The Band imposed the moratorium because the sudden enrollment growth would decrease the quality of services provided to Band members.

The third issue is the upcoming constitutional convention. Some TEC members have called for a constitutional convention to occur within the next year to reform the current Constitution. The goals of the constitutional convention include not only addressing the first two issues, but also include addressing what additional governmental powers the MCT should have.

Why do these issues matter to Band members?

Each of these issues could have a profound impact on the Band's future, and it is important that Band members participate in the debate as to each of them so their voices can be heard and help determine that future.

The Band defends its division of powers government because Band members decided in the 1970's that governmental power should not be centralized in one five-member committee. The Band members of that time decided to divide governmental power between the five RBC members to prevent against abuses of power. In response to the current challenges against the Band's form of government, some Band members have expressed a desire that the Band should separate from the MCT to preserve the Band's sovereignty and advance the Band's self-determination.

Band members also have expressed concerns regarding enrollments. Some Band members' children have been denied enrollment because their children's blood quantum does not meet the MCT Constitution's one-quarter MCT blood quantum requirement. Many of these members have children with members of Tribes other than the six MCT Tribes and feel that their children should be enrolled because they are Indian children. Other Band members support the Band's moratorium and oppose the MCT's current proposal to expand upon the current MCT blood requirement to include all Ojibwe blood in the one-quarter requirement.

There is also disagreement amongst TEC members regarding the relationship between the MCT and the six Tribes. Some TEC members argue that the MCT is the only Tribe and that the six Tribes are not sovereign Tribes by themselves. The opposing viewpoint is that the six Tribes retain all aspects of sovereignty not delegated to the MCT through the 1936 vote to organize under the IRA and adoption of the MCT Constitution.

The Office of the Chief Executive encourages Band members to attend and participate in all upcoming MCT meetings. For more information regarding the Constitution's structure, the Constitution is available for download on millelacsband.com under the "Statutes" link.



Urban Area Students Recognized

Anangoog Nandone is an Incentive Program for K-12 children in the urban schools. Thirty-three students applied, of which 26 were eligible; many attended the Dinner and Awards Ceremony on June 19, 2017, enjoying dinner from Pizza Luce, salad, cake, ice cream, and refreshments. Photographs were taken by family and by Toya Stewart Downey. Congrats to all the students and to the families who support their children!

Safety Awareness Month

In recognition of Safety Awareness Month in June, Mille Lacs Band officials engaged in several activities preparing themselves and our communities for emergencies.



Staying Safe, Being Prepared in Summer Months

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer

While everyone loves the warm temperatures and long summer days, it's also important to keep yourself and your family out of harm's way, say safety experts.

At a recent meeting held in the urban area, the Band's Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Monte Fronk, joined a Minneapolis firefighter and a representative from the National Weather Service to share tips and answer questions about summer safety.

"We focused on summer preparedness," said Monte, who also offered to teach first aid and CPR/AED classes in the urban area for those who are interested.

Both cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED) are used in emergencies for a person who might be in cardiac arrest.

Minneapolis firefighter Cassidy Anderson discussed safety measures for outdoor cooking. He shared advice on where grills should be placed to avoid fire dangers to homes. He also discussed where fire pits should be located to reduce injury and to keep homes safe.

Todd Krause, from the National Weather Service, addressed severe weather and shared the importance of adhering to the outdoor sirens if you hear them. He urged Band members to keep a weather radio inside their homes since the outdoor sirens can be difficult to hear.

Todd also talked about the difference between a severe weather warning and a severe weather watch. The decision, he said, is made by the weather service. He also provided tips on where to shelter if you're not at home or don't have a basement.

Monte reminded attendees about the free smoke alarm program that the Tribal Police Department offers for privately-owned Band member homes in all the Districts and urban area.

Band member Dawne Stewart said she was grateful for the program and that Monte was able to add the smoke detectors to her home.

"It was on my to-do list to get alarms for my house, but like other people, I procrastinated about getting it done," said Dawne.

Alarms for hearing-impaired Band members who own their homes are also available. Monte also shared fire prevention and home preparedness information with attendees.

Red Cross Volunteers Bring Sheltering Workshop to District I

A Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant from the Minnesota Department of Health provided training for 35 Mille Lacs Band employees to respond to an emergency that would force Band members to seek shelter in community centers.

All four community centers are equipped as emergency shelters thanks to another grant that funded installation of backup generators.

The Band has seen weather emergencies in recent years, including a windstorm in District III and flooding in District II. Tornadoes, snowstorms and other unpredictable disasters make it essential for Minnesota communities to prepare, which is why most counties and tribes in the state have applied for and received Emergency Preparedness grants.

Six Red Cross volunteers came from around the region May 23 to conduct the sheltering workshop. Participants learned about intake procedures, registration, security and safety, as well as how to set up regular cots and cots for those with special needs.

The Band has an agreement with the Red Cross to support the Band's sheltering efforts by bringing cots and other equipment, but the Band would operate the shelters with limited support.

Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk and Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Safety Program Manager Hannah Schiemann organized the training with support from Health and Human Services Administration.

Hannah said the "hands-on" aspect of the training helps the

knowledge sink in. "It's important that we're not just talking about it, but actually physically doing it," she said.

According to Monte, training HHS staff to operate shelters makes sense. "They know our communities, so it's really great to give them more knowledge of what their roles would be in a sheltering environment."

Ken Vertin, a Red Cross volunteer from Cross Lake, said the workshops really help in the event of an emergency. Not only do participants know what to expect, but they also get to know Red Cross volunteers who might be called in to help.

Volunteer John Lapakko said, "It's all about building connections."

Both John and Ken had careers in the medical field and now volunteer with the Red Cross around the country.

The Red Cross has one employee for every 200 volunteers, John said. "It's about the proper use of donor dollars, making sure the money goes to clients, not staff."



Thirty-four employees of the Health and Human Services Department took part in the Sheltering Workshop on May 23.

Emergency Response Committee Prepares for Wildfire

The "Master of Disaster" came to Mille Lacs June 13 to meet with the Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) for an exercise intended to prepare the community in the event of a wildfire.

Jason Kern of the Minnesota DNR's Division of Forestry is an Army and National Guard vet with a wealth of experience in disaster training and incident response. He used a sand table and a "toy kit" of cars, trees, black yarn for roads, red yarn for fire, and cotton balls for smoke.

"People learn better through visual scenarios," Jason said.

As TERC members gathered around the sand table, which was set up to map the Bugg Hill area in District I, Jason laid out the storyline: drought conditions, hot fall weather, a stiff wind, and a small wildfire moving in the direction of Band members' houses.

"Where don't we want a fire?" Jason asked. "That's where I put the fire."

A wildfire that threatens homes or other buildings is known in the business as a "wildland-urban interface" or "WUI," Ja-

son said. As the scenario unfolded, the fire grew and moved in the direction of 15 homes.

Among the questions considered as the story developed: Who will be in charge? Where will the TERC be set up? When will support be called in from other agencies and the Red Cross? When will evacuation be needed? Where will road blocks and emergency shelters be set up? Who is responsible for evacuation and first aid? What if someone refuses to evacuate? When will elected officials be notified? What about pets?

Jason emphasized that there are no right or wrong answers but encouraged TERC members (commissioners and other staff) to use their imaginations and their knowledge of the community and government to determine the best course of action.

"We use the sand table because in this environment we can fail," Jason said. "If we learn from our failures here, we can avoid those mistakes when a real incident happens."

Jason complimented the Band and the TERC for taking the



Commissioners and other staff who make up the Tribal Emergency Response Committee attended the sand table exercise in District I June 13.

time to plan for the worst. He also praised the Mille Lacs Band DNR's fire crew and Supervisor Dean Staples for their professionalism. "Your guys are top notch," he said. "We work cooperatively well. From a wildland firefighting perspective, you've done a great job."

National News Briefs

North American Tribes Sign Declaration and Protest Keystone XL Pipeline: Many North American tribes united to sign a declaration against the Keystone XL pipeline after the suspended project was approved by the Trump Administration. The 16-page document outlines tribal treaty rights, and the tribal opposition to the 1,700-mile pipeline that will carry tar sands oil. The tribes are considering setting up protest camps along the Keystone XL's path and sending the document to the United Nations in hopes of gaining their support.

Trump's Budget Proposal Will Cut Funding for American Indian Programs: President Trump has released his budget proposal, which contains deep cuts to American Indian related programs. Trump called into question in early May the necessity of the federal government providing funding for programs such as Native American Housing Block Grants at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and minority programs for sister institutions to Tribal Colleges and Universities. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said that the Trump budget proposal "supports Indian trust responsibilities with focus on self-government, self-determination and sovereignty," but the White House has not responded to multiple questions on Indian affairs and funding issues.

Native American Actor Speaks Blackfoot in New Wonder Woman Film: Native Americans rarely see accurate portrayals of Native people in comic films, but the new film from DC Comics and Warner Brothers aimed to change that. In the new feature film *Wonder Woman*, Eugene Brave Rock's character 'Chief' spoke Blackfoot and introduced himself to Wonder Woman as Napi, the Blackfoot demigod who is known as a trickster and storyteller. Director Patty Jenkins gave Brave Rock full permission to choose what he wore and what he spoke so that he wouldn't be misrepresented in the film. Brave Rock's role in the film was significant, in hopes of bringing awareness and respect of the American Indian culture to a wide audience.

Hearings Scheduled for Potential Fines Over the Dakota Access: Two hearings have been scheduled in August to discuss potential fines for Energy Transfer Partners in regards to the Dakota Access Pipeline. The first hearing will be held on August 16 to discuss the disturbance of tribal artifacts and the decision to wait 10 days before reporting the disturbed artifacts to the state. The second hearing will be held on August 17 to discuss the removal of too many trees and shrubs. The company could face up to \$400,000 in fines if they are convicted of violating state rules.

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Awarded for Fight Against Dakota Access: The Wallace Global Fund awarded the inaugural Henry A. Wallace Award to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe for their fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline and their continued efforts to increase reliance on renewable energy. The tribe received a \$250,000 prize along with up to \$1 million in investments to fund the transition from fossil fuels and accelerate renewable energy projects on the reservation.

Senators Call for Equal Access to Social Security for Tribal Leaders: U.S. Senators John Thune and Maria Cantwell introduced the "Tribal Social Security Fairness Act" to give tribal governments the option to contribute to Social Security and also receive Social Security benefits. The legislation is supported by the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, the National Congress of American Indians, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, and the Quinault Indian Nation.

2017 Grand Celebration Powwow

Chad Germann Photographer





State and Local News Briefs

Remains Discovered in Fond Du Lac Neighborhood During MnDOT Construction:

Human remains were discovered at a historic settlement and cemetery in the Fond Du Lac neighborhood of Duluth during a construction project. MnDOT did not consult the Fond Du Lac Band before starting construction. After discovering the remains, MnDOT released a statement saying they are "deeply disappointed that these agencies did not uphold their legal obligation to protect a sacred site." The Band has not yet confirmed whether the remains belonged to the burial site, but MnDOT plans to do a full archeological investigation.

Dakota Community Dismantles Controversial Art Sculpture:

A sculpture entitled "Scaffold," which was to be part of the renovated Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, has been dismantled after inciting controversy. The Dakota people and their allies criticized the sculpture, which was based in part on the design of the gallows used to execute 38 Dakota men in Mankato in 1862, saying that it represented a painful history that non-Native Minnesotans have long ignored. The sculpture was dismantled in a four-day ceremony that was overseen by Dakota tribal elders. Dakota elders are now deciding what to do with the wood fragments from the sculpture, and may hold a ceremonial burning of the wood.

Leader of Drug Conspiracy That Targeted Reservations Pleads Guilty:

Omar Sharif Beasley, 39, a drug kingpin who worked with an organization to traffic large amounts of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and prescription narcotics through both the Red Lake and the White Earth reservations was sentenced to 25 years in federal prison. The distribution network funneled drugs from Detroit, Chicago and Minneapolis to communities in and near the Minnesota Indian reservations. The presiding U.S. District Judge sentenced Beasley to nearly five years more than the government had requested. The co-conspirators had sentences ranging from probation to 10 years in prison.

MN DNR Announces New Review of Mille Lacs Management:

A nationwide group of fisheries scientists will evaluate the Department of Natural Resources' walleye assessment and management methods on Mille Lacs Lake after some resort owners have questioned the DNR's low walleye population estimates. The group wrote to Governor Mark Dayton to request a meeting to discuss Mille Lacs Management. The Governor plans to meet with the group this summer. Last summer the walleye catch and release season was closed in early September after anglers exceeded the walleye harvest by 28,600 pounds of walleye.

Interested in submitting to the *Inaajimowin*?

Send your submissions and birthday announcements to Myles Gorham at myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653.

The August issue deadline is July 15.

5th Annual Adopt-a-Shoreline Clean-Up Effort on Lake Mille Lacs

The 5th annual Adopt-a-Shoreline (AAS) clean-up effort took place on Thursday, June 1 around the shores of Lake Mille Lacs.

With a combined effort of more than 40 volunteers, more than 1,200 lbs. of trash was collected from various shorelines and disposed of properly. The trash “treasures” included a car bumper, a milk carton, a snowmobile belt, two dinner plates, two mud flaps, two feet of snow fencing, four tires, plastic bags and wooden blocks.

The event ran from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. As soon as volunteers filled their bags, they brought them to one of the designated drop-off sites: Malmo Park, Garrison Public Access, Shaw-Bosh-Kung Bay and Eddy’s Resort. Gloves, trash bags and trash disposal were provided by Grand Casino. Supplies were made available at each of the sponsor locations throughout the day.

Even though more than 1,200 lbs. was collected this year, many groups reported seeing less garbage compared to past years, but an increase of larger items. “The amount of actual garbage along the shoreline was less than half of what I have picked up in recent years,” said Kim Big Bear, a 5th year volunteer. “I don’t remember seeing as many tires or larger items in past years as I did this year, however.”

Organizers of the event created a website, adoptmillelacs.com, to help spread the word about the effort. Their hope is to continue to get more volunteers involved in keeping

the shorelines of Mille Lacs Lake clean and inspire others to consider the impact of trash washed ashore after the winter ice out. Interested area residents can also check out the website next spring for more information about next year’s Adopt-a-Shoreline event.

A special thank you to this year’s Adopt-a-Shoreline sponsors: Grand Casino Mille Lacs, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, the Mille Lacs Tourism Council, The Wharf Resort, Twin Pines Resort, Sandelands Realty and Eddy’s Resort.

Adopt-a-Shoreline

The Adopt-a-Shoreline program was started by Grand Casino Mille Lacs in 2013. The need for a clean-up effort was evident in the form of trash and debris following ice out each spring. The program has grown into a community-wide event as Grand Casino has been joined by new partners around the lake including community members, individuals, organizations and area businesses that help



Community Development Commissioner Percy Benjamin and Deputy Solicitor General Adam Candler were among the volunteers who cleaned the shore of Mille Lacs on June 1.

make this program a success. The goal of the program is not only to increase the number of volunteers each year to help keep the shoreline clean, but to also educate and inspire others to think about the impact of the trash in or around Lake Mille Lacs.

Leadership Conference Addresses Culture, Communication

Executives, directors and other leaders from tribal affiliations, business and organizations across the country descended upon Grand Casino Hinckley June 19–21 as Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures hosted its second annual National Leadership Development Conference.

The conference, whose theme was “Discover Your Potential, Embrace Your Leadership Legacy,” came just two weeks after MLCV held a similar internally-focused conference for Associates working at Band-owned businesses.

“As a tribe, it is critical that we invest in developing the leadership skills of our people,” said Joe Nayquonabe, Jr., Commis-

sioner of Corporate Affairs. “Hosting leadership conferences that bring new ideas and build our internal leadership capacity within our businesses strengthens our ability to lead through changing times, and sharpens our leadership skills for future generations of the Band.”

The NLDC conference is in its second year and this year saw more than 400 people attend, a significant increase from past years.

Notable speakers included keynotes by Morris Morrison and Eric Chester, and included sessions by guest speakers from other tribes, including Justin Huenemann, owner of Notah Begay III

Foundation and citizen of Navajo Nation, and Dirk Whitebreast, a suicide prevention advocate and gaming executive from the Meskwaki Nation. The conference master of ceremonies was FOX 9 Chief Meteorologist Ian Leonard, and WCCO’s Roshini Rajkumar moderated a panel. Speakers from MLCV included Nayquonabe, along with Bob Schlichte.

Speaker topics ranged across many aspects of leadership but primarily focused on core skills related to transforming work culture, becoming a better communicator, developing work/life balance and making work more fun.

Commissioners Discuss Concerns with District III Band Members

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Six commissioners and Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin came to the Hinckley Assisted Living Units on Monday, June 12, for an Executive Branch meeting attended by a dozen District III residents.

The Executive Branch has been holding meetings every other month in each District: I, II, Ila, III and the Urban Area.

Community Development Commissioner Percy Benjamin talked about the Hinckley Community Center, which is expected to open in October. He called it a state-of-the-art facility that will be more impressive than anything in the area. He also said there is an opportunity to help pay the bills by opening the facility to the wider community.

The Community Center project was initiated by District III Rep. Harry Davis, who also helped with the planning. It was approved by the Band Assembly and Chief Executive.

Health and Human Services Commissioner Samuel Moose reported that Pine County Human Services Director Rebecca Foss and the office of Congressman Rick Nolan were impressed by the Heroin and Opioids conference held in May at Grand Casino Hinckley. He said they are asking the Band to help plan a similar conference on mental health. “Kudos to everyone who was involved,” Sam said.

Conversation ranged from housing to education to crime and drugs. One Band member asked why people can continue to live in Band housing when everyone knows they’re using and dealing drugs.

Percy said the Community Development Department is doing a good job of filtering out those who don’t qualify for housing, and

they are attempting to transition from rentals to home ownership. He said there is an eviction process, but it is difficult to evict someone unless a major crime occurs.

Melanie explained that the Housing Department and Tribal Police can’t evict or arrest anyone based on hearsay, but they need evidence. Otherwise it’s a violation of rights. She said Percy and other commissioners are doing all they can, but it’s the community’s responsibility to report crime. Unfortunately, many community members are unwilling to turn in neighbors or relatives for fear that the children may be affected or someone they know may lose their home. “That’s the dilemma we’ve had over the years,” Melanie said.

Another community member asked Education Commissioner Ed Minnema about Home Economics classes at Nay Ah Shing, saying it’s important that kids learn to cook and sew. Ed said the main campus in District I had added a home ec room that all students spent time in this year. He also said Pine Grove Leadership Academy is adding a state-of-the-art kitchen that can be used to help students learn to cook.

Another Band member asked if the new Hinckley Community Center could house a teen pregnancy prevention program. Sam replied that the Health and Human Services Department has identified teen pregnancy as a critical issue and is working to address the problem. Ed said HHS employees have been coming to Nay Ah Shing regularly to teach about healthy relationships.

In response to a complaint about lack of communication from Band government, former Commissioner of Administration Cather-

ine Colsrud came to the defense of her former colleagues, saying commissioners are busy with many meetings and are not always able to take phone calls. “They are not going to fix things for us,” she said. “They need our help.”

Sam said it’s the government’s responsibility to offer Band members opportunities, but what they do with those opportunities is up to them and their community. “Our tribe has done an incredible job providing people with things, but that opportunity can be enabling, or assisting. We definitely want to assist our people to reach their full potential, and our tribe does it so well, we sometimes cross over into enabling.”



Commissioners Shelly Diaz, Percy Benjamin, Sam Moose, Ed Minnema, Michele Palomaki and Bradley Harrington attended the June 12 Executive Branch meeting at the Hinckley ALU, along with Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin.

Memorial Weekend Features Film, Music, Art, Powwow

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The Mille Lacs Indian Museum took its Memorial Day tradition a step further this year, adding an American Indian music fest to the Amvets Powwow, art market and the film festival.

Site Manager Travis Zimmerman said he's been expanding offerings to fill up the weekend with events, and this year it paid off in good attendance and a strong mix of talent.

"For the first time putting all these events together, it went seamlessly with no issues or problems," Travis said. "Everyone had a good time, and the weather cooperated."

Travis focused on bringing a local angle to each event. The music festival kicked off with Pete Gahbow and Arlyn Sam playing drum songs and Max Blake playing the flute.

Also on the bill were rapper Thomas X from Red Lake, who shared moving memories of the Red Lake shooting, and folk-singer Annie Humphrey of Leech Lake, who was joined by her grandson, who accompanied her with a hand drum.

Travis said Dawn Day's frybread, which was sold during the event, was an added draw, especially for local Band members.

The film festival was also well received. Travis attempted to highlight stories from different reservations, but he wanted to start out with another local connection: a film on sugarbushing produced by Nay Ah Shing students. The "executive director," Sophie LaDue, came to the festival and talked about the film.

The festival also included "Reclaiming sacred tobacco," "Coyote Way," "Waabooz," "Awake, A Dream from Standing Rock," and animated films by Jonathan Thunder of Red Lake.

The artists at the Art Market, which ran throughout the weekend, included Pat Kruse, Josef Reiter, Cynthia Holmes, Denise Lajimodiere, Marlene Fairbanks and Tawny Druar.

"It was a really nice turnout," said Travis, who has been with the Museum for nine years — making him one of the longest-serving site managers. "Last year we had mixed results, but we raised more money this year and had an anonymous donation that helped us to promote it."

The music festival was sponsored by the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends Indian Committee and Mille Lacs Energy Community Trust. The film festival was sponsored by the Harriet Thwing Holden Fund for American Indian History.



Chameleon 5K — Rainbow of Color at Rice Lake Refuge

Brett Larson Staff Writer

The Third Annual Chameleon 5K run/walk traveled to District II in the pristine setting of Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

The event is made possible through the Mille Lacs Band's Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) grant and organized by SHIP Coordinator Darla Roache.

At the Twin Lakes parking lot, 135 runners and walkers counted down with Darla and another 15 staff and spectators. On the word "Go!" they tossed their colored cornstarch in the air and headed off down the road, where they were met each quarter-mile by more clouds of color — green, yellow, purple and orange.

By the time they finished the 5K course, their shirts, skin and hair were covered, and their exercise had earned them a medal and a meal.

The medals, provided by the Tobacco Prevention program, were adorned with the Mille Lacs Band and Chameleon Run logos, and "Keep Tobacco Sacred" printed on the lanyards.

"It was a beautiful day, and we couldn't have asked for better weather," Darla said. "I'm happy to report that there were no injuries to any of the participants."

"I would like to send a special thanks to Byron Ninham and the Niigaan staff, Wraparound staff, and Public Health staff for

their help and support of the Chameleon 5k events," Darla said. "And thank you to all those that were able to attend. It was a great turnout!"

Although the event was non-competitive, Jeff Boyd of Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy finished first for the third straight year.

Jada, Jason and Bly Wind of Nay Ah Shing were three of the top five finishers, giving new meaning to the old saying "run like the wind."



District II Student Headed to Indigenous Games

Brett Larson Staff Writer

Shinaana Secody, daughter of Mille Lacs Band employee Vanessa Benjamin and stepdaughter of Band member Tom Benjamin, will be taking her talents to Toronto this summer as a member of the Minnesota Indigenous Games basketball team.

The games take place July 16–23. Mille Lacs Band member Reuben Gibbs will also be playing in the tournament. (For a story on Reuben, see next month's *Inaajimowin*.)

"Champions are willing to do what they hate to get what they love."

Shinaana, who will be a junior at McGregor High School, has been playing ball for fun since she was a fifth-grader in Wisconsin, but started taking it more seriously in eighth grade.

Her 20-year-old brother Archie got her interested in the game. "He's my motivation. I ask myself 'What would Archie want me to do?'" said Shinaana. "I remember seeing him play a lot, and he started to make me play. Everybody started telling me all these good things, so I kept playing."

She admits that her freshman year was tough. "I would get down on myself if I made a mistake," she recalled. "Somebody told me the team needs me, and when I got down on myself it didn't help."

This past year she felt closer to her teammates and things improved. She also became more comfortable playing point guard as well as wing. Her highlight was scoring 20 points two games in a row.

She's a little nervous about playing with some talented Red Lake girls who will be on her team — but she won't be intimidated. "My brother used to make me play with grown-up guys, and I still do at the center. If I can play with them, I can play with those girls."

Shinaana's mom, Vanessa, is supportive — sometimes a little too much so. "She comes to all the games, brings signs and yells a little too loud," Shinaana joked. Vanessa said she's

always surprised by how subdued the other parents are and likes to try to get them going.

"Both my kids, with any kind of sport, are naturally athletic," she said. "I told them you can do whatever you want. She wants to be in the WNBA, so I tell her 'Play your hardest because you never know who's watching.'"

Although most of her friends are Lynx fans, Shinaana's favorite player is Candace Parker of the L.A. Sparks.

The WNBA is a lofty goal, but Shinaana has demonstrated the work ethic it takes to be successful.

Vanessa lets her know it's her responsibility to put in the effort. "I told her 'You're not a little kid anymore. You know what you need to do. I'm not gonna treat you like a baby. If you don't get good grades you can't be on the basketball team.' And she does, she gets good grades."

"Last year I had to sit out 2 or 3 games," Shinaana said. "I told myself I wasn't gonna let that happen again."

This spring she played softball, and this summer she's staying in shape by playing summer ball and working out with her coach and teammates, or playing with the guys at the Community Center. In the fall she'll be playing volleyball to stay active.

"I'm gonna force myself to do things that make me better," she said. "Champions are willing to do what they hate to get what they love."



Shinaana practices at home, at East Lake Community Center and at McGregor High School — anywhere there's a hoop, a ball, and some tough competition.

Nay Ah Shing Meets Goals, Raises Bar for Next Year

Nay Ah Shing School met their academic goals for 2016–2017, and they're aiming even higher for next year.

According to Academic Coach Roger Nieboer, test results show that the school made significant progress over the last year. In math, the percentage of students reaching their growth goal rose from 45.9 in 2015–16 to 50.5 this past year. In reading, the increase was from 50 to 57.6 percent.

Next year's goal is for 52 percent of students to meet their growth projection in math and 60 percent in reading. "We want to improve every year, but we also want our goals to be attainable," Roger said.

The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) requires that Nay Ah Shing assess student achievement three times per year using Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) MAP testing.

NWEA is a private, non-profit organization started by a group of teachers in Seattle who were not happy with standardized tests because they weren't delivering results they could use.

What Roger likes about NWEA tests is that they focus on each student's growth and give teachers concrete data to cater curriculum to their students' needs. "It's a lot of testing, but the good thing is we can use the results," Roger said. "Teachers have been trained to use the data to provide individualized instruction."

Growth projections are based on MAP data gathered from millions of kids who take the test, giving teachers a clear picture of where students are, where they should be and how to get there.

Principal Noah Johnson also prefers the NWEA tests to the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) tests required by No Child Left Behind (NCLB), which focus on proficiency — all students meeting a grade-level standard — rather than growth.

"The MAP tests are a true means of finding out where kids are at," Noah said. "We can also use the NWEA with our Odysseyware program to match curriculum to students' needs."

The Every Student Succeeds Act that replaced NCLB represents a shift away from standards toward individual student growth. "I think that's a fairer way to judge a school and the kids, and it's actually more helpful and informative for the school and the community," Roger said.

Noah is pleased with the progress the school is making. "You can look at our kindergarten results and they're off the charts," he said. "Eighty percent of our kids are not just meeting but exceeding proficiency. That's definitely encouraging for anyone looking at enrolling their kids. I'd put those numbers up with anybody's."

He said Nay Ah Shing is fortunate to have Roger on staff to help teachers

make sense of test data and use the results in the classroom. "Not every school has an academic coach," Noah said. "We've benefitted greatly by having Roger here."



Nay Ah Shing fifth graders were honored with a graduation celebration on June 1.

Gikendandaa i'iw Ojibwemowin — Learn the Ojibwe Language

Reprinted from *Portage Lake: Memories of an Ojibwe Childhood*, by the late Maude Kegg, edited and transcribed by John D. Nichols. University of Minnesota Press.

Mikinaakoosag

Mewinza Gabekanaansing ingii-taamin. Miish a'aw ni-noshenh, bezhig wa'aw ninoshenh, "Adaawewigamigong izhaadaa," ikido. Miish wii-wiiji'iweyaan. Niwii-wiijiwaa adaawewigamigong izhaad. Ziinzibaakwadoons iko nimiinig a'aw Waandane gii-inaa a'aw adaawewinini.

Niwenda-ondendam wii-wiiji'iweyaan gaa-pi-izhi-wiiji-wag. Waasa ingii-izhaamin ingoji go naanan maagizhaa gaye ingodwaaswi diba'igan.

Miish eta go miinawaa imaa gezikwendamaan imaa inibimoseyaang miikana, odaabaanikana. Mii eta go eniginid a'aw odaabaan. Inzhaashaaginizide gaye, basikawaanagwaa ingiw asiniinsag imaa ani-bimoseyaan.

Baanimaa go imaa gaa-bimooded mikinaakoos en-da-agaashiinyi. Mii imaa izhi-inaabiyaan indigo naa gaa-wa-noodewaad mikinaakoosag. Mii go bijinag gii-paashkaawe'owaad.

"Wewiib," ikido aabanaabamid, "jibwaa-onaagoshig ji-dagoshinaang iwidi endaayaang."

"Gaawiin," indinaa, "niwii-naganaasiig ingiw mikinaakoosag. Dibi ge-izhaawaagwen."

Enda-nishkaadizi. "Wiiwegin imaa gigoodaazhishing! Maa-migin! Zaaga'iganiing ga-ani-izhaamin," ikido.

Mii imaa endazhitaayaan maamiginagwaa baabii'id imaa, maamiginagwaa ingoji go nisimidana, niibowa sa go mikinaakoosag, imaa ingoodaazheninghishig ezhi-wiiweginagwaa, bimoseyaang.

Gomaapii dash igo azhigwa geget zaaga'igan imaa ayaamagad. "Mii imaa o-bagidin," ikido, "mii ingiw mikinaakoosag." Mii ini-bimoseyaang gaa-izhi-izhaayaang imaa jiigi-biig, miish imaa bebezhiig ezhi-bagidinagwaa imaa nibiikaang. "Ingosaag ji-gibwanaabaawewaad."

"Gaawiin," ikido, "mii imaa endazhiikewaad ingiw mikinaakwag," ikido. Miish ezhi-bagidinagwaa imaa bebezhiig, ganawaabamagwaa maamaajikwazhiwewaad. Enda-wawiyadendaagoziwag.

Mii eta go imaa minik gezikwendamaan.

The Little Snapping Turtle

Long ago we lived at Portage Lake. One of my aunts said, "Let's go to the store." I wanted to go along. I wanted to go with her to the store. The storekeeper, Waandane he was called, used to give me candy.

I was determined to go along, so I went with her. We went a long way, maybe five or six miles.

And then I remember again that we were walking along in the road, the wagon road. It was only as big as a wagon. I was barefoot and kicked the stones as we walked along.

All of a sudden there was a real small turtle crawling along. When I looked there, there were a lot of turtles crawling around. They had just hatched.

"Hurry up," she said turning to look at me, "so we get home before evening."

"No," I told her, "I won't leave these little turtles. I wonder where they are going."

She was just mad. "Wrap them in your skirt! Pick them up! We'll go by a lake on our way," she said.

And so I got busy and picked them up while she waited for

me, picked up about thirty, a whole lot of those turtles, and wrapped them in my little skirt as we walked along.

Sure enough after a while there was a lake. "Go and put those turtles in," she said. As we went by the shore, I released them one-by-one in the water.

"I'm afraid they'll drown."

"No," she said, "that's where snapping turtles live," she said. And so I put them down one-by-one and watched them swim away. They were so cute.

And that's all I remember of that.



Precious Cargo

Emergency Management Coordinator Monte Fronk teamed up with Brittni Tengwall of Wewinabi Early Education to offer a car seat clinic at the bus garage in District I on May 31.

2ND ANNUAL GII-ISHKONIGEWAG POWWOW
JULY 21ST-23RD 2017

GRAND ENTRY: FRIDAY 7PM SATURDAY 1PM & 7PM SUNDAY 1PM
 MC TERRY FIDDLER
 AREANA DIRECTORS
 SHERWAN "STICKMAN" OBEY & DINO SMALLWOOD
 HEAD MAN SHANE MITCHELL
 HEAD WOMAN ILIANA MONTOYA

POWWOW COMMITTEE 18+ DANCE SPECIALS
 MEN'S OLD STYLE GRASS \$500 \$400 \$300
 WOMAN'S FANCY SHAWL \$500 \$400 \$300

POWWOW COMMITTEE 10-17 YOUTH SPECIALS
 10-17 BOYS COMBINED \$300 \$200 \$100
 10-17 GIRLS JINGLE \$300 \$200 \$100

HEAD MAN DANCER SPECIAL:
 MEN'S 18+ WOODLAND \$400 + GIFT \$300 \$200

HEAD WOMAN DANCER SPECIAL:
 WOMAN'S JINGLE 18+\$400 + GIFT \$300 \$200

3 MAN HAND DRUM CONTEST 18+
 \$500 \$400 \$300

3 MAN YOUTH HANDRUM CONTEST
 17 AND UNDER
 1ST JACKETS 2ND HOODIES 3RD SHIRTS

HOST DRUM
 SWAMP NATION
 INVITED DRUMS
 IRON BOY
 BATTLE RIVER
 WAR PAINT
 PIPESTONE
 MIDNITE EXPRESS

LARRY "AMIK" SMALLWOOD
 5 MAN OLD STYLE SINGING CONTEST
 WINNER TAKES ALL \$1000
 STARTS FRIDAY EVENING

WOODLAND RELAY:
 YOUTH - TBD
 18-34 \$500 \$400 \$300
 35+ \$500 \$400 \$300

3 ON 3 CO-ED BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT:
 AGE 12-17: 1ST NIKE ELITE BACKPACK
 2ND DUFFLE-BAG
 3RD DRAW STRING BACK PACKS
 AGE 18+ \$700 \$500 \$300

DAILY PAYOUT FOR DANCERS AND NON INVITED DRUMS
 BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS
 NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL WILL BE TOLERATED
 WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST, STOLEN, OR DAMAGED PROPERTY.

DRUMSPLIT FOR FIRST 10 NON INVITED DRUMS (MINIMUM OF 5 SINGERS)
 POWWOW COMMITTEE CONTACTS:
 DRUM CONTACT: TONY BUCKANAGA 2185651835
 3ON3 & RELAY CONTACT: VITO 2183491055
 VENDOR CONTACT: CHEYENNE PEET 7012780229
 ROYALTY CONTACT: TARIA WHITE 2184291008

LOCATION:
 37736 STATE HIGHWAY 65
 MCGREGOR, MN 55761



Wanted: Youth Powwow Dancers

6-18 years of age

Mille Lacs Band member, or

Direct descendant of a Mille Lacs Band member

Be a contestant

at the

51st Annual Mille Lacs Band Traditional Powwow

Royalty Contest

August 18-20th, 2017

Do you love to dance at powwows?

Would you like to represent your community at other powwows for a year?

Would you like to be a role model for other youth?

If yes, you could be a great candidate to run for Royalty.

Jr. Brave & Jr. Princess - 6-12 years of age

Sr. Brave & Sr. Princess - 13-18 years of age

Deadline to sign up is **August 1, 2017**, but we recommend that you sign up early so you have plenty of time to complete your required hours for Cultural activities.

For more information and application packets please contact: Chasity Gahbow at 320-532-7486

TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

Happy July Birthdays to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Robert Duane Anderson
David Niib Aubid
Cynthia Pauline Backora
Jeffrey Allen Beaulieu
MaryAnn Sophia Belgarde
Faith Caylen Bellecourt
Anita Lynn Benjamin
James Oliver Benjamin
Roberta Joy Benjamin
Donna Marie Boodoo
Lewelyn Gene Boyd
Roxann Lynn Carr
Archie Dahl Cash
Kevin Scott Churchill
Randall Clark
Christine Marie Costello
Gary Lee Davis
Martha Katherine Davis
Michael Wayne Davis
Brian DeSantis
George James Dorr Jr.
Victoria Lynn Dunagan
Rosella Marie Eagle
Donna Lou Gilmore
Karen Harrington
Lawrence Gene Johnson
Loretta Ruth Kalk
Debra Ann Kamimura
Dixie Marie Kamimura
Judith Joan Kanassatega
Vivian Roxanne Kegg
Richard Joseph Keller
Terry Bruce Kemper
Deborah Jean Kersting

Darlene Ann LaFave
Bonita Marie Lucas
Virginia Mann
Brian David Matrious
Lucille Ann Merrill
Meskwanakwad
Doreen Kay Mitchell
Letitia Mitchell
Carol Jean Nickaboine
Alan Michael O'Brien
Debra Ann Olson
Karen Peterson
Joseph Vincent Pawaush
Steven Edward Premo
Daryl Alan Quaderer
Louis T. Quaderer
Elfreda M Sam
Orretta Faye Sharlow
Valerie Jayne Shingobe
Alicia Lydia Skinaway
Geraldine Ellen Skinaway
Loretta June Smith
Andrew Felix St. Clair
Ruth Ann St. John
Glenn Staples
Kevin William Sutton
Patricia Louise Thomas
Jollette Marie Zapf

Happy July Birthdays:

Happy 7th birthday to my neice **Tehlissee!** From Auntie Cilla. • Happy birthday to my beautiful granddaughter **Tehlissee Ann-Louise** who is 7 this year! Love you so very much! From, Grandma. • Happy birthday

Nicole on 7/2! Love, the Harrington Family. • Happy birthday **Brody Smith** on 7/2! From grandma June, papa gushy, dad, bro alex, and family. • Happy 4th birthday **Baby Q** on 7/4! With love from Anna & Family. • Happy Golden birthday to my **We'eh/ Neph Baby Q** on 7/4! From, Auntie Cilla. • Happy birthday to **Berta & Codge** on 7/5! With love, from Anna & Family. • Happy birthday to my **Mom (Deanna Sam)** on 7/8! From, Silly Priscilly. • We want to wish our daughter **Hazel Morning** a Happy 4th Birthday on 7/11. Love, Mommie & Daddy. • Happy birthday to my sister **Marissa** on 7/12. Love, Cilla. • Happy birthday to **Marissa Claire** on 7/12, with love from Anna & Family. • Happy birthday to **Max Dean** on 7/12! Love, the Harrington Family. • Happy birthday to **Karen** on 7/13, with love from the Harrington Family. • Happy birthday to my **Budd** on 7/15! From, your buddZ Cilla. • Happy birthday **Gramma June** on 7/15! We love you! From your children, grandchildren, and great-grandkids! • Happy birthday **Big Gramma (Loretta Smith)** on 7/15! From LilyAnn,

Keith, and Jennifer. • Happy birthday **Ryan & Julian** on 7/15! With love from Anna & Family. • Happy 1st birthday to **Rowan Wade** on 7/16! Love, your buddy Harvey Dennis, Sissy Maria, Auntie Big Mamas & Wince. • Happy birthday **Baby Boy Rowan Wade** on 7/16! Love, your big sisters Hayden & Cayleigh, Mommy & Nanan. • Happy 1st birthday **We'eh/ Rowan Wade** on 7/16! Love, Uncle Bert & Cat. • Happy birthday to **Twyla Jean** on 7/20! With love, from Anna & Family! • Happy birthday to **Rachel** on 7/21! Love, Your sissys and brothers. • Happy birthday **Rachel** on 7/21! Have a wonderful day! With love, Anna & Family. • Happy birthday **Squishy** on 7/21. • Happy birthday to my sister **Stacy** on 7/22! Dirty Thirty XD. From, your little sis Cilla. • Happy birthday to my beautiful daughter **Stacy** on 7/22! Lots of love, Mom. • Happy birthday **Granny T** on 7/23! With love from, your grandchildren, Caden, Carter and Mayleena. • Happy birthday **Makwa** on 7/23! We love you! From your lil family. • Happy birthday to **Caden (Caddybug) Shingobe** on

7/24! With lots of love, from Mommy, Aunties Destanie and Rainey, Uncle Jordan, Caden, Mayleena and Great Gramma Gina. • Happy birthday **Caden Shingobe** on 7/24! From grandma June, papa gushy, mom, dad, gramma lyd, and family. • Happy birthday **Carter Smith** on 7/25! From grandma June, papa gushy, grandpa Elliot, and family. • Happy birthday to **Carter** on 7/25. With lots of love, Mommy, Da-da, Aunties Shyla and Rainey, Uncle Jordan, Caden, Mayleena, and Great Gramma Gina. • Happy birthday **Donevin** on 7/30! With love, from Anna & Family.

Happy Belated Birthdays:

Happy belated birthday to **Elvis Smith** on 6/7! From Gramma and papa, brothers and sister, mom and dad. • Happy belated birthday **Elliot Smith!** From, mom, dad, brody, alex, and family.

Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a message **20 WORDS OR LESS** to myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call **612-465-0653**.

Deadline for August issue is July 15.

Mille Lacs Band Recovery Groups

District I Mille Lacs

Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition

Mondays, 5:30 – 7 p.m., 17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia (Next to the Halfway House – Brown Building)
Contact Kim Sam at 320-532-7773, ext. 2419

Wellbriety Migizi Meeting

Mondays, 7 p.m., Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hotel
700 Grand Avenue, Onamia, Minnesota

Wellbriety Celebrating Families

Tuesdays, 6 – 8 p.m., Mille Lacs Band Halfway House Group
17222 Ataage Drive, Onamia, Minnesota
Contact Halfway House at 320-532-4768

N.A./A.A. Welcome

Hosted by Mille Lacs Band Halfway House
Wednesdays, 7 p.m., 42293 Twilight Road, Onamia (Red Brick Building)
Contact Halfway House at 320-532-4768

Wellbriety Red Road Meeting

Saturdays, 6 – 7 p.m., MinoBimaadiziwin (Budget Host Hotel) 40847 US-169, Onamia
Contact MinoBimaadiziwin at 320-532-3911

Wellbriety Sons of Tradition

Sundays, 1 – 3 p.m., 42293 Twilight Road, Onamia
Contact Kim Sam at 320-532-7773, ext. 2419

District II East Lake

AA Group

Mondays, 5 – 6 p.m., East Lake Community Center
Contact Rob Nelson at 218-768-2431

District III Hinckley & Aazhoomog

NA Meeting

Mondays, 7 p.m., Aazhoomog Community Center

Wellbriety 12 Step Group

Tuesdays, 12 p.m., Aazhoomog Clinic Conference Room
Contact Monica Haglund at 320-384-0149

Wellbriety Meeting

Thursdays, 6 p.m., Hinckley Corporate Bldg.
Contact Mike Kettner at 320-385-7052

RECURRING EVENTS

Ojibwe Language Tables

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., DI, District I Community Center
Thursdays, 4:30 p.m., DII, East Lake Community Center
(3:30 p.m. on last Thursday)

DI Open Gym

Open Gym is held at the DI Community Center,
Mondays – Thursdays: 3:30 – 9 p.m.

DI Women's Group (Strength & Support)

Thursdays: 3:30 – 5 p.m., Public Health Building
(17230 Noopiming Lane)

Healer Herb Sam is Available in the Urban Area

Fridays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Call 612-799-2698 or stop by the Powwow Grounds
(1414 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.)

B-Ball League Night: Thursday Nights

Local News Brief

Several Democrats consider challenging Nolan:

Representative Rick Nolan has recently announced that he doesn't intend to run for governor and will instead seek re-election in the 8th District in 2018. Several Democrats are considering running for the DFL endorsement for Nolan's seat, including Ray "Skip" Sandman who has announced he will run for the seat and Leah Phifer and Sue Hakes who are still determining whether they will run or not.

Would you like to receive the Inaajimowin?

Band members who want to be added to the Inaajimowin mailing list can call Myles Gorham at 612-465-0653 or email him at myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Want your event here? Email myles.gorham@redcircleagency.com or call 612-465-0653. Visit millelacsband.com/calendar for additional MLB events.</p> <p>Band Assembly Meetings Band Assembly Meetings are held at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at rotating locations throughout the districts. For locations and other information, call the Legislative office or visit millelacsbandlegislativebranch.com. Meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.</p>						<p>1 DI Wellbriety Red Road Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> Kid Crafts God's Eye 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. ML Indian Museum <i>Bean(s): Miskodiisimin(ag)</i></p>
<p>2 DI Wellbriety Sons of Tradition <i>See Page 14</i> <i>Blackberry(s): Odatagaagomin(ag)</i></p>	<p>3 DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>4 All Government Offices Closed DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>5 DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See Page 14</i> <i>Blueberries: Miinan</i></p>	<p>6 DIII Wellbriety Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> <i>Bread: Bakwezhigan</i></p>	<p>7 <i>Cherry(s): Ookwemin(an)</i></p>	<p>8 DI Wellbriety Red Road Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> <i>Cookie(s): Bakwezhigans(ag)</i></p>
<p>9 DI Wellbriety Sons of Tradition <i>See Page 14</i> <i>Corn: Mandaamin(ag)</i></p>	<p>10 TEC Meeting 8:30 a.m. Northern Lights Casino DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>11 DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group <i>See Page 14</i> <i>Cranberry(s): Mashkiigimin(ag)</i></p>	<p>12 DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See Page 14</i> <i>Maple Sugar: Anishinaabe Ziinzibaakwad</i></p>	<p>13 DIII Wellbriety Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> <i>Meat- Wiiyaas</i></p>	<p>14 <i>Milk: Doodooshaaboo</i></p>	<p>15 DI Wellbriety Red Road Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> American Indian Teen Photography Exhibit Closing 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Indian Museum Birch Bark Basket Workshop 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. ML Indian Museum</p>
<p>16 DI Wellbriety Sons of Tradition <i>See Page 14</i> <i>Pea(s): Anjiimin(an)</i></p>	<p>17 DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> DII Sobriety Feast 5 p.m. East Lake Community Center</p>	<p>18 DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group <i>See Page 14</i> "Survivance" Traveling Photography Exhibit Opening 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. ML Indian Museum</p>	<p>19 DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See Page 14</i> District I Community Picnic DIII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p>	<p>20 DIII Wellbriety Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> <i>Pepper: Wiisagad</i></p>	<p>21 DII Powwow <i>Raspberry(s): Miskomin(ag)</i></p>	<p>22 DII Powwow DI Wellbriety Red Road Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> <i>Salt: Zhiiwitaagan</i></p>
<p>23 DII Powwow DI Wellbriety Sons of Tradition <i>See Page 14</i> <i>Strawberry(s): Ode'imin(an)</i></p>	<p>24 DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> DIII Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center</p>	<p>25 DI Wellbriety Celebrating Families DIII Wellbriety 12 Step Group <i>See Page 14</i> DI Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. DI Community Center</p>	<p>26 DI NA/AA Welcome <i>See Page 14</i> DIIa Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>27 DIII Wellbriety Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> Urban Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. All Nations Church DII Community Meeting 5:30 p.m. East Lake Comm. Ctr. DIIa Sobriety Feast 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p>28 <i>Wild Rice: Manoomin</i></p>	<p>29 DI Wellbriety Red Road Meeting <i>See Page 14</i> "Murder on the Red River" by Marcie R. Rendon Author Event 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. ML Indian Museum <i>Fond du Lac: Nagajiwanaang</i></p>
<p>30 DI Wellbriety Sons of Tradition <i>See Page 14</i> <i>Grand Portage: Gichi-Oniigaming</i></p>	<p>31 DI Wellbriety Mothers of Tradition DI Wellbriety Migizi Meeting DII AA Group DIII NA Meeting <i>See Page 14</i></p>	<p>Upcoming Events Urban Area Drum Making Class: August 12, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. See next month's paper for more. DIII Meeting: August 16, 5:30 p.m. GCH.</p>				

Urban Community Picnic

Over 125 attended the End of the School Year Picnic on a hot and windy Saturday, June 10, 2017. The Minneapolis and the St. Paul Fire Department joined in and offered tours of their rigs. Commissioner of Administration Shelly Diaz and Commissioner of Department of Natural Resources Bradley Harrington visited and assisted. The Balloon Twisting and Facepainting Native group were kept quite busy! Just a few games were played due to the weather. Door prizes names were drawn for Band members and guests. All of the 55 children in attendance received a door prize! Miigwech to all the valuable volunteers who helped!



Commissioner of Administration Shelly Diaz attended the picnic with her granddaughter.



Volunteers Erika Rangel-Robertson and Tara Robertson took a break from being in charge of food area.



Left: Minneapolis Fireman Mitchell, Police Officer Justin Churchill, and St. Paul Fire Chief Tim Butler joined in the fun at the Urban Area picnic June 10.



Commissioner of Natural Resources Bradley Harrington registered families as they guessed the number of candies in the jars.



The balloon artist was a hit with Dallas Downey and others.

Need Help?

- If you or someone you know is injured or in danger, call **911** first.
- **Tribal Police Department dispatch:** 888-609-5006; 320-532-3430
- **Emergency Management Services:** 24-hour fire, disaster and emergency management response: Monte Fronk, Emergency Management Coordinator: 320-362-0435
- **Community Support Services:** For emergencies related to food and nutrition, Elder services, Elder abuse, emergency loans, sexual assault or emergency loans, call 320-532-7539 or 320-630-2687.
- **Domestic violence:** (c) 320-630-2499
- **Women's Shelter:** 866-867-4006
- **Heating, water or other home-related maintenance problems:** If you live in a Mille Lacs Band

Housing-maintained home, call for housing maintenance service in your district. During regular business hours, please call our Customer Service Representative at 800-709-6445, ext. 7799. If you live in a home not maintained by the Mille Lacs Band and need assistance after hours with utilities or heating, please contact: After Hours Emergency Service: 866-822-8538. (Press 1, 2 or 3 for respective districts.)

- **Mille Lacs Band Family Services:** Foster Care: 320-630-2663; Social Worker: 320-630-2444, Toll-free: 800-709-6445, ext. 7588.
- **Family Violence Prevention:** District I 320-532-4780; East Lake 218-768-4412; Aazhoomog 320-384-0149; Hinckley 320-384-7400; Toll-free 24-hour crisis line 1-866-867-4006.
- **Batterers' Intervention:** 320-532-8909
- **Behavioral Health:** 800-709-6445, ext. 7776

Aazhoomog Clinic Hours: Providers are at the Aazhoomog Clinic in District III from Monday through Thursday. The dentist is in the office on the last Friday of every month, and the foot doctor is available the first Wednesday of every month. Call 320-384-0149 to make an appointment or ask a question.

Reporters Wanted, Submissions Accepted: The Mille Lacs Band and Red Circle Agency are seeking Band members in all three districts to cover events and provide content for the Inaajimowin newsletter, millelacsband.com and the Facebook page. If you or someone you know enjoys being out in the community, is active on social media, likes taking photos or has an interest in writing, send an email to brett.larson@millelacsband.com or call 320-237-6851. No experience necessary. Hours and pay will depend on work experience, education and availability. You can also simply submit articles or photographs, and if your work is used you will receive reimbursement.

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Attn: MLBO Members

You are encouraged to attend MCT/TEC meetings. The next two meetings will be at Northern Lights Casino at 8:30 a.m. on June 29 and July 10. Employees please consult with your supervisor prior to attending. Carpooling is recommended. The information discussed at these meetings is valuable to our future. Please contact Katie Draper at 320-515-0846 with other questions.

Ojibwe Inaajimowin is produced monthly by the Government Affairs department of the Mille Lacs Band's Executive Branch. The news on Page 3, the Legislative Page, is provided by the Legislative Branch (Band Assembly).