
Renaissance on the Mille Lacs Reservation

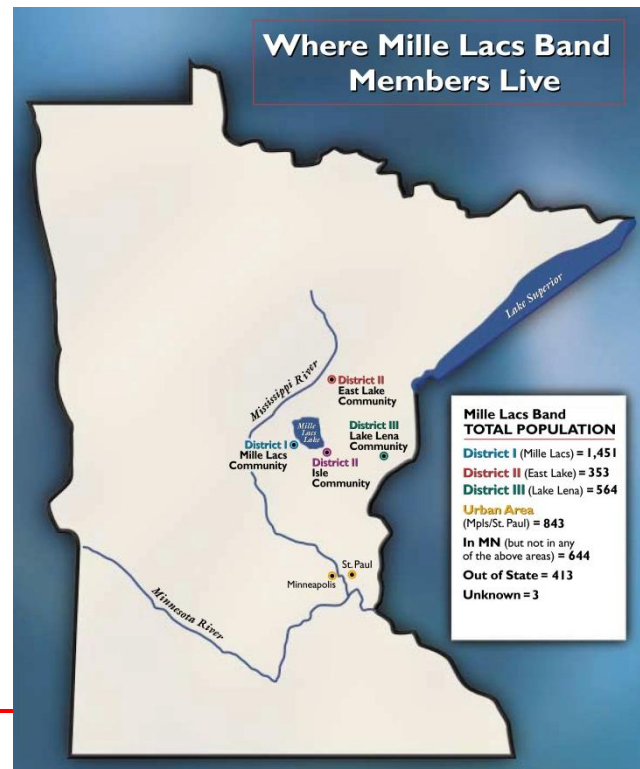
Don Eubanks, Commissioner of
Health and Human Services



August 24, 2011

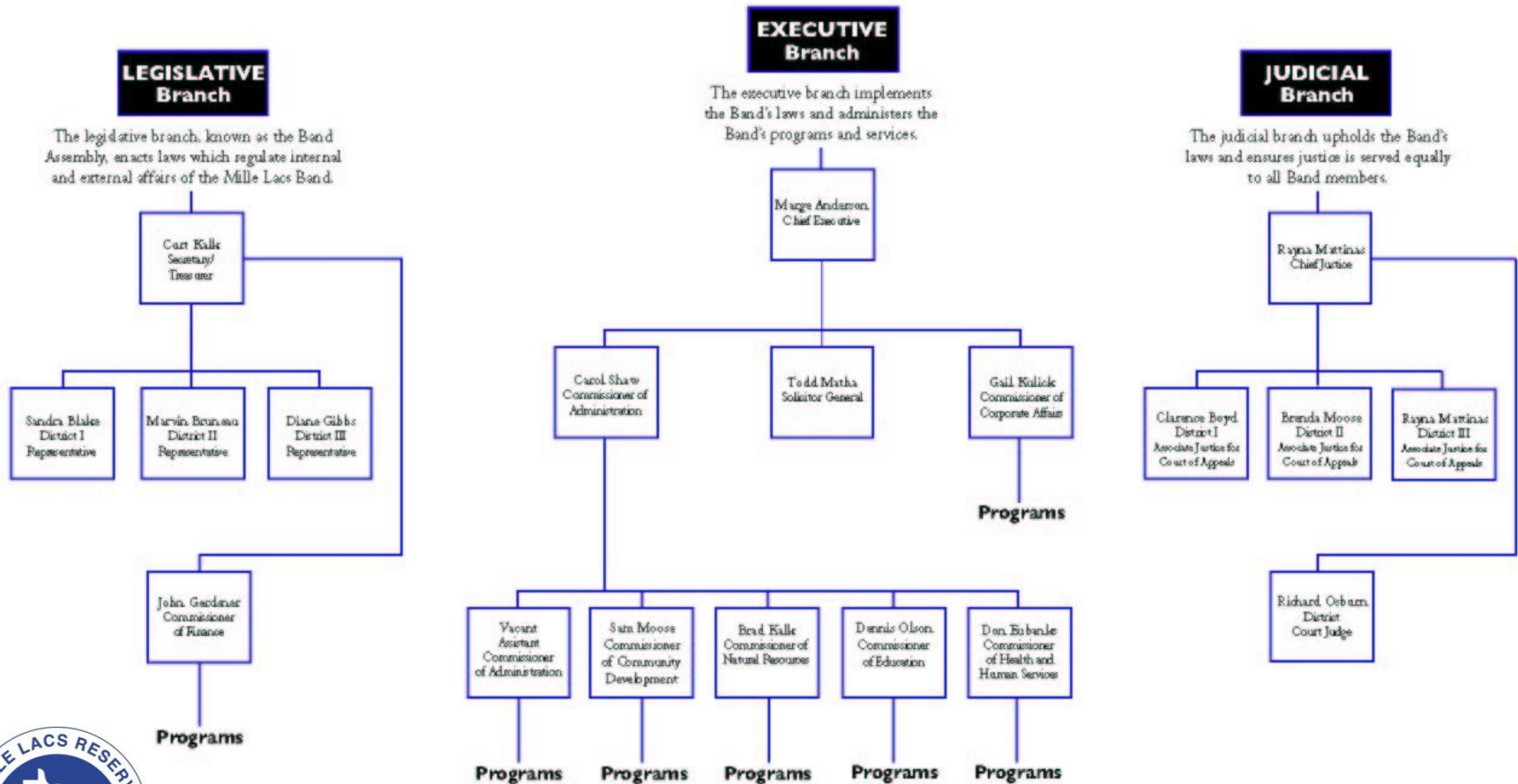
Who is the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe?

- Self-governing, federally recognized Indian tribe with more than 4,000 enrolled members
- Reservation includes three districts in East Central Minnesota



Who is the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe?

■ Separation-of-powers government



Our self-governance journey

- Focus: Government that is responsive to Band members' needs
- Internal: Adopted separation of powers system in 1981
 - Development of Band Assembly and tribal court system
 - Development of departments and tribal police



Our self-governance journey

- External: Building our federal relationship
 - The Band was one of the first 10 tribes to argue for and participate in the first Tribal Self-Governance Demonstration Project (1988)
 - Focus: The need to transfer control over Indian Country to accountable, responsible and local tribal governments



Self-governance in action

- Self-governance provided a federal framework for a renaissance era on the Mille Lacs Reservation
- Improved programs, services, and delivery model for our people
- Improved facilities and infrastructure
- Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (1988) enhanced our financial abilities, which complemented our improved governance abilities



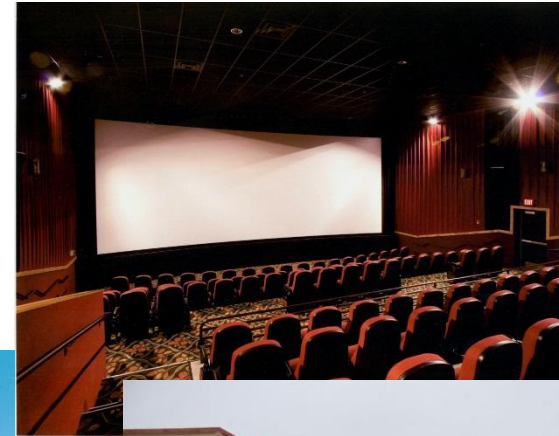
Band-owned businesses

- Owner of Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Grand Casino Hinckley



Band-owned businesses

- Small businesses include banks, convenience stores, a cinema, grocery store, golf course, and more



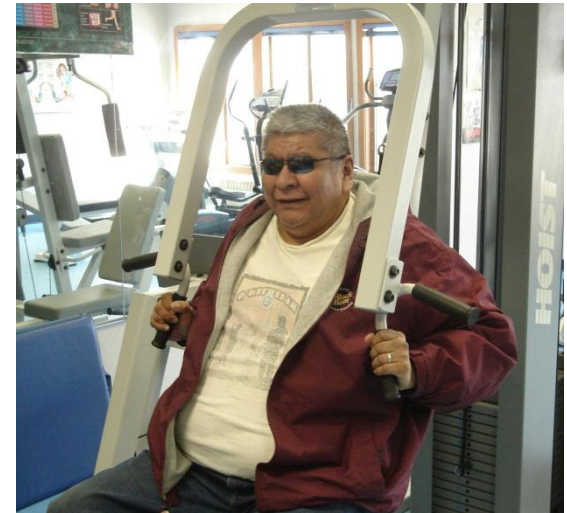
Mille Lacs successes

- Business revenues fund Band programs, services, facilities and infrastructure



Case study: Elder Assisted Living Units

- Band-owned and operated apartment facilities for Elders
- Meals, laundry, housekeeping, and other services provided
- Focus: Keep Elders in the community



Case study: Circle of Health

- Band-funded supplemental insurance program
- Focus: Cover Band member deductibles and co-pays



Next steps in self-governance

- New round of agreements with tribes – modern take on treaties
- Single agreement between each tribe and all federal agencies and departments
- One set of standards, one reporting mechanism, one timeframe, and one federal negotiator/decision-maker



Contact me

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