



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians

Executive Branch of Tribal Government

Office of the Chief Executive

Via E-mail

July 11, 2025

Sheldon Boyd, Speaker of the Assembly
Carolyn Beaulieu, District I Representative
Wendy Merrill, District II Representative
Harry Davis, District III Representative

Re: Nomination Letter for Ronda Weizenegger to Serve as Commissioner of Corporate Affairs

Aaniin. It is with great pleasure that I nominate Ronda Weizenegger to serve a term for the next three and a half years as Commissioner of Corporate Affairs. A reliable and modest leader for our casinos for nearly 24 years, Ronda possesses both the business acumen and familiarity with our companies necessary to lead them into the future. Ronda is also a Band member who carries within her a deep connection to our people, culture, and values. These are qualities that will be instrumental in overhauling Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures' image and methods of doing business. In short, I trust Ronda to both design and administer our business operations in a way that will make us all proud.

Ronda cut her teeth in the casino business in the early 2000's when she worked first as the Director of Hotel Operations, then as an Assistant General Manager. Ronda was quickly promoted to General Manager, where she led all aspects of casino operations with a focus on profitability, guest service, and team development. Ronda served in this role for more than ten years before she became the Chief Financial Officer of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, a parent company to the casinos. Ronda served in this role for more than three years, during which time she transformed financial operations to improve transparency, reporting accuracy, and cost efficiency. During this period, Ronda deepened her expertise in aligning financial strategy with growth, translating financial data into actionable insights and helping to empower operational leaders.

In 2017, Ronda was promoted to Chief Operating Officer of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, a post she held for more than five years. By this point in her career, Ronda had risen to the ranks of shaping company strategy, guiding cross-functional teams, and leading growth initiatives. This work encompassed not only the gaming business, but other ventures such as government contracting, hospitality, and tribal economic development. Ronda took great care to advocate for inclusive leadership and cultural alignment across all business practices. This conviction emerged from Ronda's deep desire to see Band members grow, develop, and thrive. Indeed, Ronda has become a strong pillar of support for Band member employees in times of need.

Since February of 2023, Ronda has worked as the Chief Executive Officer of Grand Casinos. In this role, Ronda has worked alongside Operations to elevate guest experience and brand relevance, innovate operational process, and reinforce the Band's cultural values. Ronda's core competencies include organizational leadership and vision, financial oversight and budgeting, and tribal enterprise development. Ronda is also both an outstanding coach and team member. She describes her leadership style as "high-energy" and "people-first."

Letter from Chief Executive Virgil Wind to the Band Assembly
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Ronda's education includes a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration & Management (College of St. Scholastica – 2004); Master's of Business Administration (Capella University – 2005); and a Master of Arts (University of Minnesota-Duluth – 2021). She has also completed various certifications in brand and platform market strategies.

On a personal note, Ronda enjoys spending time with family, getting her hands dirty with gardening, and participating in community events where she can interact with friends and family and meet new people. I have the utmost confidence in Ronda as a person, employee, and leader. Therefore, I humbly ask that the Band Assembly confirm her as the Band's next Commissioner of Corporate Affairs.

Miigwech,



Virgil Wind
Chief Executive

CC:

Caleb Dogeagle, Solicitor General
Jared Miller, Legislative Counsel
Danielle Smith, Parliamentarian / Clerk of the Assembly
Ronda Weizenegger, Nominee

Enclosure:

Ronda Weizenegger's Resume



Ronda Weizenegger

CEO | Tribal Enterprise Leader | Strategic Innovator in Hospitality & Gaming

📍 Onamia, Minnesota | 📧 rweizenegger@mlcv.com | LinkedIn: ronda-weizenegger-ab009047

Summary

Dynamic, forward-thinking executive with over two decades of experience leading Tribal enterprise operations, including large-scale hospitality and gaming organizations. Recognized for a high-energy, people-first leadership style and a passion for building high-performing teams. Proven ability to create strategic vision and execute operational excellence across diverse business units. Deeply committed to purpose-driven innovation, community impact, and sustainable growth.

Core Competencies

- Organizational Leadership & Vision
- Hospitality & Gaming Operations
- Strategic Planning & Brand Positioning
- Financial Oversight & Budgeting
- Executive Coaching & Team Culture
- Tribal Enterprise Development
- Process Improvement & Efficiency
- Community-Focused Innovation

Professional Experience

Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

11+ Years of Visionary Leadership Across Tribal Enterprises

Chief Executive Officer – Grand Casinos

February 2023 – Present

Leading the strategic growth and operational performance of Grand Casinos as a member of the executive team. Championing innovation, team empowerment, and guest excellence across gaming and hospitality operations. Driving long-term business sustainability while preserving cultural integrity and maximizing community benefits.

Chief Operating Officer

August 2017 – February 2023

Energetic and collaborative leader overseeing daily operations with a clear focus on financial strength, innovation, and guest satisfaction. Played a fundamental role in shaping company strategy, guiding cross-functional teams, and leading growth initiatives. Strong advocate for inclusive leadership and cultural alignment across all business practices.

Chief Financial Officer

March 2014 – August 2017

Transformed financial operations to improve transparency, reporting accuracy, and cost efficiency. Developed forecasting models and budgeting processes aligned with growth and performance goals by partnering with operational leaders.

Grand Casino Mille Lacs & Hinckley

General Manager

October 2003 – March 2014

Led all aspects of casino resort operations with a focus on profitability, guest service, and team development. Ensured alignment with the mission and values of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Fostered a culture of accountability, hospitality excellence, and business innovation.

Assistant General Manager

October 2002 – October 2003

Worked closely with executive leadership to drive revenue, team performance, and operational consistency. Implemented growth strategies and performance metrics to advance business goals.

Director of Hotel Operations

September 2001 – October 2002

Launched hotel and retail development initiatives, leading planning for resort expansion. Elevated service standards and team engagement through a combination of strategic planning and operational execution.

Education

University of Minnesota Duluth

MA, Tribal Administration and Governance (2019 – 2021)

Capella University

MBA, Business Administration & Management (2004 – 2005)

The College of St. Scholastica

BA, Business Administration & Management (2002 – 2004)

Certifications

- Prof G Certified Strategist
- Section4 Certified Brand Strategist
- Section4 Certified Platform Strategist