



## *Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians*

*Executive Branch of Tribal Government  
Office of the Chief Executive*

*Via email to [Tribal.Relations@usda.gov](mailto:Tribal.Relations@usda.gov)*

Virgil Wind  
Chief Executive  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
43408 Oodena Drive  
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March 31, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Rollins  
Secretary of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Re: Nomination of Adam Candler to Serve on USDA Tribal Advisory Committee

Dear Secretary Rollins:

Aaaniin. My name is Virgil Wind, Chief Executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, a federally recognized Native American tribe located primarily in east-central Minnesota with more than 5,000 enrolled members. I am writing now to nominate Adam Candler to serve a three-year term on the USDA Tribal Advisory Committee. Having known and worked closely with Adam for approximately six years, I believe he is an ideal candidate for this position. I therefore welcome the Secretary to take a close look at his credentials and consider him for appointment.

Born and raised in the farmlands of Northwest Wisconsin, Adam has worked for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe since November of 2015. In fact, after graduating from the University of Minnesota Law School in May of 2015, Adam's first attorney job was with the Mille Lacs Band. He served first as a Deputy Solicitor General, litigating such cases as child protection, child support, criminal misdemeanors, and housing cases in Tribal Court. Adam served in this role until March of 2020, when he transitioned into the Band's legislative branch of government, where he spent most of his time drafting legislation and resolutions, reviewing contracts, analyzing budgets, and helping to establish the Band's Institutional Investment Committee. Adam served in this role (as Legislative Counsel) until March of 2023, at which time he transitioned to work as a Staff Attorney for the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC).

Since returning to the Band in July of 2024, Adam has worked for me both in a legal and policy role as Senior Federal Government Advisor. While in this position, Adam has developed experience working with federal lobbyists and with elected officials both on Capitol Hill and within the State of Minnesota. I have always known Adam to be a self-driven and detailed employee who prides himself on accomplishing meaningful tasks. For this reason, I have no

**Letter from MLBO Chief Executive Virgil Wind to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins**  
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**March 31, 2026**  
**Page 2 of 2**

doubt that—if appointed by the Secretary—Adam will be an exceedingly reliable member on the USDA Tribal Advisory Committee.

In addition to his work within Indian Country and for the Mille Lacs Band, Adam also served 13 years in the U.S. Army Reserve, reaching the rank of Major. Adam's assignments included serving as Company Commander of a Combat Engineering Company, an Aide-de-Camp to Brigadier General Robert D. Carlson, and a Brigade Engineer Equipment Officer. Adam is a gifted writer and spends a lot of his personal time reading. For the position of USDA Tribal Advisory Committee member, Adam's pertinent course work includes Administrative Law, Environmental Law, and Federal Indian Law.

If appointed, Adam also brings with him a great deal of professional connections within Indian Country and a strong ability to assist with tribal consultation. Indeed, Adam recently helped arrange the agenda for a successful meeting of the Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) in Washington D.C. There is no doubt in my mind that Adam can continue to serve as a valuable nexus between the federal government and Indian Country if given the opportunity.

For any questions, free to contact me any time by e-mail at [virgil.wind@millelacsband.com](mailto:virgil.wind@millelacsband.com).

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Virgil Wind  
Chief Executive  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Enclosures:

1. Adam Candler's Resume
2. Form AD-755, Advisory Committee Background Information
3. Letter of Recommendation from Brigadier General Robert Carlson