



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: February 2-6, 2026

Band Assembly Meeting

February 2, 2026

The Speaker of the Assembly convened a meeting of the Band Assembly. The District Representatives approved the agenda.

The District Representatives received End of Year Financial Review from Commissioner of Community Development & Staff.

The District Representatives received End of Year Financial Review from Commissioner of Education & Staff.

Band Assembly Meeting

February 3, 2026

The Speaker of the Assembly convened a meeting of the Band Assembly. The District Representatives approved the agenda.

The District Representatives received End of Year Financial Review from Aanjibimaadizing Leaders & Staff.

The District Representatives received End of Year Financial Review from Directors of Health & Human Services & Staff.

Band Assembly Meeting

February 4, 2026

The Speaker of the Assembly convened a meeting of the Band Assembly. The District Representatives amended and approved the agenda.

The District Representatives received End of Year Financial Review from Administration Leaders & Staff.

The District Representatives received End of Year Financial Review from Commissioner of Department of Natural Resources & Staff.

The District Representatives received End of Year Financial Review from Department of Justice, Tribal Police, OSG & Staff.

The District Representatives received End of Year Financial Review from TERO & Staff.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 22-01-05-26 (A Bill for an Act amending Title 18, chapter 6, section 501, requiring employees a minimum wage of \$20.00 per hour). Sponsor: District I Representative

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 22-01-06-26 (A Bill for an Act amending Title 15, chapter 4 to comprehensively reform the Band's Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance. The bill replaces the term "Indian" with "Anishinaabe," "Indigenous," "Native," or "Native American," as defined in the Definitions section, to clarify the meaning of these terms in relation to employment preferences for members of federally recognized Tribes. The bill designates the Corporate Commission of the Mille Lacs Band as a covered employer; revises the appointment and recusal procedures for TERO Commission Members; and establishes a fixed meeting-compensation rate for Commission meetings. The bill adds definitions for "nepotism" and related terms like "reasonable cause" and "substantial benefit," and includes provisions supporting the professional development of Band members through covered employers like the Corporate Commission. The bill authorizes individuals and businesses to file complaints against the TERO Director, clarifying the Director's accountability to the Commission and Band government. The bill increases the one-time project fee from 0.5% to 1.5%. The bill also establishes procedures for hearings and resolving alleged violations of this chapter investigated by the TERO Director, updates the minimum-wage requirements, adds a section on holiday pay, and corrects clerical errors in existing law.

A public comment period has been held on a previous version of this Bill (20-03-27-23) in February of 2023. Act 27-23 was subsequently passed by the 3rd Session of the 20th Band Assembly in April of 2023 and vetoed by then-Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin in May of 2023. The 4th Session of the 21st Band Assembly held an additional public comment period in August of 2025 on an updated version of this Bill (21-04-63-25). In December of 2025, following its passage by the Band Assembly, Act 63-25 was vetoed by Chief Executive Wind due to concerns with certain definitions, the minimum-wage rate, holiday pay, and hiring goals for the Corporate Commission. In accordance with 3 MLBS § 17(e), the Chief Executive and Band Assembly have agreed on the language contained herein). Sponsor: District I Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 22-01-07-26 (A Resolution Supporting the Band's participation in the Minnesota Anti-Heroin Task Force Program Joint Powers Agreement). Sponsor: District II Representative

The District Representatives tabled Hardship: D1-01-02-26

The District Representatives approved Hardship: D3-01-01-26

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 22-01-07-26 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the Authorization of Long-Term Savings Funds for the Secured Funding of Secured Loan Agreements to Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures in Order to Pay Various Expenses which Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Does Not Have Sufficient Funds to Pay for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2026).

Messages from the Chief Executive:

Chief Executive Virgil Wind was not present.

Messages from the Representatives:

District I Representative Carolyn Beaulieu shared apology for not being in person today.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill shared gratitude for everybody coming forward and reviewing the budgets with us hopefully once we get a good grasp on budgets, we can potentially approve out biennium budgets. Miigwech.

District III Representative Harry Davis shared next week, next Friday, February 13, 2026 Pro Boxing at Grand Casino Hinckley Ballroom doors open at 7:00 p.m. He shared on February 17, 2027 we are having a story telling event at Meshakwad at 5:30 p.m. He shared February 19, 2026 will be our community meeting.

Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd shared a comment on the budget review process that's currently happening here. He thanked Representative Beaulieu for pushing to get that back in place and being part of the review process. And for the membership who do view the live stream and watch this review it's tedious; members of the assembly and the Commissioners & staff go page by page and reminds everyone just how big this government is and the wide range of services that folks provide. In working with Office of Management & Budget, we have a strong middle management group in place and just a reminder of how much stuff is going on and on these people's plates. He has somewhat of an easy task of kind of being the traffic cop he doesn't get to comment on a lot, just trying to get folks through these mountains of paperwork. Yesterday was a big one, today's a big one, tomorrow they will finish up and then try it again regularly. It's a good exercise in reviewing the accountability in government.

Band Assembly Meeting

February 5, 2026

The Speaker of the Assembly convened a meeting of the Band Assembly. The District Representatives amended and approved the agenda.

The District Representatives received End of Year Financial Review from Band Member Legal Services Leaders & Staff.

The District Representatives received End of Year Financial Review from Tribal Court Leaders & Staff.

The District Representatives received End of Year Financial Review from Department of Cannabis Regulation Leaders & Staff.

The District Representatives received End of Year Financial Review from Department of Gaming Regulatory Authority Leaders & Staff.

The District Representatives received End of Year Financial Review from Chief Executive Office & Staff.

The District Representatives received End of Year Financial Review from Tribal Court Leaders & Staff.

Messages from the Chief Executive:

Chief Executive Virgil Wind was not present.

Messages from the Representatives:

District I Representative Carolyn Beaulieu shared events coming up

- Elder Talking Circle Sunday, February 22, 2026 at noon same schedule; lunch, discussion, bingo, and dinner. Hope to see all elders there.
- Community Meeting Wednesday, February 25, 2026 doors open at 5:00 p.m. Get started by 5:30-5:45 p.m. and then dinner follows. This month agenda includes Tracy Burr, Commissioner of Community Development, Kerri Johnson, Band Member Legal Services, and staff member from Tribal Court presentation on Family Healing to Wellness Court.
- Story Telling Thursday, February 26, 2026 at the All-Nations Church partnership with Wanetta Thompson, Bear Paws Cultural Art (Maadaoonidiwag) and Wahbon Spears, Urban Administration Site Director. Will get information out as soon as possible to District I Legislative Face Book page.

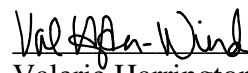
District II Representative Wendy Merrill shared a note for District II; District IIA band members that are listening she will be on travel from Sunday – Thursday next week, she will be unavailable please contact Cheryl Miller or Taria Aubid if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Due to part having a separate role for NCAI as the VP Midwest Region for NCAI, she will be out there for the Executive Winter Session.

District III Representative Harry Davis shared his messages yesterday, but has one more thing to share as next Thursday, February 12, 2026 he plans on taking an annual day and possibly Friday.

Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd was not present.

The next Joint Session of the Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer