



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians  
*Legislative Branch of Tribal Government*

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**Weekly Review: March 31-April 4, 2025**

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**Band Assembly Meeting**

**April 2, 2025**

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

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-03-15-25 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget revision(s)/transfer(s) for the Executive branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2025).

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-03-17-25 (A Resolution supporting a memorandum of understanding between the Minnesota Cement Masons-Plasterers-Shophands Journeyman & Apprentice training trust fund and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, by and through its Tribal Employment Rights Office).

The District Representatives approved a contract for the City of Garrison for Fire service.

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The District Representatives approved a contract addendum for Lakeview Behavioral Health.

The District Representatives approved a contract Ron’s Roll-Offs to provide dumpsters for District III Community clean-up.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-03-16-25 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the April, May and June 2025 Tribal Per Capita Distribution for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2025).

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-03-17-25 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the April, May and June 2025 Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act (“TGWEA”) Assistance Payment Programs for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2025).

**Messages from the Chief Executive:**

Chief Executive Virgil Wind shared “Today is a very, very wonderful day for the Mille Lacs Band and I thank, I want to start out by thanking and I’m, speaking specifically to the Strategic Housing Plan. I want to thank the members of the Assembly, Secretary-Treasurer, everybody that’s helped us get to here, right? Chief staff, commissioners, everybody that’s helped us to get here. I think the term that was utilized during our conversations and the reason that we took such a big bite out of this, this year is really trying to staff up and alleviate a crisis that we’re in. We have a number of assets that are out there that aren’t being utilized and really through cooperation and collaboration, being able to have conversations that are going to hopefully address that crisis, so again thank you to the Assembly we really do appreciate that. You know for the band members out there you know this does appropriate some staff to be able to get that work done, it also gives us some very much needed

equipment to be able to do some of that work right? Some trucks and some trailers that allow us to do that as well as some park maintenance that is very important within all of our communities so we really do appreciate all of that stuff. As well as kind of some clean up and some carryover of contracts from 2024, but most importantly and this is the part that I'm you know extremely grateful for is by taking a twenty percent approach to alleviating some of those bigger things right? So when we look at you know the total amount of renovations needed band wide this housing initiative strategic plan you know appropriates for forty-five remodels to happen this year and hopefully those unsightly boarded up houses that we've been talking about for years will finally go away. It also appropriates a number of home renovation loans, you know kind of a smaller number of home renovation loans as that one is, that number is a little smaller but really appreciative of that as well, should do eight renovation loans, you know at the new amount if we ever are to push that policy forward. And then the elder rehab program and I know this is something near and dear to all of hearts and being able to do that work is very important too so thank you so much. Question, you know as we go forward, you know we haven't been here before right? Strategic housing plan hasn't been here, there is a requirement in statute somewhere about ratification of the strategic plan so this covers the appropriation and I know Jared mentioned earlier that there would be a forthcoming resolution to do that and then of course get the strategic housing plan signed, so that we know what we're doing. So hopefully we can get there, but again I want to say again thank you guys so much for being able and willing, and really listening to what these needs are and getting that stuff done, it's going to be a hell of a year, I've been telling the staff and everybody that's done this hard work as well as the other Commissioners the amount of time and effort that it takes to get here and now we know what our marching orders are and being able to do that work is very important, so again thank you guys so much. Moving on so Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) last week, back in June, sorry back in August I was elected to serve as MAST President and I was very very happy and very thankful that a number of our elected officials were able to attend that, the work that we're doing on the federal level is very important especially in these turbulent times, so to have us be on that same page and have a representation there on a federal level is very very wonderful for our band members and all those that are involved. I think the highlight of the week was really getting thirty-five Tribes into the room not that all of them were there, but MAST represents thirty-five Tribes across the Midwest and has roughly two-hundred thousand members or descendants that are dependent on these Tribes so again thank you guys so much for coming out. And then also a special thank you for the elected officials for attending the Senator Tina Smith's flag ceremony, for those out there that don't know what that is, the eleven tribal flags will now fly in the senate building in Senator Smith's office, hopefully forever right? So it's the first time in my knowledge that, that's ever happened, so we were there last week on Monday we had the honor song, a bunch of the tribal nations were there along with our Band Assembly and my office and a number of singers to welcome that in and really sing an honor song for Senator Smith and thank her for her dedication to Indian country, so we really do appreciate that too. Now that I belabored that for ten minutes that's all I got Mr. Speaker".

### **Messages from the Representatives:**

District I Representative Carolyn Beaulieu shared to District I if you know who Brett Young is he's going to be performing in Hinckley on April 11, 2025 and we are doing a drawing on April 9, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. using the wheel on face book. She shared we are doing a drawing for fantasy bingo which is going to be on Sunday, April 13, 2025 we will do the drawing at noon on April 10, 2025. She shared a reminder spring clean up is this month; it begins on April 19, 2025, there will be roll offs located at the transfer station on Timber trails road 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and it goes through April 27, 2025 but it closes at noon on that day, so just keep in mind that's spring cleanup and please participate. Our elders can call the number on face book to reserve a time for them to have their

things picked up right in their y, so please participate. She lastly shared at the end of the month Chiminising, Wendy is having a Youth Ziigwan pow wow and honoring the youth out there, she will be partnering up with her on that a little bit so we hope to see everyone out there.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill shared the flyers that she sent out, the information flyers are sent out to band members who had put their addresses down, so a lot of information is coming to you and as for the fantasy bingo packages, we are collaborating or she should say verifying also with the Chief's office just so you only win one package, cause she had a lot of people asking if they can put in for both, for her personally she thinks one package per person is how they are going to verify that.

District III Representative Harry Davis shared our District III community meeting will be Thursday, April 17, 2025 at Grand Casino Hinckley at 5:30 p.m. and hoping Chief Executive will be available for this one. He might be able to make that one. He shared for the renovation crews for the boarded up houses that's going to come up this spring. He heard they are hiring some more carpenters and stuff and he's hoping Virgil keeps track of the part of the paying them accordingly and appropriately because some are more valuable than others and he wants to make sure we're taking care of the ones that are more valuable too.

**Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:**

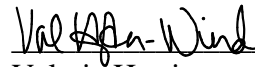
Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd had no message.

**Workshop**

**March 27, 2025**

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials, staff and Deputy Assistant, Chief Executive Office regarding draft Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) bill.

***The next Regular Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.***

  
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Valerie Harrington-Wind  
Chief Communications Officer