



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

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**Weekly Review: April 7-11, 2025**

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**Workshop**

**April 8, 2025**

Legal staff facilitated a workshop for the elected officials and staff regarding the strategic housing plan resolution, emergency communications resolution, title 16 discussion, NE 911 PSAP Committee resolution, notification of contract for state plan of operation SPO, request for approval by Commissioner of Education to deviate from the minimum number of school days requested for the 2024-25 school year, resolution request from Community Development to approve an easement for two 2025 road projects, and Lake Leaf proposal for temporary retail.

**Weekly Sync Meeting**

**April 8, 2025**

Legislative staff facilitated a weekly sync meeting with elected officials and staff to review the upcoming Band Assembly agenda. The meeting included discussion on swearing-in for DAR & BMLS, upcoming meetings, sharing representative calendar via outlook, upcoming events in the summer including BA sessions, parliamentarian Sunday preparation for BA, bills to work on, the workshop schedule, workshop projects, and District Representative initiatives.

**Band Assembly Meeting**

**April 9, 2025**

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

Band Assembly received a presentation from Darcie Big Bear, Interim Commissioner of Corporate Affairs regarding Temporary Cannabis Retail.

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 21-03-18-25 (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 a contract for INVESCO regarding 401(k) documents to provide declaration of trust and fund description.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Nonstandardized Governmental Profit Sharing/401(k) plan adoption agreement #001.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Cuyuna Regional Center to provide internal medicine clinical care and clinician leadership for Ne-Ia-Shing clinic Providers.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Identity Automation to provide single sign on access-to-access Epic to ensure the successful implementation of the software to increase efficiency for end users.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Optbit LLC for phase 2 of the Circle of Health modernization.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Ebert Companies to provide labor and materials for remodel of The District III Ceremonial Building. Includes construction of additional spaces to serve as bathrooms/showers, laundry, storage, and mechanical spaces.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Ebert Companies to provide labor and materials for remodel of The District I Ceremonial Building. Includes construction of additional spaces to serve as bathrooms/showers, laundry, storage, and mechanical spaces.

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-03-18-25 (a Resolution ratifying the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe 2025 Strategic Housing Plan)

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 21-03-19-25 (A Bill Authorizing an Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures for the Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Lake Leaf for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2025).

### **Messages from the Chief Executive:**

Chief Executive Virgil Wind shared “First off thanks for letting me be here and have these conversations, they’re very valuable. I want to address Harry asked earlier about, you know as we get into the cannabis retail space here, he asked a question earlier about education and prevention. Commissioner Anderson when she was here handed me a note that HHS applied and will soon receive some funds from the State of Minnesota as part of a grant for cannabis prevention. The plan would be to address education on cannabis, education on medical cannabis, pros and cons on both sides. Approaches then would be social media push out, community meetings, and then having events like HHS does. I think that’s a two-part question because as we know when we’re starting to gain some revenue from cannabis, we do have a small one percent tax within cannabis that will help fund some of that stuff, so with any good news is that if we get this grant, it will fund it before we start making money and we’ll be able to get started earlier. And then want to thank the Assembly and MLCV for the cannabis retail, stealing Wendy’s line here “let’s get rolling”. But let’s get that in and part of this here again a reminder that it is a three-step approach so will be in next week on Wednesday with the permanent retail. Thank to Band Assembly again for the strategic housing plan and the hard work that’s gone into getting that done and now we have a finalized document that is our steering mechanism to get that done, we’ll do our best and will be honest along the whole way of what those hinderances are and what those hurtles are along the way, we’ll let you all know. And then thank you to the regarding the ceremonial buildings, number one thank you to the drum keepers and members that came out adding to those additions and then also thank you to the Assembly for that project and getting those things updated. It’s a good thing when our ceremonial buildings are too small. And then Kelly was going to send me some information, there is a water over nickel partners event that’s I believe that you guys have been invited to that is on Friday down at the Intercon, looking to see you all there. Kelly can probably add more but if you got questions will you want to come up?”

Commissioner Kelly Applegate came shared this Friday we have water over nickel is hosting its allies and partners event, this event is for the tribal leaders, allies, and partners of our efforts to come together and work on collaboration messaging and networking. We have invited the elected officials down there; we have several other tribal leaders that are coming from across Minnesota and we would love your participation down there. Event goes from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Intercontinental in St. Paul.

Chief Wind continued sharing “The other one that I want to make sure that elected officials are apprised of is the sugar maple crossing tour is happening also 9:00 a.m. on Friday, I did have a brief conversation with Representative Merrill that we would both attend the sugar maple crossing tour out in your District there Harry, just get that out there and then also let Commissioner Applegate know that, I don’t know if you guys are coming or not, but Representative Merrill and myself would be down to the Intercon later on that afternoon as Kelly mentioned it’s an all day event, but the sugar maple crossing one is a really cool one too that was a large investment into Harry’s district, you know 40 units of housing out there and making sure that we’re celebrating that monumental win right? We’re close to getting that done I believe lease up happening within the next two months here, so really excited about that and then just overall thank you guys for all that we’re doing together, you know thank you for the partnerships, thank you for everything that we’re doing together. I appreciate you guys miigwech.”

**Messages from the Representatives:**

District I Representative Carolyn Beaulieu shared Chief Wind you’re welcome; she likes working together and moving these things forward as a team. She shared a reminder of the community meeting there is an agenda created and she thanked Chief Wind for bringing his cabinet members out. It will be on April 23, 2025 at the Miskwaanakwadookwe community center. She shared she did appoint an attorney to the BMLS board she did send an email and selected Sharon Osborn, she said her other attorney is available for nomination. She asked when will they get sworn into their positions as Wendy nominated one as well.

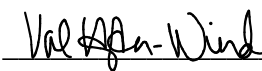
District II Representative Wendy Merrill shared Miigwech to Tracy Burr, the housing team, board members, everybody that was a part of the housing initiative plan anywhere from renovation to mortgages. We appreciate all the hard work. She shared some big things we see; like the education policy plans have been recently approved for the better of our band members. She shared a huge part of her position as a representative has been cannabis, cannabis retail, cannabis operations, it’s been a huge undertaking legislation wise and appropriation; to get plans moving forward for that, she appreciates everyone that was involved in cannabis and stated here we are today approving temporary retail, she stated we are excited and happy to support that. She shared April 22, 2025 is her community meeting she will have Kristian Theisz, Aanjibimaadizing at both locations and will have Phillip Sam for the housing project in Hinckley he will share housing opportunities. She shared that people can contact Becky Houle for any questions; anything regulatory wise for cannabis. She shared we will be swearing in Brooke Houle next week for serving on Band Member Legal Services board.

District III Representative Harry Davis shared our community meeting is Thursday, April 17, 2025 at Grand Casino Hinckley 5:30 p.m. we have Chief Executive Wind and staff with updates. Welcome everyone to that.

**Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:**

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd had no message.

***The next Regular Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.***

  
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Valerie Harrington-Wind  
Chief Communications Officer