



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

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**Weekly Review: April 6-10, 2026**

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**Workshop**

**April 7, 2026**

Legal counsel facilitated a workshop with the Band Assembly regarding a discussion about the letter to Community Development regarding Ventura project, letter to Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures regarding Ventura project, Title 16 talking points, Health & Human Services Commissioner confirmation hearing, Assistant Commissioner of Administration confirmation hearing, and SLOTCO.

**Weekly Sync Meeting**

**April 7, 2026**

Legislative staff facilitated a weekly sync meeting with elected officials and staff to review the upcoming Band Assembly agenda. The meeting included discussion on bills to work on, the workshop schedule, workshop projects, and District Representative initiatives.

**Band Assembly Meeting**

**April 8, 2026**

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

The District Representatives took from the table and approved/denied Band Assembly Record: September 30, 2025.

The District Representatives tabled Band Assembly Record: October 15, 2025, Band Assembly Record: October 24, 2025, and Band Assembly Record: October 29, 2025.

Band Assembly conducted a confirmation hearing for Carla Big Bear, nominee for Health & Human Services Commissioner.

Band Assembly conducted a confirmation hearing for Anthony Pike, nominee for Assistant Commissioner of Administration.

Band Assembly received a presentation from Kelly Applegate, Commissioner of Natural Resources regarding Water over Nickel update.

The District Representatives took from the table, amended, and approved Band Assembly Bill 22-01-13-26 (. A bill for an act amending Title 16 by 1) restructuring MLVC to make it two separate corporations—the Corporate Commission overseeing gaming operations, and Corporate Ventures overseeing non-gaming operations; 2) creating a new role for the Corporate Commissioner; 3) including budget and spending provisions, and; 4) creating new shareholder rights. A public hearing

and comment period was held on this Bill in October of 2025). Sponsors: District I, II, and III Representatives

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 22-01-17-26 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget revision(s)/transfer(s) for the Executive and Legislative Branches for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2025 and September 30, 2026). Sponsor: District II Representative

The District Representatives approved a contract with Ron's Roll Off's to provide dumpster service for District 3 annual clean up.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Dagerstrom & Sons Construction, LLC., to provide labor and materials for a renovation project at a private elder home located in Moose Lake.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Satoree Construction to provide labor and materials for an emergency renovation project at a Private Elder home in Minneapolis.

The District Representatives approved a health provider agreement for Amanda Johnson-Fleming.

The District Representatives approved a health provider agreement for Kristina Soreson.

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

Chief Executive Virgil Wind shared "First off, I want to thank you guys again for the confirmation hearings today. Really do appreciate your time and all the work that you guys put into developing those questions. So thank you very much. I just want to touch a little bit on the hard choices, some of these commissioner positions are some of the hardest positions to fill within the Mille Lacs Band. Often times require twenty-four, seven commitments, care and dedication to all of our band members. Doing the hard work even when it's not pretty. Very simply these jobs are not for everyone. I do want to share a couple things here as part of that as a child I was always told as a kid that you're a valuable resource to the Mille Lacs Band. Go out to learn, build a career, attain a bunch of gifts that you can bring back to the Band to help our people. And this isn't something that. I believe is something that all of our former leaders have really believed in, so I want to share a couple quotes so, from Art back in the day "Our government exists for one purpose to serve our people when we invest in our members we strengthen our nation." And I also want to state one from Marge and it says, "When we believe in our people and invest in them, we ensure that the future of our Band remains strong." So, I want to acknowledge both nominees for a great job that they did today; knowing that they didn't have the answers to every question, but through their dedication. Both of them have worked for over two decades for the Band and again often in not pretty positions, making tough decisions on a daily basis and really propelling the Band forward. In regards to the job descriptions that you guys asked today about; very few band members meet all of those qualifications. I believe that both of these candidates have the qualities it takes the experience in working with the Band. The Band is a beast to work through; these positions are administrative and political in nature. Right? They have to know how to work within the beast that the Mille Lacs Band has come. Right? So, APB processes, procurement processes, all that stuff they know how to do all that, so just wanted to touch on that. And then there were some questions today really about, and I recognize and totally focus on this stuff every day but really questions around services within the outer districts. Services that happen all the way across the Band and I say like what have we chosen as leaders to invest in over the long term. So, when we look at something like elder services, we have a lot of opportunities as

leaders to come together and provide those services. We'll carry out whatever you guys appropriate, and we want to figure all that stuff out. I also wanted to touch on the outer districts too, so DIII is currently and thank you guys for the appropriation and support, but DIII is currently getting a dental upgrade out there, long overdue dental upgrade out there. As well as District II with the health and human services expansion that's been ongoing out there, we're looking to build those programs and services all across the Band. And then I also want to touch base on the community centers that were mentioned today, we're at a place in the Band with declining revenue. Where at a place in the Band where we really have to start looking after the buildings that we currently have and we're working tirelessly on that whole thing and the conversation that Representative Merrill and I had is what can we build that's reasonable that isn't going to cost the Band a ton of money over time, not saying that it's not important, but what's reasonable based on the population in those communities. And then how do we maintain those facilities over the long period of time, because we've really sucked at maintenance of the facilities. We just have to figure it out and I'm not opposed to those conversations happening, what can we do and what can we afford in the long run. Last on my list just wanted to touch base on Title 16, so I do appreciate the work that you guys have put into it I appreciate a large part of the bill. There are some things that were under review but really just a reminder that the way that Title 16 was originally structured was really to shield the Band and our long term assets from that corporate cloak that's out there in the protection of the Band government and everything that we hold dear, our long term investments, everything. So, just making sure the original intent of Title 16 is still not lost, but I do want to say I appreciate and support those efforts, while I was sitting in the District I office we started a lot of those hard conversations that are there today and this thing has been years in the making and hopefully we're able to compromise and figure out exactly what we can do to ensure that the Band is protected in the long run. But again just want to close out thank you guys for the opportunity that was given in the confirmation hearings again today, also want to echo Tony Pike's congratulations to Speaker of the Assembly Boyd Secretary-Treasurer Boyd congratulations, really do appreciate the work that you're done in your time here and Miigwech."

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

District I Representative Carolyn Beaulieu shared we had confirmation hearings and she appreciates those folks coming and stepping up and wanting to interview for those jobs. She shared now we have decisions to make here within this body and the steps they will take is looking at the requirements we look for in the job description and then comparing those to the interview today and come up with a consensus whether we feel those folks are educated and qualified enough to take those roles. She shared she would be on leave until the 20<sup>th</sup>; she has not had any significant time off since taking this position. She will be back on the 20<sup>th</sup>. She shared the community meeting will be on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 Travis Zimmerman to talk about the Museum and Tracy Burr to talk about HUD 184 leasing and Jereck Weyaus to talk about programming at the Miskwaanakwadookwe community center. She shared the elder circle is on April 26, 2026 and the Chiminising Youth pow wow also on the evening of April 26, 2026.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill shared we have our community meeting next week on April 14, 2026 East Lake at 5:30 p.m. and we have Gilda Burr and Mel Towle to talk about the Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP). on the agenda. Same thing for Chiminising on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. She shared miigwech to the candidates that came forward today to do the interview. There's some tough questions and she thinks they answered them to the best of their ability, and she appreciates them coming forward it takes a lot of courage to do that, Miigwech.

District III Representative Harry Davis shared he forgets the exact date of their community meeting, but it will be at Grand Casino Hinckley. He shared a comment on the joint session when we certified candidates, we changed the requirements to run for elected office in District III, his opinion it did not follow the past ordinances for elections regarding residency. We don't have to live on the reservation anymore to qualify and he didn't know this until after the certification date, so he couldn't give advance notice because he is sure there would've been a lot more people filing for candidacy. Starting this year, we don't have to live on the reservation just as long as you're within a twenty-five-mile radius of the Lake Lena community center.

**Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:**

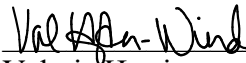
Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd had no message.

**Workshop**

**April 9, 2026**

Legal counsel facilitated a workshop with the Band Assembly regarding a discussion about the TERO Director recommendation for service on the Great Lakes TERO organization board and Title 12.

*The next Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.*

  
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Valerie Harrington-Wind  
Chief Communications Officer