



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: November 10-14, 2025

Weekly Sync Meeting

November 10, 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 bills to work on, the workshop schedule, workshop projects, and District Representative initiatives.

Band Assembly Meeting

November 12, 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 Record: April 16, 2025.

Band Assembly received a Mille Lacs Band Elders Presentation regarding Gichi Aya' aag Introductions.

Band Assembly conducted a confirmation hearing for Bernida Humetewa for At-Large MLCV Corporate Board nominee.

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 21-04-57-25 (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 and Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2026). Sponsor: District II Representative

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-04-58-25 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the Legislative Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2026). Sponsor: District II Representative

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-04-59-25: A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the December, January and February Fiscal Year 2026 Tribal Per Capita Distribution for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2026). Sponsor: District I Representative

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-04-60-25 (A Bill of Supplemental Appropriation for the December, January and February Fiscal Year 2026 Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act ("TGWEA") Assistance Payment Programs for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2026). Sponsor: District I Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-69-25 (A Resolution authorizing the Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures to expend funds from FY2026 Capital budget for Grand Casino Mille Lacs and Hinckley). Sponsor: District II Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-70-25 (A Resolution approving the Continuance of the Fiscal Operations of the Mille Lacs Band Government, Circle of Health, Gaming Regulatory Authority, Department of Cannabis Regulation, Department of Athletic Regulation, Supplemental Income Program for Elders, Tribal Employment Rights Office, Housing Initiative, and Band Member Legal Services until December 31, 2025). Sponsor: District I Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-71-25 (The Fiftieth Resolution approving the continuance of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Gaming and Non-Gaming Fiscal Operations). Sponsor: District II Representative

The District Representatives approved a contract with Red Beard Lumber Co., for building a 16'x20' building with two attached decks at the District I Cultural grounds.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Waste Management to provide, deliver, and pickup dumpsters for the DI housing warehouse, TRR rehab, and residential sites in the surrounding areas in DI & D2a.

The District Representatives approved a contract addendum with Firm Ground Architects & Engineers, Inc., to increase the funds and extending the contract end date to provide BIE review for the renovation.

The District Representatives approved a contract addendum with Firm Ground Architects & Engineers, Inc., to increase contract amount for additional architectural and engineering design work associated with the BIE deficiency reports for the renovations of NAS upper and lower schools.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Beehive Strategic Communications for public relations work supporting the Band's Water over Nickel-Sulfide mining, and education for the public on the issues.

The District Representatives approved a contract addendum for Ebert Companies to increase the amount as well as extend the contract end date.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures to provide the completion of the Minnesota Tourism.

The District Representatives approved a contract addendum for St. Cloud Refrigeration to add additional funds.

The District Representatives approved a contract with DSC Communications to provide cameras, software, and servers for new street security system in District I.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Finley and Cook to provide Unlimited Software services for the products of Business Central and Jet reports for our Microsoft Navigator Accounting software for OMB.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Brady, Martz, & Associates, P.C., to provide audit of the basic financial statements of the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa (Ojibwe) for the three years ended September 30, 2025, 2026, 2027.

The District Representatives approved Hardship: D1-01-11-25.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Huot Construction & Services Inc., for emergency Elder housing renovation basement repair and update project to include new flooring, complete bath & shower update, plumbing and carpentry.

Messages from the Chief Executive:

Chief Executive Virgil Wind shared “First off, I want to thank Gichi Aya’ aag for coming today. Thank you to the Band Assembly for hosting them and of course having me here, so thank you very much. A lot of conversations that we need to have and meeting those needs, so I do appreciate the opportunity appreciate them being here. Second thank you for your cooperation and partnership of the employee appreciation payment that’s going to be coming out. I believe that payment is scheduled for the week of Thanksgiving if I’m remembering correctly, so again thank you to the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe employees for all your dedication and hard work and service to the band membership. Also want to thank the Assembly for the confirmation hearing held today for Bernida I do appreciate that. Thank you to Bernida for her interest and really a call out to Representative Davis thank you very much for sending that name over and getting her in touch with me about her letter of interest and really showing that she wanted to actively play a role in the Corporate Board so I really do appreciate that. And then lastly that camera project has been years in the making, thank you to the grants team, CMD, and Tribal PD for working through this painstaking process, we got the grant awhile back we’ve worked on it and worked on it; infrastructure IT support all of that stuff, ultimately at the end of it, really had to draw the project back, but I think it’s going to be something very important to our communities. Being able to monitor those heavier trafficked areas in the event something should happen, so again thank you guys for your support on that project. To Representative Merrill and Davis this is a pilot project the grants team will continue to work on additional grants to be able to do that, I think when we get there really working with Tribal PD and yourselves and your community to figure out where those hotspots are, what can we do? How can we do it? How can we meet that need? I know originally when we talked about the camera project, we were going to do some blank cameras here and there kind of you’re on camera, smile you’re on camera and housing for the cameras was really the big brunt of the cost, so just having an empty shell somewhere as a deterrent and knowing we’re going to pop these things around will be an eventual step again, but really do appreciate that and hopefully we never have to use them, right hopefully everything goes good and we never have to use them, but in the event that we do, appreciate your help with that.”

Messages from the Representatives:

District I Representative Carolyn Beaulieu shared she was digging through her papers and the three branch meeting came up. She was wondering what’s going on with that and are we going to have one? She doesn’t remember who’s turn it was. She would like have the three branch meetings again. She put on record that she requested to have end of the year budget reviews with all the band departments and MLCV she needs that to have a good grasp on spending and to support or not support when a proposed budget comes forward. She shared this month’s agenda for District I (she will be on travel next week)

- Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Fall Feast Thursday, November 20, 2025.
- The holiday the following week we are not having a community meeting for District I.

- Her elder circle is Sunday, November 30, 2025 at that meeting we will be talking about a proposed bill that will put elders first. It will basically initiate some work to be done in regards to elder polices, changing elder policies, potentially creating separate entity that can advocate for elders. She welcomes any feedback input by anyone in the Band. Any suggestions for that work, otherwise they will be working diligently on that.
- Distribution from her office on November 21, 2025 District I 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Urban office 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. gift card distribution for Thanksgiving.
- In addition to the employee appreciation payment, we're doing Chief has set up an employee appreciation event on Tuesday, November 25, 2025 outer district employees will be release at 10 or 11:00 a.m. the event will kick off at noon not sure on exact details on when doors will open. They have a flyer they wanted to make sure everything was in place here first. We're looking at having a speaker as well as a comedian to have a great employee appreciation event.

She shared she has been spending a lot of her spare time working on initiatives for her District I

District II Representative Wendy Merrill she shared events coming up:

- Turkey giveaway on Friday, November 21, 2025 in Chiminising 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. turkey and gift card (Breast for elders if they don't want full turkey) Minisinakwaang will be from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. She would love to have some volunteers to come out it's nice to get out and meet with the community and give them a turkey.
- Community meeting in Chiminising on Monday, November 24, 2025 and Tuesday, November 25, 2025 in East Lake. She will not be in attendance so, Taria and Cheryl are going to be taking the reign on that community meeting and sharing information.

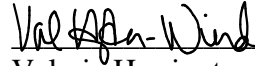
She shared some mailers that went out in regards to our December programming. She shared they started their own community food drive as we are lacking a food shelf in both are communities in East Lake and Chiminising. We had started our own community food drive so we're looking for donations for food items so we can give back to the community during the time of tariffs and cost of living going up. A little bit of food makes a difference so if anybody would like to volunteer and donate some food, we are open in Chiminising and East Lake on Mondays for those donations.

District III Representative Harry Davis shared this past Saturday we had a home boxing show at Grand Casino Hinckley ball room we had a good turn out, we have cash from the gate and we will return that to OMB and put that back in District III account. It was expensive we had to pay the ballroom and all that. He shared the community meeting for this month will be Thursday, November 20, 2025 at Grand Casino Hinckley at 5:30 p.m.

Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd shared he thinks it's important to recognize the dynamic that was here today with the group of elders that were here and he thinks that's what live stream is for. And the dynamic was pointed out in the presentation that the "boss" the boss is here; the boss is the people in this case it's the elders, it could be a group of young people twenty years old, it could be middle aged folks 20, 30, 40, but when the dynamic is here the votes of those people put us here and he wanted to be recognized that for his self personally he's not above getting a good talking to and he will sit and listen he won't say anything back and he will take it and hopefully learn from it.

The next Special Band Assembly meeting is not scheduled at this time.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer