



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: September 22-26, 2025

Weekly Sync Meeting

September 23, 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

September 24, 2025

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

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Record, April 2, 2025.

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 21-04-51-25 (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 I Representative

The District Representatives amended and approved Resolution 21-04-57-25 (A Resolution approving the continuance of the Mille Lacs Band Government, Circle of Health, Gaming Regulatory Authority, Department of Athletic Regulation, Supplemental Income program for Elders, Tribal Employment Rights Office, Housing Initiative, and Band Member Legal Services Fiscal Operations until December 31, 2025). Sponsor: District II Representative

The District Representatives amended and approved Resolution 21-04-58-25 (The Forty-eighth Resolution Approving the Continuance of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, Non-Gaming, and Gaming Fiscal Operations). Sponsor: District II Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-59-25 (A Resolution Repealing and Replacing Resolution ratifying a Subaward contract between the Mille Lacs Band DNR and the Minneapolis Foundation regarding the Great Lakes Thriving Communities EPA Grant). Sponsor: District II Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-60-25 (A Resolution Approving a License to Operate Wewinabi, Head Start, and Early Head Start in Districts I, II, and III). Sponsor: District II Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-61-25 (A Resolution Approving the Band's 2025-26 Membership into the National Congress of American Indians). Sponsor: District I Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-62-25 (A Resolution Approving the Submission of a Grant Application for the Community Services Block Grant and Minnesota Community Action Grant Package). Sponsor: District III Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-63-25 (A Resolution Ratifying the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee Charter with the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families). Sponsor: District III Representative

The District Representatives approved a contract with Bohn Properties, to provide Client services through Aanjibimaadizing program.

The District Representatives took no action on a contract addendum for Ebert Inc. to extend contract as well as add additional funds.

The District Representatives tabled a Master Service Agreement with Daxko, LLC., to perform the following services for Meshakwad Community Center, Daxko facility access, club automation software, SMS Services, Performance analytics, revenue recovery services, payment processing, and card account updater service.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Holland & Knight, LLP., to provide Federal Lobbyist Services to the Band.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Lockridge, Grindal, Nauen to provide the Band's State Lobbyist in St. Paul.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Rotunda Group to provide the Band's State Lobbyist in St. Paul.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Red Circle Agency to provide public relations, communications, and website management/maintenance.

The District Representatives took no action on a contract with KAGR/Storehouse to provide public relations, communications, message development, and crisis media management.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Lockridge, Grindal, Nauen, to manage the Band's Political Action Committee ("PAC") expenditures and compliance with campaign financed board reporting requirements.

The District Representatives tabled a contract for Beehive Strategic Communications to provide strategic communications related to Tamarack Mine Proposal and Comprehensive Public comment period campaign.

The District Representatives motion to approve the contract died for lack of a second, and the contract was not approved. (A contract for Randell Sam to provide Facilitation of the Domestic Abuse Transformation Program).

The District Representatives motion to approve the contract died for lack of a second, and the contract was not approved. (a contract for ScriptPro USA, Inc. to provide Pharmacy prescription processing equipment and support).

The District Representatives no action taken a contract for ScriptPro USA, Inc. to provide Third party billing reconciliation services.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Otis Elevator Company to provide fire services in District I Senior Living.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Robert Kellogg to provide Pharmacist relief services.

Messages from the Chief Executive:

Chief Executive Virgil Wind shared “So I’ll jump into my list here; first off the office of the Chief Executive has some vast duties that sometimes take me away from the office there and I apologize for not being there in person today. I was however attending a commutation of sentence for a band member who was evidently wrongly committed and has been serving, you know? For the last twenty-six years and four months, a very huge congratulations to Brian his sentence was commuted and within the next six months here he will be returning. And then jumping into a couple things that I want to address from earlier on in the meeting, I think it’s very important for membership out there to know that there have been commissioner nominations that were denied. May not have seen them being denied live on Band Assembly but there were two Commissioner of Corporate Affairs nominations that were very highly qualified, one of them that is Nationally renowned for her skills and work at you know? Fixing flailing and failing companies. Another one that had spent her entire life at the Mille Lacs Band you know? Building and operating our gaming industry, she’s still serving in that role and has done an extraordinary job at that. Both band members. More recently to all the conversation again about the commissioner positions, there were also two very highly qualified Commissioner of Administration nominees that were sent over, both of those nominations were inadvertently denied offline and it’s where we are, but we’ll continue to send them over. I also heard that there was some comment earlier about there not being a budget submitted, want to make it very clear to the constituents of the Mille Lacs Band that the budget was submitted, the budget is available to all Elected Officials on the restricted drive and has been there for some time now and we did meet the budgetary deadline even without a Commissioner of Administration in place. Jump over to the MLCV budget that was submitted in a timely manner, that is also available to the Elected Officials on the restricted drive. Jumping over to you know? This ScriptPro stuff, just want to make it clear to band membership that you know? It’s always a balance of revenue and expenditures and what we can do and the ScriptPro stuff and the pharmacy, by no means is the intent to turn anyone away but when saving millions of dollars if we have to go to that what we did today was we weakened our pharmacy, that’s what we did, again thousands of prescriptions get filled annually and we have a number of people that care deeply about our elders and we need to make sure that we’re able to provide those services. So, what we did today by not passing those for one or two Mille Lacs Band members our elders is we probably weakened that whole system for hundreds upon hundreds of elders so really should get together and get in the same room to have a full understanding of what the ramifications of that decision was today. Also like to speak on the Beehive contract, so for a number of years the Band has invested into really you know? Helping our District II community and the rest of the State of Minnesota in providing some protection against a mine. We’ve had some substantial stuff that some substantial wins with the mine particularly brand new mine design conversations. Kelly has done a great job you know? At putting this right at the fore front of every conversation when it comes to water in Minnesota and that’s a very very important contract for the Band. Little frustrated that we did meet in work session and had a conversation and an understanding of what we were going to do moving forward, we proposed two options, all three representatives at that time said well put forth the other option you know? The higher of the two options which was on the agenda today so hopefully we’re able to figure that out. Moving over to you know? A couple other things today, so in regards to the Meshakwad community center the contract that wasn’t approved or tabled today really is in line with revenue that can be brought in over there, being able to provide membership, being able to provide key fobs, being able to bring in revenue for the Meshakwad community center. There’s a full explanation for that we’ll have to also speak to that and then also to the KAGR stuff you know? Kris

has done a wonderful job protecting the Mille Lacs Band and we have a number of tools that we're able to call on, on very short notice to be able to protect the Mille Lacs Band and not having a crisis media person in place when these things happen is really going to weaken our stance both on the state and federal level. And then I'd also like to you know? Address you know? The comment made about you know? A prescription not being filled and a Mille Lacs Band elder passing. If there's some particular information that I'm not aware of I would really appreciate that information because I have not had any of those details shared with me to this point, I understand totally understand again that we shouldn't be turning anybody away but again it's going to require an appropriation in about face of what we're doing and how our pharmacy is operating. And lastly to the membership out there being a leader is a difficult job you know having disagreements is difficult one of the things that I'm most proud of of the Mille Lacs Band is the amount programs and services that we can provide and it is incumbent upon leadership to be able to figure out how to get along and how to be respectful and how to honor the people that work for the Mille Lacs Band in every capacity. I mentioned earlier that nearly one-third of our employees within Mille Lacs Band are Mille Lacs Band members and we need to treat them with respect, we need to be grateful for their dedication to the betterment and the general welfare of our band members and you know? It's supposed to be a team, right? We're supposed to be working together. And then lastly to the comments that I heard frequently today about those commissioner positions I want to close with there will be some more names coming over we do have a number of people doing an extensive amount of work to be able to make sure that this government is able to move forward and the fact that it keeps being stated that I haven't sent names over is false. That's what I have miigwech."

Messages from the Representatives:

District I Representative Carolyn Beaulieu shared in response to Chief Winds comments a budget was sent over for both government and MLCV but they're not balanced, they're way over the amount being distributed by gaming revenue so it's not a complete budget. She shared about commissioners she needs to make it clear to constituents that yes, we did receive commissioner names she supported the Commissioner in that temporary spot last year, but instead of paying attention to Commissioner of Administration duties she was put across the street and made a bunch of changes at MLCV that this Band Assembly did not agree with, so when her reappointment came up, we did not entertain that. There is a reason for that. The MLCV commissioner that was put forward yes, they have decades of experience at the gaming entity but revenues have been declining so show us that you can get those back up to where they need to be and then maybe we will consider you to put more responsibility under your belt. The other commissioner of administration she supported that nomination, but because there's probably other band members out there not related to the Chief Executive could take the position, that's what we were looking for. There was one other nomination by a former Commissioner of MLCV who had a removal hearing but decided to resign before she went before Band Assembly. We could not support that. So, we have reasons for denying these commissioner nominations we want qualified commissioners in these positions. We approved numerous contracts over the last year and six months without commissioners in place and she's done doing it. She knows we have thousands of prescriptions going through her concern is the ones not being filled for band members, and if it's true that someone passed away that they couldn't get their prescription that should be alarming to everybody and that needs to be addressed. Revenues are down over across the street so budgets need to reflect that, everybody. The Kris Jensen contract she asked Jamie, he has fifteen years' experience now, how did he get that contract fifteen years ago if he didn't have any experience? If that person is going to representing the Band and their PR efforts and that includes us Band Assembly then we should have a say on who that PR person is, that should go out for bid so we can have a couple Native American firms bid. She shared community meeting tonight meet and greet

with area teachers. She shared elder circle on Sunday we are going through the housing policy amongst other things. Hope to see all elders there on Sunday.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill shared she didn't have much to say or add at this time, a majority of the points that Carolyn had pointed out are valid and there's concerns across the board with these vacancies. Here we are at the end of the fiscal year and we haven't even thought about specifically the HHS commissioner, I have not seen a single nomination for that. Not seen a single nomination for the Assistant Commissioner of Administration. There were valid and informational letters sent out to the reason why we wanted to see the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs filled and posted first so that Commissioner of Administration position doesn't interfere with that leader for Corporate Affairs. Lastly, she added she has an elder dinner tonight at Father Hennepin State Park from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. hope to see elders there it's open to everyone. Please look out for District II Facebook page there's a lot of information shared on there in regards to fantasy bingo, tailgate events, community meetings, sewing classes, the list goes on look for that on social media otherwise a lot of that is sent out in the mail. Any questions or concerns please reach out (320)362-4925. Miigwech.

District III Representative Harry Davis shared scheduled appointment tomorrow will be on a sick day but will have phone if you have an emergency. He shared a comment for Chief Executive, how long ago was it when we didn't pass these commissioner positions and were not approved and why are these not posted we need those commissioners in place, the band members are taking the brunt of the lack of quality services they deserve. He shared through our revenue allocation plan which uses are casino business revenues and we should stop using our long-term savings for these programs and services these were meant for savings not for operations of programs and services.

Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd shared a lot of the budgetary issues that spill into the other areas. He thinks this assembly and all the elected officials now are getting a complete picture of the financial direction of the Band and it weighs heavily on them and there are always two sides but there are only one set of numbers. The folks are looking at those numbers and interpreting them with their interests in mind and their positions as District Representatives. What it's about he thinks membership has to know that what weighs very heavily on the Assembly is our financial security. He thinks recognition or understanding for the disagreements that are amongst folks here, have understanding that they have a lot on their minds, give them some time to work this out, we will get there.

Workshop

September 25, 2025

Legal counsel facilitated a workshop with the Band Assembly regarding potential Band Assembly meeting on 9/30/2025, contracts not approved at 9/24/2025 Band Assembly meeting, preparations for the end of the legislative session, and Title 4 bill.

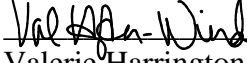
MLB Delegate Convention

September 26, 2025

Legislative Elected Officials and staff attended the Mille Lacs Band Delegate Convention held at Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events Center.

The next Special Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

This was the last regular session of Band Assembly.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer