



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: March 2-6, 2026

Workshop

March 3, 2026

Legal counsel facilitated a workshop with the Band Assembly regarding a discussion about the SLOTCO, Solicitor General report, and commissioner nominations.

Band Assembly Meeting

March 4, 2026

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

Band Assembly received a presentation from Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures-leaders & staff regarding Ventura Development Project.

The District Representatives approved Hardship: D1-01-03-26.

Messages from the Chief Executive:

Chief Executive Virgil Wind shared “First off I want to just reiterate thank you guys for the presentation and where we’re at with Ventura and everybody else that’s put work to get us here, I really do appreciate that, and of course Representative Merrill the support of getting that thing built. I think it’s a very valuable resources for all of our urban membership. So miigwech and whatever we can do to help get that over the finish line we’re more than happy; it’s been pain staking when all the models that we’ve looked at to try do it and this one actually came out the best with pushing that Indian preference so we’re very thrilled about that. I also want to note on March 26, 2026 we’ll be having a Chief Executive elder meeting held here at Grand Casino Mille Lacs it will start at 10:00 a.m. we anticipate a couple hours and then having a lunch after that; so, we’re inviting all elders to come to that; that will be our first one under this administration. Looking to have all the elders in the room and have some conversations about the things that we do for our elders as well as address some concerns that have been resounding for policy change and just trying to figure that stuff out. I also have some special announcements here to everybody that’s listening, so as many of you are aware the positions of Commissioner of Corporate Affairs, Assistant Commissioner of Administration, and Commissioner of Health & Human Services have been vacant for several months. I’m happy to announce that I recently sent nominations for each of these positions over to the Band Assembly for review and hopeful ratification. Regarding the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs position I believe that I’ve made diligent efforts over the last several months to nominate a band member for this position, in fact I made three nominations, but none of them made it through the process. With all of that being said and behind us I’ve received message from the Band Assembly loud and clear fill the positions, also heard from band members that want me to have the most qualified person that we can find to occupy the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs position and I believe that I have found that person. The person I have nominated to serve as the Band’s next Commissioner of Corporate Affairs

is Adam Valdez, Adam previously served the Band as Commissioner of Finance. Adam has more than thirty years of experience in finance including two decades devoted exclusively to Indian country. He has advised tribal governments, gaming enterprises, fortune 500 companies, and financial institutions in the areas of taxation, corporate finance, enterprise restructuring, employee benefits, and strategic planning. Adam is not only a certified public accountant, but also possesses a Master's Degree in taxation. Adam has recently completed a post graduate program in artificial intelligence. Although not an enrolled Mille Lacs Band member, Adam is a Kickapoo member. I believe that Adam is the ideal candidate to lead the Band's companies into a prosperous future. Regarding the Assistant Commissioner of Administration position, I'm happy to announce my nomination of band member Tony Pike to serve in this role, we all know Tony; very hard working dedicated, responsible, committed band member. Tony has served the Band for more than twenty years in the Public Works department; including as roads and solid waste operation manager for several years. For twenty-four of these years with the Band Tony served in a supervisory role. Tony also served more than twenty years in the Minnesota National Guard including various overseas deployments. He is deeply committed to culture, traditions, and the reputation of the Mille Lacs Band. Finally, we have the Commissioner of Health & Human Services position. I'm happy to announce my nomination of band member Carla Big Bear to serve in this role. Carla has been a central figure keeping tribal police operating for nearly the past decade, serving an agency as vital as tribal police, Carla has demonstrated consistency in looking after the safety and security of our community members. Carla also possesses a Master's degree in Tribal Administration & Governance and previously served the Band for several years in grant writing positions, grant compliant position, and child support. Carla's extensive experience with grant compliance, regulatory compliance, and band government processes and procedures will help reshape the department of Health & Human Services in a way that more effectively looks after the health and well-being of our band members. I strongly believe that Carla is ready and deserving of this increased level of responsibility and I sincerely recommend that she be given that opportunity. Regarding each of these nominees I want every band member to know that I believe in them, I wouldn't have nominated them if I didn't. I believe that these nominees will help me carry out the mission that the band members elected me to carry out and through the diligent efforts along our existing commissioners, directors, and elected officials I believe that Adam, Tony, and Carla will help lift the Band to even greater heights. I apologize for my lengthy message there, but I really do appreciate the time. Miigwech."

Messages from the Representatives:

District I Representative Carolyn Beaulieu shared miigwech we did receive those nominations miigwech Chief we're going to spend the next few days going over those nominations and comparing them to the requirements for these commissioner positions.

She shared District I community for the month of March:

- Monday, March 16, 2026 the Candidate Forum at the Baadwewidang Center 5:30 p.m. on the agenda is Secretary-Treasurer candidates.
- Wednesday, March 25, 2026 our District I Community meeting at the Baadwewidang center she will share agenda items as they become available.
- Elder Circle Sunday, March 29, 2026 starts at noon.
- Evening sewing classes will start next Thursday flyer is being created to get sent out. We do have limited materials to help about ten people with a blanket, if interested please sign up when they provide the information.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill shared she appreciates MLCV for coming today and talking about this project (Ventura) that has been much needed. Trying to figure out the numbers and how it's going to work is very important to the urban community, we will be working on that next to make sure that's the process we want to go. As for the nominee for Corporate Commissioner she's on the page of we need to pass title 16 first before we can consider any corporate nominee and she knows that was something that you (Chief Wind) had talked about previously when discussing title 16 that you would work on that, get that passed and you would have that position available. That's something that we would like to do before we consider a Corporate Affairs nominee, looking forward to having that conversation, that legislation is ready to go and we just need to have a conversation and get that passed before we can consider and that is something that us Band Assembly has talked about. Miigwech for letting me be Speaker Pro Tem today.

District III Representative Harry Davis shared our District III candidate forum will be on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at Aazhoomog at 5:30 p.m. see you all there. He shared that was our community meeting date so we had to move our community meeting to Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at Grand Casino Hinckley at 5:30 p.m.

Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:

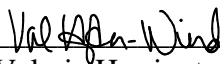
Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd was not present.

MLB Delegate Convention

March 6, 2026

Legislative Elected Officials and staff attended the Mille Lacs Band Delegate Convention held at McGregor City Hall, McGregor, Minnesota.

The next Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer