



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: October 27-31, 2025

Workshop

October 28, 2025

Legal counsel facilitated a workshop with the Band Assembly regarding biennial budget letter to Chief Executive, resolution seeking Solicitor General opinion, Department of Natural Resources resolution on consultation on mining funds, Community Development resolution on tribal utility Memorandum of Understanding, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures continuing resolution, and Commissioner job descriptions.

Weekly Sync Meeting

October 28, 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

October 29, 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 (BAR): April 9, 2025.

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 21-04-55-25 (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 approved Resolution 21-04-64-25 (A Resolution requesting an opinion from the Solicitor General addressing whether the Commissioner of Administration's immediate family member serving as a Band Executive Officer violates Band Law or Policy). Sponsor: District I, District II, District III Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-65-25 (A Resolution supporting a memorandum of understanding between the Native American Utility Company and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, by and through the Band's Department of Community Development). Sponsor: District III Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-66-25 (The Forty-Ninth Resolution approving the continuance of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Gaming and Non-Gaming Fiscal Operations). Sponsor: District II Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-67-25 (A Resolution in support of Meaningful Consultation Associated with the Disbursement of Federal funds for mining activities under the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026). Sponsor: District I Representative

The District Representatives approved a contract with Mercury Technologies of Minnesota, Inc., for recycling services of hazardous waste/e-waste to include florescent and CFL lightbulbs.

The District Representatives tabled 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.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Wex Companies dba Septic Check for upgrading the electrical panel located at the east tanks for septic system shared by the East Lake Community Center and Minisinaakwaang Academy.

The District Representatives approved a contract with St. Cloud Refrigeration for heating, cooling, kitchen refrigeration, plumbing, preventative maintenance & emergency repairs for the Nay ah Shing High school and Elementary.

The District Representatives tabled 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 with Amanda Nickaboine-Meyer to provide Ojibwe Language classes at Four Winds Lodge two times a week.

The District Representatives approved a contract Ed Shaw Law for Family Healing to Wellness Court Legal Services.

The District Representatives approved Hardship: D2-01-10-25.

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-68-25 (A Resolution approving the continuance of the Fiscal Operations of the Mille Lacs Band Government, Circle of Health, Gaming Regulatory, Department of Cannabis Regulations, Department of Athletics Regulations, Supplemental Income Programs for Elders, Tribal Employment Rights Office, Housing Initiative, and Band Member Legal Services until November 30, 2025.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Holland and Knight to continue Professional Legal Services in regards to Special Projects, mainly the proposed Tamarack mine, and OSG legal support.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Lockgridge Grindal Nauen PLLP., will provide legal services in regards to the proposed Talon metals mine near Tamarack, Minnesota, and OSG legal support.

The District Representatives approved a Master Service Agreement with DAXCO, LLC., to provide services to the Meshakwad Community Center.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Simafranca Law to provide legal services for Band Member Legal Services.

The District Representatives approved a contract for SailorsAllen Law to provide legal services for Band Member Legal Services.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Central Minnesota Conflict and Pro Se Services to provide legal services for Band Member Legal Services.

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 21-04-56-25 (A Bill Authorizing Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Wewinabi Inc. for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2026).

Messages from the Chief Executive:

Chief Executive Virgil Wind shared “First off thank you for a wonderful meeting, want to start off my messages with that of course thank you. Jumping into just an announcement that the Chief Executive has conducted community meetings in four of our different areas over the course of the last month. Want to thank everybody out there for their attendance within those they were very well attended and I believe we had some wonderful conversations, but we are on schedule to continue those on a quarterly basis. Wanted to do a special congratulations and thank you to all of our band members for their dedication and service and willingness to serve on our different boards so in particular Shelly Day congratulations and thank you for your work on the school board and filling a very important role there, Randy Dorr also serving as a D2 Housing board thank you for that, Maurice Benjamin Department of Athletic Regulation thank you, Ezra Sam as well for Department of Athletic Regulation thank you so much. In regards to the budgets I do appreciate the continuing resolution want you guys to know and be assured that we are working very hard to get that work done we are looking at what we can do over all what we can shift around what we can do to protect and continue to provide services in an economy that’s tough out there right? There are some things that are very difficult, one of them is increased health insurance cost, making sure that we’re staying to market on a lot of positions as well as the three percent appraisals that is possible through that. Also wanted to note that the Executive Branch is not the only area that we need to focus on within this budget there are other areas that, want to thank Mel and his team for reaching out to the other areas Band Member Legal Services I know was on the agenda today that is one that has substantial increase from the last biennium into this one and really just looking at what that all looks like. Question for leadership is how do we prioritize that, right? Like none of us individually have the authority to tell Band Member Legal Services what to do, we can appropriate an amount of money to them and then they can make that work, but I don’t have the unilateral authority to say you know what remain flat to one year to the next, but how do we get that done? Right? Setting those goals, but I do want to thank Mel Towle and Chris Waite for their work on this as well as my office staff pulling all of these numbers together and really looking at what we’ve done over time and what we’re looking at doing into the future with really the target of remaining flat from one year to the next or one biennium to the next. Also want to just briefly announce that there will be some forthcoming information shared across the Band about the government shut down, in particular the SNAP benefits that will be addressed, the team is working on that it should be out by this afternoon, very fortunately we are in a place where not a large number of members receive SNAP benefits from the Band but we are making sure and ensuring that they have an option during this time. I think there will be more information that comes out for sure, but the recipients of those benefits are going to have to weigh what those options are in going forward but we are pulling all that together and it should be out by the end of the day. Also, an announcement for the Halloween events that are going to happen on the government side this Friday from 5-7 p.m. there will be Halloween events here at the government center as well as a few of the district community centers, we really want to thank everybody involved that

volunteered for those events. Just want band government to be a comfortable place for all of our people to come to, if they can come and have some fun, my feeling is that they'll come when they're in need as well, so really do appreciate that and all of the volunteers so, thank you for that. And then just a comment overall like when band member legal services come with a contract right? And they're kind of this autonomous board that exists out there, aside from vetoing, I don't even know that I have veto authority over a contract, that's one of the things like, so I share similar concerns as the Band Assembly with band member legal services and those complaints that we're constantly hearing and they're ability to meet the needs of our band membership, but I am unclear as to what my mechanism is within that right? So, the contract comes over, you know of course budgets are appropriated right? And I get a sign off right there, but when it comes to band member legal services contracts some of the questions that I've had over time are, how many people are you servicing within those contracts? Are there individual billings and a real record of who you're serving and when? And then in regards to band member legal services as well really looking at what service do we want to provide? Right? Statue is clear on what we should provide and which service area, but more conversations I think need to happen about how we're going to meet those needs across the band, but again I struggle with what is my bite at this contract? You know? And I don't know what that avenue is you know? We'll get legal working on it I guess, but I just don't know and understand and even during the Band Assembly meeting I tried to get Speaker Boyd's attention so that I could ask a question right within this and also share some concerns because there is no avenue for that right? For the Chief Executive's office so just want to close with that and again really thank you guys for a wonderful meeting and please feel free to attend Friday I even have a costume that I'll borrow you. Miigwech."

Messages from the Representatives:

District I Representative Carolyn Beaulieu shared congratulations to everyone we swore in today, Shelly, Randy Maurice, and Ezra, she stated she is sure you will all do fantastic jobs on your new appointments. She shared

- Tonight, is her Halloween party at the Baadwewidang center doors will be open at 5:00 p.m. starts at 5:30 p.m. we will be doing costume contests for three different age groups, we're having a Halloween dessert contest; all cash prizes. "Be there or be square".
- Veterans Resources fair, all veterans if you are available next Wednesday, November 5, 2025 Grand Casino Mille Lacs is having a Veterans Resources Fair 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. There will be information there on housing, employment, education, health benefits, and more. If you are a veteran please attend.
- Mille Lacs elder gathering tomorrow 10:30 a.m. they're having a costume party. Be there elders.

She shared she has been spending a lot of her spare time working on initiatives for her District I elders, we've had three elder circles now and we have really great discussion. We do a lot and there's a lot of discussion and there's a lot of similar issues from the elder's perspective on policies in housing

- They don't work for elders anymore.
- They're inconsistent.

- They don't know about half of the policies.
- They don't feel like they have representation on their end.

She shared she's working with her elders to propose some policy changes within housing; one being when our elders get to be the age of like 80 years old; which we're all very lucky if we reach that age, we shouldn't be nickel and diming our elders and making them pay for stuff so she will be proposing changes to our policies that once our elders hit the age of 80, we forgive whatever they owe to the band, because especially programs that are funded by net revenue. "Those casino revenues, that casino was created to bring us money that we need to serve our people and right now I'm learning from many of my elders that they are not getting the services, the adequate services that they need to live comfortably and worry free." She stated there's no reason she can think of that we're making people in their eighties pay bills to housing. She shared that's what she will be working on for her community.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill she shared a statement onto what Carolyn shared on elder forgiveness for mortgages are also something that are big concerns, so hoping that we can review that; she knows quite a few elders in her community that have reached out to her for the mortgage forgiveness; you know reaching a certain age or whatever that may be, that is something that we have talked about.

She shared we did have our Halloween party last night in East Lake and she thanked all the band members, all the volunteers, big shout out to Chief West and Deputy Naumann for coming to the meeting and handing out candy and the Ge-Niigaanizijig program, and her staff. There are so many people to thank and without these volunteers and their dedication and their hard work her events would not be possible. "It takes a village to definitely make these events happen for the community." She shared the following community events coming up:

- Tonight, October 29, 2025 she has a Halloween party in Chiminising starting at 5:30 p.m.
- Vikings Tailgating Party against Detroit Lions November 2, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. (set up at 10:00 a.m.) – everybody is welcome bring a dish to share, we have prizes for everybody but the tickets given away are for community members only.

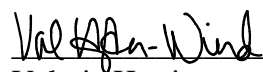
She shared unfortunately she is unable to attend the Chief's Halloween events we do have important ceremonial duties this weekend.

District III Representative Harry Davis shared Halloween party will be tomorrow at Aazhoomog begins at 5:30 p.m. there will be prizes for costumes and we're going to have a hayride around the center. See you all there.

Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd had no message,

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


 Valerie Harrington-Wind
 Chief Communications Officer