



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: April 20-24, 2026

Workshop April 21, 2026

Legal counsel facilitated a workshop with the Band Assembly regarding a discussion about the Ventura project, Title 12, and statutory deadlines for Executive and Legislative action in the event of a veto on the recently passed Title 16 bill.

Weekly Sync Meeting April 21, 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 21, 2026

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

Band Assembly conducted a compromise hearing regarding Vetoed Act 13-26 Amending Title 16 (Corporations). The hearing commenced at 1:11 p.m. with an overview from the Speaker of Assembly on vetoed items. There was a statement from Chief Executive Virgil Wind on the vetoed items for proposed compromise. Following the opening statement were comments from all the District Representatives. The compromise hearing was recessed at 1:16 p.m.

Band Assembly Meeting April 22, 2026

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 Bill 22-01-11-26 (A Bill authorizing a supplemental appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures for Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures for the Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2026 and September 30, 2027). Sponsor: District II Representative

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 22-01-19-26 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditures and budget revision(s)/transfer(s) for the Executive and Judicial Branches for the Fiscal Years ending September 30, 2025 and September 30, 2026). Sponsor: District I Representative

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 22-01-20meets (A Bill for an act amending Chapter 4 of Title 12 to provide debt relief to Band member elders 55 years of age or older

who owe money on homes financed through the Band's Home Loan Program and meet certain requirements). Sponsor: District II Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 22-01-19-26 (A Resolution approving the continuance of Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures' Gamin and Non-Gaming Fiscal operations). Sponsor: District II Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 22-01-20-26 (A Resolution approving the Continuance of the Fiscal Operations of the Mille Lacs Band Government, Circle of Health, Gaming Regulatory Authority, Department of Cannabis, Department of Athletic Regulation, Supplemental Income Program for Elders, Tribal Employment Rights Office, Housing Initiative, and Band Member Legal Services). Sponsor: District III Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 22-01-21-26 (A Resolution ratifying a contract between Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures' and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, whereby the Band agrees to hire MLCV as an asset Manager to oversee third-party contractors that will operate the Band-owned Ventura Development and the Band agrees to subsidize Ventura Development operations in the first year). Sponsor: District II Representative

The District Representatives motioned to approve and motion failed. Nomination (A nomination from Chief Executive Wind, nominating Carla Big Bear to serve as the Health & Human Services Commissioner. Term ending June 30, 2029).

The District Representatives approved Nomination (A nomination from Chief Executive Wind, nominating Anthony Pike to serve as the Assistant Commissioner of Administration. Term ending June 30, 2029).

The District Representatives approved a contract with Dr. Tyson Burningham to provide part-time clinical care support in internal medicine on as needed basis when Providers are out on leave.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Momentum ECM LLC. to provide needed support for current Laserfiche systems, including changes to existing forms and issues with the systems that may occur.

The District Representatives approved a contract with St. Cloud Refrigeration to provide maintenance and technical management at two Mille Lacs Band Senior Living locations in District I & III. Contract end date is December 31, 2026.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Hy-Tec to provide labor and materials for the Lake Lena Dental Clinic renovation project.

The District Representatives tabled a contract with American Indian Community Development Corporation to cover back payments and upcoming payments from September 1st FY25 to May 30th FY26.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Chestnut Health Systems for the Healing to Wellness court data system.

Messages from the Chief Executive:

Chief Executive Virgil Wind was not present.

Messages from the Representatives:

District I Representative Carolyn Beaulieu shared an explanation and reasoning behind her abstained vote for the Assistant Commissioner. She based her decision not to vote on that because of the education and experience qualifications created for that position. She shared also reviewing the nomination hearing how the questions were answered, didn't have confidence in that. She shared the job descriptions that were last created by the five band officials in 2017 who felt the qualifications for positions to be in place in order to be successful. She did not want to set a precedent that we are going to require education and then not require when we appoint. She shared these are not entry level positions, they are not go in and get trained, they are go in and hit the ground running, and she did not feel the nominees demonstrated that in the interview. She shared furthermore the positions were never posted, so we do not know if there are better qualified individuals out there for these positions. She shared that is the reasoning behind her silent vote for that one. She shared congratulations the Assistant Commissioner did make it through with the two other Representatives voting for that. She shared District I community meeting tonight we have Tracy Burr coming to talk about 184 HUD loans, Jereck Weyaus to talk about the Miskwaanakwadookwe programming, and Travis Zimmerman from Mille Lacs Indian Museum. She closed with her hopes to see folks tonight.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill shared Chiminising pow wow this Sunday, April 26, 2026 at Isle High School. She shared as far as the nominees she mentioned that speaking to community members and individuals working in HHS, she did ask and she thought that both candidates could do the job. She shared knowing the current Commissioner of Administration and her overseeing all these different departments, she needs the help. She shared she does understand the reasoning behind she was hoping on giving band members a fair shot to get in there and learn how the current Commissioner of Administration is currently learning the HHS aspect of her role. She shared she thinks Carla could have done the work. She shared congratulations to Tony, she thinks he can do a great job there and excited to move things forward. She shared that she is hoping with that reason for HHS that we can get that position posted she agrees there are lots of band members out there that can do the job. Miigwech.

District III Representative Harry Davis shared why he chose to be silent on voting for the Commissioner of Health & Human Services he believes this position of Health & Human Services Commissioner is a very complex position and we need someone that can hit the ground running, there's so much involved with this position and he thinks we need someone with more experience. That is all Miigwech.

Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd shared he wanted to give some insight to the incoming reps coming in. These positions have some tough decisions sometimes. Working with them he can see that. He wants people to know it weighs heavy on them. Whether they vote one way or the other, that's part of this job is voting in these positions. Big decisions and he certainly does not envy them, but he certainly understands in working with them and he thinks to seek understanding from folks who agree or do not agree with these folks and this happens all the time it is part of this job.

Workshop

April 23, 2026

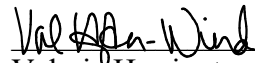
Legal counsel facilitated a workshop with the Band Assembly regarding a discussion about the Joint Resolution approving the Revenue Allocation Plan, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures outdoor grow appropriation request, and Vetoed Title 16 Act.

Three Branch Meeting

April 24, 2026

Executive Branch hosted a three-branch meeting with the Legislative and Judicial Branches. During the three-branch meeting there were updates provided by the Judicial Branch; Chief Justice, District Court Judge, Legislative Branch; Secretary-Treasurer, District II Representative, Legislative Affairs Director, Executive Branch; Commissioner of Natural Resources, Commissioner of Education, Commissioner of Community Development, Commissioner of Administration, and Chief Executive.

The next Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer