



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: January 19-23, 2026

Band Holiday Civil Rights Day

January 19, 2026

Workshop

January 20, 2026

Legal counsel facilitated a workshop with the Band Assembly regarding a discussion about the vetoed TERO legislation and reviewed a bill to curtail spending of the Band's long-term investment funds.

Band Assembly Meeting

January 20, 2026

The Speaker of the Assembly convened a meeting of the Band Assembly.

Band Assembly conducted a continued compromise hearing regarding Vetoed Act 63-25 a Bill for an Act amending Title 15, chapter 4 to comprehensively reform the Band's Tribal Employment Rights Office code. The hearing resumed at 12:09 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. Discussion on compromised items continued with comments and questions from the District Representatives and the Chief Executive. A compromise was reached. The Chief Executive asked for additional time to contact the TERO Commission before committing to the agreed terms. The compromise hearing was recessed at 1:07 p.m. next continued compromise hearing will be scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2026.

Band Assembly Meeting

January 21, 2026

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: June 20, 2025 and tabled Band Assembly Record: June 25, 2025

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 22-01-04-26 (A Bill Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation for the purpose of authorizing expenditure(s) and budget revision(s)/transfer(s) for the Executive and Legislative Branch(s) for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2025 and September 30, 2026). Sponsor: District I Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 22-01-05-26 (A Resolution approving the continuance of the fiscal operations of the Mille Lacs Band Government, Circle of Health, Gaming Regulatory Authority, Department of Cannabis Regulation, 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 22-01-06-26 (A 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 Stericycle, Inc., for secure document shredding.

The District Representatives approved a contract with St. Joseph Medical Center, to provide on-site cardiology services at the Ne-Ia-Shing Clinic.

Messages from the Chief Executive:

Chief Executive Virgil Wind shared "First off I want to reiterate the gratitude that I have to Gilda Burr and her family for the role that she will step into. Just a reminder to everybody out there, she won't officially start in that capacity until Monday as she's just wrapping things up down in Tribal Court, so just a shout out again to her family and of course to the Band Assembly for your support. I believe Gilda is going to do some wonderful things in administration and really just appreciate your support on that. In regards to some things on the Band Assembly agenda today there was a lot of budget clean up and transfers that happened, I just want to do a shout out to the Commissioners, Directors, and budget managers out there really just thankful and grateful for their ability to work together and pull funds from elsewhere, so that we're not coming here for another appropriation. An example that I would like to use today is in over five-hundred and three thousand dollars being found in some budgets out there to help support a very important initiative that I know we're all behind and that's our scholarships program. Traditionally the scholarship program has been underfunded year over year over year and it's always been the practice to come and ask for an additional appropriation and I want to give a huge shout out to Raina and her team for being able to find that funding somewhere else to support that. I believe that it's really due to the amount of students and the amount of people out there that are utilizing the scholarships program, so it's a great problem to have right? Trying to figure out more and more funding for these scholarships and as noted earlier that's one of the things that we're dealing with within trying to balance a budget from one year to the next. In regards to the budget that work is ongoing, we've as noted in State of the Band a few times, we have cut millions of dollars and really trying to find that sweet spot between a balance of providing those services and making sure that they're adequate. I would like to make a note that in regards to the conversation here with HHS that work over there as stated at State of the Band the DII facility will be up and running and I know that the teams both in District II and District III are looking at expanding those services out there. We will be calling on the community, the District Representatives to be able to advertise those services once they come online they will be new to those areas, so as those things are developed, District II in particular there will be a whole building that is HHS and that's looking at being constructed this summer. There through the plans. And I'm not sure if they're at bid quite yet, it slips my mind, but the whole intent there is to be able to provide more and more services out there. I also know that the DIII clinic out there is getting a very much needed dental area rehab, apparently and I haven't been there, apologies, but it's like walking into a dental area from twenty years ago is what I'm told so now they're at the final stages of getting that updated and getting that done. And then a call out to the community members and membership that once those services are provided, it's very costly to have a dentist sitting there, hygienist, assistant everybody and not utilize that program, so we will need your help to advertise that stuff and get that done. And HHS has got a plan to make sure they're pushing that information out there as well. Jumping over to State of the Band for just one sec I want to thank everybody thank of course the Legislative Branch the Judicial Branch for their updates and also want to thank the membership that

came, dignitaries that showed up, there were over twelve hundred people in attendance at State of the Band. Thank you to the departments that pulled together stuff and information really pushing out the services that we're so blessed to provide to our membership. I reported for an hour, over an hour on things that we're doing and progress that is being made across the Band, progress is tough, progress is slow but we are heading in the right direction, again reported for over an hour on things that we're doing and initiatives that are gaining progress, I couldn't do that work without the Assembly and their support, so thank you guys again. One last shout out to everybody that came really appreciate that. In regards to the world that we're living in right now, it's a tough tough area to be in for all of our membership. Any person of color seems to be living in a different world today than they did a month ago and really looking at how do we support that, we are working with our federal partners, we're working with other tribal leadership, we're working amongst elected officials here to figure out what we can do to best provide those services for our membership, so I want to thank you guys again for that. Do want to touch base quickly on misinformation, to the band members out there, there's a ton of it and there are people agitating and stirring and spreading misinformation that really isn't true. A call out to those band members out there my phone is on my hip all the time, if you have a question I'll do my best to answer it. In regards to the franchise hotels, it's a difficult situation. I want to thank the corporate board for working around the clock and really stepping up over and above their duties to try to make the most sound business decisions that are in line with statute. Reminder keep your tribal IDs on you, enrollments has done a phenomenal job of pushing out information making Tribal IDs available now to those five to eighteen years of age, five to forever right? Years of age. Also providing certificates of Indian blood for those that aren't quite five years old, so just a shout out to enrollments department for their hard work and we look at having a continuous cadence of information going out just so that everybody knows. I know that enrollments department is really been under a lot of pressure to get all of these IDs done, so please be patient with them, but they are working around the clock to get that done. In regards to Makwa Global I would like to echo the Band Assembly's conversation about providing more and more information, what I've asked is put together a presentation that shows when Makwa Global was pulled together, pull together information on what contracts we've been successful at overall, pull together information on on-going contracts, pull together information on what that approval process looks like getting to the board, the corporate board for approval and just give us more and more information so that we're equipped with the right answers should somebody call and should ask, so if there is a meeting scheduled I ask that I could be in attendance otherwise we can set up our own separate meeting, but the more information we're going to better off. We are in the process of scheduling a zoom meeting for band members out there just going over some of the stuff that's been thrust in to the public's eye here. I want every band member to know that the protection of the Mille Lacs Band and our citizens is at the forefront of every decision that is being made. These decisions aren't taken lightly, we're working very hard to make sure that we're looking out for the longevity of the Band, well being of the Band, and I'll just say personally this is what I signed up for right? So, I do ask those out there again check your information, reach out, we'll share what we can. Again doubling back to the Friday evening zoom meeting, there will be some posts that go out there will be a link. Thought it would be best to have it via zoom, this meeting will be only for band members, you will have to log in similar to how you log in on the website to be able to attend this meeting. Really just want to share some information things that the Bands doing. Conversations that are being had, explain any information to that, but just a word of caution again to band members out there, there are people out there that don't have the best interest of the Band at heart and sadly are sharing and spewing information that is just not true and this meeting is to try to eliminate those concerns, try to share information, but that information will come out real soon. Sorry for my long rant there Mr. Speaker mi'iw miigwech."

Messages from the Representatives:

District I Representative Carolyn Beaulieu shared a congratulations for everyone that was sworn in today, Gilda, Officer Bjerkness, and Bernida. She shared “I just echo Chief Wind times are really difficult right now people are getting mixed information, rumors, what not, so just try to be mindful and of course I’m always available for questions too and I speak the truth, so if you have any questions for me reach out.” She shared this week we are dealing with a couple deaths in the community. She shared on Sunday, January 25, 2026 we have our elder circle, District I elders please come to our listening circle doors open at noon, we have lunch, circle, bingo, and then dinner.

District II Representative Wendy Merrill shared we had our community meeting last night in East Lake and tonight we have our community meeting in Chiminising starting at 5:30 p.m. She shared “And I do of course want to echo everything everybody else said and congratulations to Gilda and Bernida and the new Tribal Police Officer. I do want to just set aside some dedication here to Gilda she is definitely somebody that I’ve always looked up to figuratively not figuratively, but literally and I think she’s going to be a really really great addition to the cabinet and I’m really excited for her to start and we are just so excited, so looking forward to that.” She shared on the January 28, 2026 she knows a few drums that will be setting their dates for the spring dances.

District III Representative Harry Davis shared congratulations to Gilda, Bernida, and new Tribal Police Officer.

Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd shared we’d like to welcome a new staff member Erin Anderson to the team and miigwech everyone.

Joint Session of the Band Assembly Meeting

January 21, 2026

The Speaker of the Joint Session of the Assembly convened a meeting of the Band Assembly. The Joint Session of the Band Assembly amended and approved the agenda.

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly approved Joint Resolution 22-01-01-26 (A Resolution approving the enrollments into the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for those who meet the ¼ degree requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe).

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly approved Joint Resolution 22-01-02-26 (A Resolution denying the enrollments into the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for those who do not meet the ¼ degree requirement of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe).

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly approved Joint Resolution 22-01-03-26 (A Resolution denying the enrollments in the Non-Removable Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for applicants who were not born to an enrolled Mille Lacs Band member).

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly approved Joint Resolution 22-01-04-26 (A Resolution appointing an Election Court of Appeals Judge for the 2026 Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election on Mille Lacs Reservation).

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly approved Joint Resolution 22-01-05-26 (A Resolution appointing an Election Contest Judge and Alternate Election Judge for the 2026 Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Election on the Mille Lacs Reservation).

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly approved Joint Resolution 22-01-06-26 (A Resolution designating the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Office of the Solicitor General as the Entity responsible

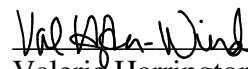
for conducting the criminal background investigations of candidates for the 2026 Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Elections on the Mille Lacs Reservation).

Band Assembly Meeting

January 22, 2026

The Speaker of the Assembly shared a compromise had been agreed upon regarding Vetoed Act 63-25 a Bill for an Act amending Title 15, chapter 4 to comprehensively reform the Band's Tribal Employment Rights Office code. The Chief Executive sent a letter that he agreed with the changes and the draft bill will be on the next Band Assembly meeting.

The next Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer