



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: September 1-5, 2025

Holiday Labor Day **September 1, 2025**

Workshop **September 2, 2025**

Legal counsel facilitated a workshop with the Band Assembly regarding Minnesota Wild stadium presentation from Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures, commissioner nominations, SLOTCO appropriation request, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures Hinckley housing project loan and appropriation request, letter from the Chief Executive regarding the Band's biennial budget, Cannabis Compact, and Tribal Employment Rights Office appropriation request.

Band Assembly Meeting **September 4, 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 Bill 21-04-41-25 (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 II Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-53-25 (A Resolution adopting the FY 2025-2028 Mille Lacs Band Transportation improvement plan, FY2025 Tribal Transportation program agreement retained services addendum, and FY2025 referenced funding agreement with the United States Department of Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs). Sponsor: District I Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-54-25 (A Resolution ratifying Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act 105(L) Leases between the Band and the U.S. Department of the Interior). Sponsor: District I Representative

The District Representatives approved Resolution 21-04-55-25 (A Resolution ratifying the Tribal-State Cannabis Compact between the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the State of Minnesota). Sponsor: District I Representative

The District Representatives approved a contract with St. Cloud Refrigeration to provide HVAC, Plumbing, and Emergency repair for FY26.

The District Representatives approved a contract with GMJ Designs to provide Model Tribal Systems technical and administrative support.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings to provide genetic testing services.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Lexis Nexis Consulting Solutions, LLC., to provide investigative and locate services.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Tribal Consulting Services, LLC., to provide program and user support for the Model Tribal System.

The District Representatives approved a contract Tribal Consulting Services, LLC., to provide program policy revisions, guidance on proposed statute revisions, and support for new regulations.

The District Representatives approved a contract with SCR-Northern Division to provide a replacement of failed furnace, air conditioner and water heater for 16663 Ojibwe Drive.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Dagerstrom & Sons Construction, LLC., to provide the installment of a chain link fence at an Elder rental unit at Giizhik Circle, Hinckley.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Dagerstrom & Sons Construction, LLC., to provide installment of a chain link fence at an Elder rental unit at Wiigob Bend, Hinckley.

The District Representatives approved a contract for Miller Custom Remodeling to provide an Elder renovation project in Brook Park.

The District Representatives approved a contract addendum #2 for Wideth, Smith, Nolting & Associates to add the District I and District III Ceremonial Building renovations and expansion projects and additional design and engineering services.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Environmental Troubleshooters, Inc., to provide Phase II at 14699 State Highway 27 in Onamia.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Environmental Troubleshooters, Inc., to provide Phase II at 18500 452nd in Onamia.

The District Representatives approved a contract with St. Cloud Refrigeration to provide heating, cooling, kitchen refrigeration, plumbing, preventative maintenance and emergency repairs for Pine Grove Academy.

The District Representatives approved a contract addendum with Budding Stars, Inc., to extend the original contract.

The District Representatives approved a contract addendum with Iron Mountain to add additional amount to contract.

The District Representatives approved a contract addendum with Relay Health to add additional amount to contract.

The District Representatives approved a contract with RPH on the Go, USA, to provide Pharmacy relief services.

The District Representatives approved a contract addendum with SpendMend to extend the original contract end date.

The District Representatives approved a contract addendum with TruBridge Healthcare Resource Group to extend contract end date and add additional funds.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-04-42-25 (A Bill of supplemental appropriation and authorization of long-term savings funds for the funding of a loan to Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures in order to repay in full the obligations of MLCV to Comerica Bank on loan

agreement dated as of June 3, 2024 which matures September 9, 2025 for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2025). Sponsor: District II Representative

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-04-43-25 ((A Bill of supplemental appropriation and authorization of long-term savings funds for the funding of a loan to Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures in order to pay for the Big Sandy Resort sewer system improvements project for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2025). Sponsor: District III Representative

The District Representatives approved a contract with SpendMend.

Messages from the Chief Executive:

Chief Executive Virgil Wind shared “First off want to start with a thank you to Representative Merrill and Representative Beaulieu for their attendance yesterday at the unveiling for the Grand Casino Arena. That happened yesterday September, 3, 2025 just thank you guys for being there. To the band members out there it’s in the news, there’s a lot of news out there. If you have any questions regarding that and where we’re at, I was going to bore you with the speech that I shared yesterday, but I will not. Moving on to the cannabis compact really just the importance of this, you know it really allows the ability to enter into the broader market and to help carry out the original business plan of MLCV and where we’re at within the cultivation facility; also opens doors for additional retail sites over and above the number that was given by the state. Want to be clear that like the state has really been a good partner in trying to figure this out and really expects and appreciates the Mille Lacs Band and the work that we’re going to do to be a key player in that new business so I do have a note that will be pushing for an update on retail and then also coming back to the Assembly at some point to see if we can finalize some permanent retail plans coming forward, I know that’s very important. And then just want to say thank you to the Assembly for the 105L leasing resolution very important to the Band I’ve said the numbers a few times, right? For 2025 3.2 million dollars, 5.9 for 2026 and just how astronomical that’s going to be in maintaining and providing good maintenance to our facilities that provide those very important government services to all of our band members so thank you guys for getting that resolution out. And then also want to reach out and let band members know that tomorrow at the State Capitol there’s a very special event Tribal Flag Plaza, part of the Minnesota, working with Minnesota Governor’s office there’s a tribal flag raising ceremony where the Tribal Flag Plaza will be unveiled there will be eleven tribal nation flags within that plaza, each one was given a special place to their flag along with some plants at the base of the flag that were synonymous with the Mille Lacs Band, Kelly and DNR of course worked on that, but really a special invite to the band members out there to come on over to the State Capitol, I believe they’re asking people to be there at 8:30 a.m. I believe the event itself goes from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. and then also want the other Elected Officials to know there is a Governor Summit that the Chief Executive would typically attend tomorrow afternoon from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. after lunch following the Flag Plaza. That’s what I have for today. Miigwech.”

Messages from the Representatives:

District I Representative Carolyn Beaulieu shared she had her elder talking circle on August 31, 2025 and it was a really good turnout, had about almost 50 elders. if you include the waived services folks that came. We had a great discussion and she asked the elders to list their top three topics that they had concerns about, and not surprised that elder housing came up as number one, so we spent most of the time discussing the issues that each of the elder had. She has notes that she still needs to compile, the main theme of it was that elders feel the policies in housing are very insensitive to their

needs and they also kind of go against our cultural values, an example when someone passes away and their in-band housing it varies in time that other people have to get out of the house, some 30 days, some 60 days, some 6 months; it's very inconsistent. And they get a little upset because it takes a long time to find housing and, in some cases, these are descendants in there and they have no where to go. She is going to compile the notes and hopefully get a meeting with Commissioner Burr. She will also bring the policies to her next circle which will be Sunday, September 28, 2025. She will bring the policies there, get them on the screen and get suggestions from the elders on sensible changes they would like to see. That's what we started off with and they loved the meeting and they want to keep having them, so she will schedule them the last Sunday of the month at noon for District I elders to continue to express issues and try to find ways to change policy or statute to better service them. She also shared Water Over Nickel event on Saturday 11:00 a.m. the Chief has a bus. A couple of coach buses scheduled at 9:00 a.m. she has been promoting that. Chief Executive Virgil Wind added an update that they did provide bussing that was one of the concerns for Water Over Nickel in support within all of our communities to get up to our District II area, so they had a cut off date, we put out seven or eight days ago Water Over Nickel transportation and during that time after the flyer they has someone in the office collecting names and they did a social media blast, band wide email, community page and unfortunately although they did all of that and had the charter buses ready to do it, we had a cut off date of Wednesday morning do we have enough for a charter bus and unfortunately we received no calls for transportation, so they paid the deposit while canceling them because we didn't have enough calls, we will try again for other events. District II Representative Wendy Merrill stated just clarification will there be an announcement saying due to lack of interest there is not going to be a bus, will there be something blasted on social media so people are aware and they don't try to show up wherever the location was and try to get on a bus. Chief Executive Virgil Wind stated the flyer and the information shared was clear that you had to get on a list prior to a certain date to be able to attend and ride the bus, so we didn't feel it was necessary to say well there isn't a bus because no one showed interest. We can of course put something out that the buses were canceled due to the fact that nobody called or nobody had interest. There was one elder who called from District II and they made other accommodations.

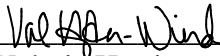
District II Representative Wendy Merrill shared she has a few events coming up in September. Saturday, September 6, 2025 we have Water Over Nickel event 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. She has "Sewing with Adrienne" coming up the next three Sundays, September 7, 14, and 21, 2025 from noon-3:00 p.m. and then we have craft night in Minisinaakwaang Monday, September 8, 2025 from 5:30 p.m-7:30 p.m. She shared we have our community meetings coming up Tuesday, September 16, 2025 for Minisinaakwaang and Wednesday, September 17, 2025 for Chiminising. She shared the collaboration with Gii-Niigaanizijig for elder bingo, elder dinners trying to get elders together in her community. They do this bi-monthly and this month will be an elder picnic Wednesday, September 24, 2025 weathers permitting, will have to make accommodations. It will be at Father Hennepin State Park 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., there will be food, fishing, bingo, cribbage, corn hole, and music. Contact Cheyanne Peet for transportation.

District III Representative Harry Davis shared announcement they will be taking a group of elders for their annual elder activity up to the Big Sandy Lake Lodge patronizing this weekend to join the Water Over Nickel program, we also similar to District Representative Beaulieu, we have an elder group we started two weeks ago and main concern was tribal police being too strict with elders walking or riding bike through the reservation, haven't had a change to talk to Caleb Dogeagle but will get in touch with him. Our elder exercise program, started with the help of the previous Commissioner Nicole Anderson will be back in operation, the one contracted was injured and he is now back and will be starting this back up again

Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd shared a comment or observation about this time during the cannabis introduction onto our lands and within the state this is a new thing. Folks are really up on this, there's a swoon to the new thing on the lands and the potential of funds, monies, etcetera. But we can't get lost in the fact that this is a mind-altering substance and we need our public health folks to remind our youth and our people who if you get pulled over while driving it's still a DUI and we want to find some balance as we bring this onto our lands. We got to encourage our kids who are in school to stay away from that stuff while you're trying to do your school work and things like that. We have to try to find balance, everyone is gung-ho and stuff but we try to pull things back and look to our folks in public health, look to our parents, and to all of us about responsible use of this substance. And that's just a cautionary note on his part, everybody proceeds thoughtfully in this venture.

The next Regular Band Assembly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.



Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer