



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians
Legislative Branch of Tribal Government

Weekly Review: October 13-17, 2025

Workshop

October 14, 2025

Legal counsel facilitated a workshop with the Band Assembly regarding TERO bill from TERO Commissioner Craig Hansen, discussed the Commissioner of Administration nomination, discussed the upcoming public comment period for a Title 4 bill, evaluated a Title 16 overhaul bill, and discussed potential limits on spending from the Band's long-term savings.

Weekly Sync Meeting

October 14, 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 15, 2025

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

Band Assembly conducted a formal public hearing regarding proposed Legislation amending Title 4 Executive Branch, section 5. The hearing was opened at 10:16 a.m. with an opening from the sponsors District I Representative, Carolyn Beaulieu, District II Representative Wendy Merrill, and District III Representative, Harry Davis. During the hearing there was a comment from Chief Executive, Virgil Wind, with a submission of a document. The hearing closed at 10:40 a.m.

Band Assembly conducted a formal public hearing regarding proposed Legislation amending Title 16 (Corporations), chapters 1 and 2, section 1101, and repealing Ordinance 04-15. The hearing was opened at 11:02 a.m. with an opening from the sponsors District I Representative, Carolyn Beaulieu, District II Representative Wendy Merrill, and District III Representative, Harry Davis. During the hearing there were comments from Chad Ambroday, Paul Sam, and Chief Executive, Virgil Wind. Closing comments from Representative Merrill and Representative Davis. The hearing closed at 11:24 a.m.

The District Representatives took from the table and retable the Contract (ADM): a Master Service Agreement with Daxko, LLC., to perform the following services for Meshakwad Community Center, Daxko facility access, club automation software, SMS Services, Performance analytics, revenue recovery services, payment processing, and card account updater service. Contract end date is September 30, 2030.

The District Representatives approved Band Assembly Bill 21-04-53-25 (A Bill for an Act Repealing and Replacing Act 51-25, 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: DII Representative.

The District Representatives amended and approved Band Assembly Bill 21-04-54-25 (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: DIII Representative

The District Representatives approved a contract with Minnesota Well Owners Organization, to prepare a Quality Assurance Project Plan.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Milton Contracting for the demolition of the old kitchen and to pour concrete for the new kitchen at the District 1 Culture grounds.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Milton Contracting for demolition of a building located in Onamia.

The District Representatives approved a contract with SCI broadband to move data from the old Urban Office Building to the new Urban Office building. SCI will install the fiber cable into the new site and terminate the old fiber.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Meyer Group of Duluth, PC., to provide architectural services and Engineering Services for District I Hillcrest building project.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Leach Electric, Inc., to provide electrical services for small residential projects in D1, D2, D2a, and D3.

The District Representatives approved a contract with CW Glass to provide glass and window replacement for Housing Maintenance in D1, D2a, D2, and D3.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Garrison Disposal to provide dumpsters for District 2 Housing Warehouse and small residential areas in D2.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Hartl Enterprises LLC., dba Ron's Roll-Offs to provide delivery and pick up of dumpsters for the D3 Housing Warehouse, TRR rehab sites in D3 area.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Miller Custom Remodeling to remove and replace an outdated wheelchair ramp and adjacent deck in District 1.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Heritage Exteriors & Restoration, Inc., to re-roof and re-side the DNR Building located in Onamia.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Marco for five years to provide copier services.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Pam Chichila to provide Guardian Ad Litem services.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Cynthia Bahe to provide Guardian Ad Litem services.

The District Representatives approved a contract with Jeannie Reams for Guardian Ad Litem services.

The District Representatives tabled a contract for Simafranca Law to provide legal services.

The District Representatives tabled a contract for SailorsAllen Law to provide legal services.

The District Representatives tabled a contract for Central Minnesota Conflict and Pro Se Services to provide legal services.

Messages from the Chief Executive:

Chief Executive Virgil Wind was not present.

Messages from the Representatives:

District I Representative Carolyn Beaulieu shared the Title 4 changes regarding commissioner nominations are probably not going to go much further. She requested that we get job descriptions established for each of those positions, look in our files to see what Band Assembly approved in the past.

“When we get a nomination, we have to have something to compare those qualifications to. Anyone can say someone is qualified, but if we have nothing to compare it to, how do we know? We need a job description that would’ve been posted, it doesn’t have to be but we want to see something in order to back up our decisions when we deny someone.”

She shared about the minor trust, “we talked yesterday about the one request that’s been repeated. The individual got back to me this morning and I’m disappointed, but I said if the child feels strongly, I would like them to come before Band Assembly, I will have him reach out to Danielle Smith and when they come, we can go into executive session to discuss that. It’s concerning when you have a household repeatedly getting withdrawals out of their children’s trust funds and I need to take a harder look at those things. Hopefully we can also come up with a better process for that to take it out of our realm and maybe have a committee looking at those to make sure that we are rightfully dishing out these minors’ monies.”

District II Representative Wendy Merrill shared, “miigwech for allowing Title 16 to provide a public hearing, again that’s something that’s not required. Title 4 yes, we know that’s probably not going to go through, but at least we’re having a conversation and formally expressing our concerns and knowing that those things that need to change need to happen and I’m hoping we can come to an agreement for Title 16. I think Title 4 opened the door for that discussion so we know that’s probably not going to go on the agenda.

She expressed some frustrations that “we’ve had another nomination early this morning for Commissioner of Corporate Affairs and I don’t understand what the process is there when you are asking Band members to submit their names, but then you are still submitting names while you still have two meetings left, so that’s a little confusing. We’ve had Chief Wind mention earlier we’ve received a Commissioner of Administration nomination and we are waiting for clarification to see if there’s a conflict of interest under Band law. Those are some things we are waiting on and hopefully we can get that resolved; we do value and trust that person very much, it’s just the aspect in Band law under Title 2 and Title 4, and under the HR policy manual.”

She shared the following community events coming up:

- Tailgating Parties – October 23, 2025 at 7:15 p.m. (set up at 5:30 p.m.) and November 2, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. (set up at 10:00 a.m.) – everybody is welcome but the tickets given away are for community members only.

- Halloween Parties – October 28, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. (East Lake) and October 29, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. (Chiminising)

District III Representative Harry Davis shared “tomorrow there will be a District III elder meeting at Meshakwad at 1:00 p.m., also this afternoon there is a community watch event at Meshakwad at 4:00 p.m., and our community meeting is tomorrow at Grand Casino Hinckley at 5:30 p.m.”

Messages from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Secretary-Treasurer Sheldon Boyd shared “for the record, to speak to the proceedings that happened here today and congratulate or always speak with pride about the processes that have been put in place for the legislative branch of the band – The folks who can watch live streaming, the archiving, the public comment on bills, the processes that are being talked about, the nomination processes. The government is imperfect, we put ourselves out there to be criticized, second guessed, that’s what people are supposed to do. You don’t accept things the way they are and we take those criticisms and second guesses in stride and along with the many process that are here you also see that you don’t ever want to get lost on the amount of money that’s moved through here in addition to handling those very open issues of governing. There’s a meticulousness to how the money’s spent here and that’s the people’s money and I won’t get lackadaisical about that, and that’s why we went through these contracts that come through here. I’m really proud to sit and get folks through these processes and where we’re at here, speak to other folks from other tribal entities; and our level of professionalism and transparency, though not perfect, is up there with just about anyone in the country. I would like to again reiterate the processes seen here today are probably a ‘best’ example of it all rolled into one session. When we’re through here, take a rest, let it go, and be satisfied with the work that’s being done here on behalf of the people.”

Joint Session of the Band Assembly Meeting

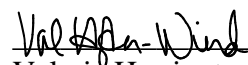
October 17, 2025

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

The Joint Session of the Band Assembly approved Resolution 21-04-10-25 (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 Resolution 21-04-11-25 (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 next Special Band Assembly meeting is not scheduled at this time.


Valerie Harrington-Wind
Chief Communications Officer