



STATE OF MAINE
WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD
Board of Directors' Business Meeting

June 10, 2025

A business meeting of the Maine Workers' Compensation Board of Directors was conducted remotely via Teams and in person at the Board's Augusta Central Office at 442 Civic Center Drive, Suite 100, Augusta, on Tuesday, June 10, 2025.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Rohde (*Executive Director/Chair*), Paul Gendreau, Penny Picard, Glenn Burroughs, Ron Green, and Lynne Gaudette (*Directors*), and Richard Hewes (*General Counsel*) attended in person. Director Serina DeWolfe attended via Teams.

CALL TO ORDER

Executive Director Rohde called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. with over 40 people participating in person and via Teams. Executive Director Rohde reviewed the hybrid meeting format, remote participation procedures, and welcomed participants. Board members and staff introduced themselves for the recording.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft Minutes of the May 13, 2025 business meeting of the Board of Directors

Director Gendreau MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 2025, BOARD MEETING AS WRITTEN; Director Picard SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

II. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Framework Subcommittee

Director Gaudette reported that the subcommittee continues their work on the monthly LD 1896 reports and the final report due in August. Management stakeholders have asked that changes to Board forms be put into effect only once a year due to the cost to employers and insurers to program form changes into their systems. Director Burroughs agreed that a specific month each year to adopt changes to forms makes sense. The Board is open to the suggestion. The directors agreed to tentatively target February as the month for annual form changes to be implemented.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

1. Retirements

Executive Director Rohde recognized Board employees Debbie Morton and Becky Allard who are both retiring at the end of June. Debbie has been with the Claims unit for 37

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years and Becky has been with the Board for 27 years. Board staff will be celebrating their retirements at parties soon.

2. Software

The Board has been notified by the Office of Information Technology (OIT) that a request for proposal (RFP) needs to be done for the software program used by the Advocate Division. Currently, the program in use is Practice Master. Deputy Directors Lindsay Lizzotte and Bryan Ouellette will work with OIT in consultation with the director of the Advocate Division and others to schedule and formulate the RFP.

3. Training

The claims adjuster training put on by Deputy Director Trost on June 5th was well attended. Future training sessions will be held.

IV. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

1. Advocate Division

General Counsel Hewes reported that vacancies in the Advocate Division continue to be pose problems. Interviews have been conducted recently for the two vacant advocate positions. Advocate Division employees are working hard to fill in to cover assignments.

2. Annual Regulatory Agenda

Director Gaudette MOVED TO ACCEPT THE FY 2025-2026 ANNUAL REGULATORY AGENDA AS WRITTEN; Director Burroughs SECONDED.
MOTION PASSED 7-0.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Legislation Updates

LD 82, the repeal of the sunset provision for the first responder PTSD presumption, is on the Special Appropriations table.

LD 210, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2027 is still before the AFA Committee.

LD 490 & 965, both regarding rulemaking, are dead.

LD 784, An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Specialized Risk Screening is also on the Special Appropriations table.

LD 1226, An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Residential Building Contractors is being monitored as it may impact proof of coverage for workers' compensation insurance.

LD 1761, which removes indemnity agreements, does not currently include workers' compensation. The Board is monitoring the bill.

LD 1813 has been signed. Board members will be registered for FOIA training in compliance with this bill after enactment.

LD 1778, which revises the Maine Administrative Procedures Act (MAPA), was voted "ought to pass as amended."

The Legislature is trying to adjourn by June 18th.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Rules Review

Stakeholders met again at the Portland Regional Office on June 6, 2025, to discuss suggested changes to Board Rule Chapter 13, to further review Chapter 12, and conduct an initial review of Chapters 2 and 15. The next meeting will be August 15, 2025, at the Portland Regional Office. Director Burroughs thanked the ALJs for their participation in the group and noted that their perspective is very helpful when considering changes to the rules.

2. Board Meeting Schedule

Executive Director Rohde noted that there are several staff members on vacation in July. Additionally, the Board is currently scheduled to meet in Caribou in August, however, the buildout in the new Caribou office space will not be complete in August. The Board discussed schedule changes and opted to wait until the new office space is ready in Caribou to hold a meeting there.

Director Green MOVED TO CANCEL THE JULY BOARD MEETING AND CHANGE THE LOCATION OF THE AUGUST MEETING TO THE CENTRAL OFFICE IN AUGUSTA. Director Gendreau SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 6-1.** (*Director Burroughs opposed.*)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Director Picard MOVED TO ADJOURN. Director Green SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 5-2.** (*Directors Burroughs and Green opposed.*)

The meeting formally adjourned at 10:25 a.m.