



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

August 11, 2026

A business meeting of the Maine Workers' Compensation Board of Directors was conducted remotely via Teams and in person at the Board's Caribou Regional Office at 658 Main Street, Suite 1, Caribou, on Tuesday, August 11, 2026.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Executive Director Rohde called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. with 42 people participating in person and via Teams. Board members and Caribou staff introduced themselves for the recording.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft Minutes of the July 14, 2026, Business Meeting of the Board of Directors

Director Burroughs MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 14, 2026, BOARD MEETING AS WRITTEN; Director Gaudette SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

II. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Budget Subcommittee

Executive Director Rohde reported that Deputy Director Bryan Ouellette will be receiving biennial budget materials tomorrow and has a meeting scheduled for more information and data at that time. There will need to be an additional Board meeting to address the budget to meet the September 1, 2026, submission deadline.

2. Personnel Subcommittee

Director DeWolfe noted that the Personnel Subcommittee is still reviewing agency needs and goals with staff. The committee will make recommendations at a later date. Executive Director Rohde added that everything currently being discussed is within existing resources, however, an amended budget proposal could be submitted if needed.

Director DeWolfe MOVED TO HIRE JIMMY JANDREAU TO SERVE IN ACTING CAPACITY AS A MEDIATOR TO COVER MATERNITY LEAVE FOR CHARLOTTE CARRIER. Director Picard SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

1. Legislation

Directors Lynne Gaudette and Glenn Burroughs will represent Management and Labor on the Legislation Subcommittee. The Board may recommend legislation through December 1, 2026.

2. Augusta Regional Office

The carpets in the Augusta Regional Office are being replaced due to a water leak back in May. ARO staff is working out of the Central Office space until they can be moved back to Suite 225.

3. Medical Fee Schedule

The Medical Fee Schedule (MFS) undergoes a comprehensive review every three years. This is a comprehensive review year and one of the questions is whether this review is still appropriate to do. During the previous review, it was difficult to draw solid conclusions from the data received from Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO) and the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI). Third party contracts between health care providers and insurers allow reimbursement at amounts that are less than payment levels in the MFS. This can lead to litigation when providers are paid less under the terms of a reduced-rate contract than the provider would normally receive pursuant the MFS. This raises issues that must be considered when the MFS review is conducted.

4. Claims

The Claims Management Unit has been sending reports to insurers every four weeks describing inaccuracies in forms that insurers file with the Board as claims develop. This report will be sent out at six-week intervals now. The Claims Management Unit is also exploring Docuware options for more (non-EDI) forms to be filed electronically.

IV. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

1. Annual Regulatory Agenda

Director Green MOVED TO ACCEPT THE ANNUAL REGULATORY AGENDA AS WRITTEN; Director Picard SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

2. Law Court

The Law Court recently issued a decision in the case of *Carol Brewster v. S.D. Warren/Sappi*. The Court affirmed the Appellate Division's decision, which held that the deceased employee's ex-wife could recover a death benefit years after their divorce and after her remarriage. Since she was a dependent of the decedent at the time of his injury and not dependent on her second husband, she was entitled to the death benefit. Her status as a dependent at the time of injury was central to the outcome of the case.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Rulemaking Update

The Board's rulemaking package is still at the Attorney General's office for legal pre-review. Unless major revisions are suggested, the rules will be scheduled for public comment once the pre-review is completed. The public comment period will follow the usual notice procedures and timeline.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Director Burroughs MOVED TO ADJOURN. Director Gaudette SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 4-2.** *(Directors Green and Burroughs opposed.)*

The meeting formally adjourned at 10:24 a.m.