



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

August 12, 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, August 12, 2025.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Executive Director Rohde called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with over 40 people participating in person and via Teams. Board members and staff introduced themselves for the recording.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft Minutes of the June 10, 2025 business meeting of the Board of Directors

Director Burroughs MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 10, 2025, BOARD MEETING AS WRITTEN; Director Picard SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

II. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Budget Subcommittee

The Budget subcommittee met to go over the work program and spending reports. The annual assessment reconciliations are due by September 15th. The subcommittee can then begin to map out the next year and will meet at least quarterly to review revenue and expenditures.

2. Personnel Subcommittee

The mediator position for Augusta and Lewiston is vacant due to the death of Diane Lennon-Danforth.

Director Dewolfe MOVED TO HIRE JIMMY JANDREAU AS THE ACTING CAPACITY MEDIATOR FOR THE LEWISTON AND AUGUSTA REGIONAL OFFICES; Director Picard SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

3. Framework Subcommittee

Director Burroughs reported that the subcommittee is working to finalize the report to the Legislature that is due on August 31st.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

1. Portland Office

The Portland office is closed today due to an HVAC issue.

2. Caribou Office

An issue with the fire suppression system in the new Caribou office location has come up. Two quotes for the cost of replacing the system have been requested and there will be a discussion (both with the Budget subcommittee and the landlord) about the costs of repair and/or replacement and how this will affect the lease. There is also a question as to what is required by code for the office spaces which the Board is trying to clarify.

Due to the delays, the Board will need to regroup as to the planned October meeting in Caribou.

3. Lewiston Office

The Board has renegotiated the lease for LRO and signed a 20 year extension. The rent will increase 2.5% per year.

4. Personnel

For those that had not already heard, Diane Lennon-Danforth recently passed away unexpectedly. She had been involved with the workers' compensation system for many decades and was one of our mediators at the time of her passing.

Magy Taylor was introduced as the new Business Manager I in Claims. She will be taking over Deb Morton's position.

IV. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

1. Advocate Division

General Counsel Hewes reported that vacancies in the Advocate Division continue to pose problems. Advocate Division employees are working hard to fill in to cover assignments. A new advocate, Son Nguyen, has been hired for the Portland Advocate office.

2. EOB Petition

After this meeting, a hearing will be held on the joint motion to delegate authority to an Administrative Law Judge in the *Holmes v. Rockport Mechanical* matter.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Legislation Updates

The Legislature's First Special Session adjourned June 25, 2025. The effective date for regular legislation will be September 24, 2025.

LD 82, the repeal of the sunset provision for the first responder PTSD presumption, is effective now.

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 has been enacted.

LD 784, An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Specialized Risk Screening, was passed but is being held by the Governor. It can become law without her signature or be vetoed.

LD 1226, An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Residential Building Contractors, and LD 1761, An Act to Prohibit Indemnification Agreements, were held over to the next session. The Board is monitoring both bills.

LD 1813, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning State Boards and Commissions, has been signed. Board members will need to complete FOIA training in compliance with this bill.

LD 1778, An Act to Update Provisions of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, was passed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Rules Review Group

Deputy General Counsel Seanna Crasnick will be rescheduling the meeting that was scheduled for August 15th.

2. 1Q25 Draft Compliance Report

Carrie Pomeroy presented the 1st Quarter 2025 draft Compliance Report. There are no major issues of note. FROI compliance is up to 83% which is an improvement, but not yet at the benchmark. The MAE unit is focusing on the quality of submissions as well if the insurers are meeting the benchmark.

Director Green MOVED TO ACCEPT THE 1ST QUARTER 2025 COMPLIANCE REPORT AS WRITTEN. Director Burroughs SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Director Picard MOVED TO ADJOURN. Director Green SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 5-1.** (*Director Burroughs opposed.*)

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