



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

September 9, 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, September 9, 2025.

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

Absent: Serina DeWolfe

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. Board members and staff introduced themselves for the recording.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Draft Minutes of the August 12, 2025, business meeting of the Board of Directors

Director Green MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 12, 2025, BOARD MEETING AS WRITTEN; Director Burroughs SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

II. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Budget Subcommittee

The Budget Subcommittee did not meet, but Executive Director Rohde has been working with Deputy Director Bryan Ouelette to close out the prior fiscal year and prepare the appropriate reports.

2. IME Subcommittee

Director Burroughs reported that the IME Subcommittee met on September 8, 2025, to review the annual questionnaire that is sent to independent medical examiners. The subcommittee will also choose four random doctors to interview for feedback. These meetings went well last year and were used to suggest changes to Chapter 4 of the Board's rules.

3. Framework Subcommittee

Director Gaudette reported that the final report was submitted to the Legislature. The subcommittee will continue meeting among themselves and will meet with stakeholders to discuss specific recommendations.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

1. Events

WCB Team Day will be Friday, September 12, 2025, at Wolfe's Neck Farm in Freeport and CompCon will be held on October 8 and 9, 2025 at Sunday River.

2. Caribou Office

The landlord of the new space in Caribou has not completed work on time and he is having difficulty bringing the new office space into compliance with fire safety codes. The Board is working to identify alternate locations for new office space. The Caribou Regional Office can occupy their current location through January of 2026.

IV. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

1. Law Court

General Counsel Hewes reported on recently issued Law Court decisions. In *Stovall v. New England Telephone*, a case involving the statute of limitations, the Law Court reversed the Appellate Division and sided with the employer/insurer. In *Bosse v. Sargent Corp.*, an average weekly wage case, the Law Court upheld the Appellate Division's decision.

2. Contract ALJ

After the Law Court ruling in the *Stovall* case, the employer/insurer filed a petition against the employee to recover overpayments. This case poses a conflict for the Board's Administrative Law Judge's as the claimant is the spouse of a sitting ALJ. The Board has to appoint a contract ALJ to hear and decide the petitions that are now pending. It has been challenging to find contract ALJ's who do not have a conflict of interest in this case, but a Presque Isle attorney who works in the field of workers' compensation law, Norman Trask, has agreed to work as a contract ALJ in this case if the directors vote to appoint him.

Director Picard MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAINE WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NORMAN TRASK, AN ATTORNEY WITH OFFICES IN AROOSTOOK COUNTY, TO SERVE AS A CONTRACT ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE IN THE CASE OF *STOVALL v. NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE CO.*; Director Green SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Rules Group Updates

The rules group met on August 29, 2025, and reviewed chapters 4, 11, and 17 and will meet again on September 26, 2025 to finalize proposed changes to Chapter 4 and begin working on Chapter 8. The goal is to submit all proposed rule changes to the Board at the January meeting. Director Burroughs noted that this rules group has gone very well so far and thanked Deputy General Counsel Crasnick for her hard work and others for their constructive participation.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2024 Annual Compliance Report

Carrie Pomeroy presented the draft of the 2024 Annual Compliance Report. There are no major issues of note. Overall compliance has improved from 2023. The office of monitoring hopes for higher quality submissions from insurers in 2025.

The monitoring office anticipates that two vacancies will be advertised in the near future. Once the Department of Administrative and Financial Services lifts the temporary hiring freeze, those positions will be posted.

Director Burroughs **MOVED TO ACCEPT THE 2024 ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT AS WRITTEN.** Director Gaudette **SECONDED.** **MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting formally adjourned at 10:27 a.m.