



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

**April 14, 2026**

A business meeting of the Maine Workers' Compensation Board of Directors was conducted remotely via Teams and in person at the Board's Central Office at 442 Civic Center Drive, Suite 100, Augusta, on Tuesday, April 14, 2026.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Rohde (*Executive Director/Chair*), Glenn Burroughs, Ronnie Green, Penny Picard, 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 10:00 a.m. with 45 people participating in person and via Teams. Board members introduced themselves for the recording.

## **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **1. Draft Minutes of the March 25, 2026, Business Meeting of the Board of Directors**

Director Green MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2026 BOARD MEETING AS WRITTEN; Director Burroughs SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

## **II. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Budget Subcommittee**

The Budget Subcommittee has reviewed additional costs that will require a financial order. The Board incurred unanticipated expenses for rent on old and new office space and OIT equipment installations in connection with the Caribou office move. Also, costs were incurred for temporary staffing contracts in the Advocate Division.

Director Green MOVED TO SUBMIT A FINANCIAL ORDER INCREASE THE BOARD'S 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER ALLOTMENT BY \$500,000 USING UNALLOCATED FUNDS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNT 0183. THE INCREASE WILL ENSURE THAT THE BOARD CAN PAY EXPENSES RELATED TO THE RELOCATION OF THE CARIBOU REGIONAL OFFICE AND COVER LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES CONTRACTS IN THE ADVOCATE DIVISION. Director Gaudette SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

### **III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

#### **1. Trial Management Conferences**

The Portland and Augusta Regional Offices will begin sending out notices this week to schedule trial management conferences for cases that have been pending for a long time after mediation without petitions being filed. These conferences should help bring these cases to closure and reduce the Portland and Augusta backlogs.

### **IV. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT**

#### **1. EOB Petition**

A Petition for Extension of Benefits Due to Extreme Financial Hardship under §213(1) has been filed in the case of *Lena Vasquez v. Southern Maine Medical Center*. The employee has received 520 weeks of benefits. She is represented by Samuel Rudman who has also filed a Petition for Restoration of Benefits, which is currently before an Administrative Law Judge. Attorney Rudman is interested in consolidating the petitions and having both heard by the ALJ. If opposing counsel, James McCormack, agrees, the Board can vote on this request at the next meeting.

#### **2. Personnel**

The Advocate Division is still working to fill advocate and paralegal vacancies. Lucas Stephen and Abigail McNamara have been hired to fill Legal Secretary positions in Portland and Augusta.

Advertising for an advocate position, instead of an attorney advocate, has garnered more applications. This will allow non-attorneys to apply. The temporary labor contract is in place through the end of May. Larry Brann and Marc St. Pierre are assisting the advocate division in the interim.

### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **1. Legislation Updates**

There are no legislative updates as the session is scheduled to end on April 15, 2026.

#### **2. Rules Group Updates**

Executive Director Rohde reviewed changes that have arisen since the last Board meeting. The Board will revisit Chapters 3, 8 and 20 again at the May meeting.

As part of the rulemaking process, a legal pre-review will need to be done through the Attorney General's office. The Board will then need to vote on how it would like to proceed. If the Board votes to proceed with rulemaking changes, a public hearing will be scheduled. Once the public hearing and comment period are closed, the Board can add further changes based on comments received or proceed without revisions.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Annual Review of Board Forms**

Executive Director Rohde reviewed the proposed forms changes and feedback received after the April Board meeting. The Board will take this up again at the May meeting.

### **2. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2025 Draft Compliance Report**

Carrie Pomeroy introduced Abigail Ainslie as the new Management Analyst in Monitoring. She also presented the 4Q205 draft compliance report. Compliance numbers remained mostly the same as in the previous quarter.

Director Picard MOVED TO ACCEPT THE 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER 2025 COMPLIANCE REPORT AS WRITTEN; Director Burroughs SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting formally adjourned at 11:34 a.m.