



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

**February 10, 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, February 10, 2026.

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

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Executive Director Rohde called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. with 35 people participating in person and via Teams. Board members introduced themselves for the recording.

## **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **1. Draft Minutes of the January 13, 2026, Business Meeting of the Board of Directors**

Director Green MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE January 13, 2026, BOARD MEETING AS WRITTEN; Director Burroughs SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

## **II. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Personnel Subcommittee**

The Personnel subcommittee conducted interviews for the mediator position.

Director DeWolfe MOVED THAT THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD HIRE LYNN HASKELL-McCLEAN AS A MEDIATOR IN THE LEWISTON REGIONAL OFFICE. Director Gaudette SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

### **2. Framework Subcommittee**

The Framework subcommittee met on February 4, 2026, to continue discussions about cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs). The discussions touched on whether a COLA might apply to claims for partial incapacity paid under §213 and how an active vocational rehabilitation program would reduce cost of living increases because claimants would return to work before the effective date of a COLA. Representatives of MEMIC and MMA will attend the next Framework subcommittee meeting.

### **3. IME Subcommittee**

The IME subcommittee drew random names for annual interviews with four examiners. Additionally, there is one new applicant to interview.

## **III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

### **1. Personnel**

Executive Director Rohde shared the sad news that Stephanie Bean from the Board's Lewiston office, has passed away. Stephanie was the 2025 Board Employee of the Year and will be greatly missed.

### **2. Purvis Case**

The Purvis case was a no-coverage fatality case that the AIU's took to an evidentiary hearing in front of ALJ Stovall. A final order was issued last week, which imposed penalties on Mr. Purvis for misclassifying employees. The statutory penalty is 108% of the premium that should have been paid. While Mr. Purvis is likely to appeal, the case demonstrates the importance of properly classifying employees.

### **3. CRO Move**

The Caribou office is on track to relocate later this month. The sprinkler and fire alarm systems are new.

### **4. Advocate Division**

The case management software used by the Advocate Division will be going out to bid at the direction of the Office of Information Technology (OIT). Currently, the Advocate Division uses Practice Master for case management.

The management of case backlogs is a priority during ongoing staffing issues created by turnover and vacancies.

## **IV. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT**

### **1. Advocate Division Staffing**

The Board currently has two open advocate positions and two open legal secretary positions. We are working hard to fill these positions. We anticipate bringing on an extern this summer in the Portland office.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Legislation Updates**

The GEA report-back from the Labor Committee is expected later today. There is no pending legislation under Title 39-A this session.

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

Deputy General Counsel Seanna Crasnick reported that the Rules group is wrapping up their review. The suggested changes should be ready for the March Board meeting.

*Minutes of February 10, 2026 Workers' Compensation Board Meeting  
Approved March 25, 2026 VOTE 5-0-1*

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. March Board Meeting Date**

The March 10, 2026, Board meeting will be rescheduled to March 25, 2026.

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

Director Gaudette reported that during the forms review, it was suggested that an additional box be added to allow for more than just male or female genders. However, there is an issue with the current EDI program we use that will not allow for this change.

Peter Gore added that he has shared the forms review with his groups and will forward the feedback.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting formally adjourned at 10:20 a.m.