



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

**March 25, 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 Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

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

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Executive Director Rohde called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. with 50 people participating in person and via Teams. Board members introduced themselves for the recording.

The Board voted to go out of order on the agenda to recognize and congratulate Maurice Libner on his retirement and long career as a workers' compensation attorney.

## **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **1. Draft Minutes of the February 10, 2026, Business Meeting of the Board of Directors**

Director Gaudette MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE February 10, 2026, BOARD MEETING AS WRITTEN; Director Green SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 5-1** (*Director Picard abstained*).

## **II. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Personnel Subcommittee**

Director DeWolfe reported that the Board is working with DAFS to fill the vacant positions in the Advocate Division as quickly as possible. Two legal secretary positions have recently been filled though we are still having trouble finding applicants for the attorney advocate positions. Larry Brann (from AIU) and Marc St. Pierre (from Troubleshooting) will be filling in as temporary advocates.

Seanna Crasnick is coordinating with DAFS to expand the job notices to the law school as well.

**2. IME Subcommittee**

The annual review questionnaires will be sent out later today. The subcommittee interviewed Dr. Tellioglu on February 18, 2026.

Director Gaudette MOVED TO APPOINT TAHIR TELLIOGLU, M. D., TO THE LIST OF DOCTORS APPROVED BY THE BOARD TO CONDUCT SECTION 312 MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS IN THE SPECIALTY OF PSYCHIATRY. Director Burroughs SECONDED. **MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

**III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

**1. Caribou Regional Office Move**

The Caribou office is substantially completed. The staff have moved in. Signage, striping in the parking lot, and a cleaning contract are the only remaining items to be taken care of. The August 11, 2026, Board meeting will be held at the new Caribou Regional Office. Executive Director Rohde thanked Deputy Directors Lindsay Lizzotte and Bryan Ouellette for the extra work they did to accomplish this move.

**2. Caseloads**

The elimination of case backlogs is a priority for the advocate division. Troubleshooters are clearing remaining backlogs from their caseloads.

**3. Medical Fee Schedule**

A comprehensive review of the Board's Medical Fee Schedule is undertaken every three years. Relevant information has been requested from the Maine Health Data Organization (MHDO). We hope to have the necessary information by August.

**IV. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT**

**1. Personnel**

The Appellate Division has a new legal secretary, Jessica Prentiss. She began work in February. The position was previously held by Jayne Tracy.

**2. Reports**

The Government Evaluation Act (GEA), Financial Policies and Procedures, and Annual Tr-Agency reports have all been filed and accepted.

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Legislation Updates**

General Counsel Hewes attended a Labor Committee work session on LD 669 on March 10, 2026. LD 669 would create a one-time death benefit for certain dependents of Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) employees who die in roadway work zones. Maine law already provides the death benefit to law enforcement personnel and other first responders. The Labor Committee was concerned that the highway worker benefit might be reduced by offsets for workers' compensation benefits paid for the same work-

related injury. As proposed, the proposed death benefit is a stand-alone payment. The statutory scheme that gives this benefit disallows offsets for other similar death benefits, such as workers' compensation benefits. Director Green added that the money for this benefit comes from the State's rainy day (stabilization) fund.

## **2. Rules Group Updates**

Deputy General Counsel Seanna Crasnick provided a brief overview of the changes made to each of the 10 current chapters and one new chapter the group reviewed.

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.

Gwen Simmons raised a question about new language in Chapter 4 that would allow doctors to conduct §312 exams without a Maine license. She pointed out that it might conflict with current law that prohibits doctors from practicing medicine without being licensed in Maine. Executive Director Rohde said this would be reviewed before the rule is submitted to the Board.

Executive Director Rohde noted that a rules subgroup discussed the waiting period and agreed a rule change would not be recommended.

The use of the Consent Between Employer and Employee (Form WCB-4A) was also discussed. The use of the form began in the 1990's when delays in scheduling mediations and hearings were much longer than they are today. Currently, Executive Director Rohde believes the WCB-4A is being used to terminate benefits, but employees might not have a clear understanding that the rule is not binding and can be reviewed after benefits are terminated. These agreements to terminate benefits are not approved by the Board, unlike lump sum settlements and discontinuances that also cut benefits. Some people want to keep the form as is, some think it should be eliminated, and others believe clarification about its use is needed. Executive Director Rohde will send out more information on this issue.

The Framework Subcommittee has discussed cost-of-living adjustments. They have not been able to reach consensus about how benefit payments should be tracked to determine when the 5-year period of §212 benefits has been reached. Inflation adjustments are due upon payment of 260 weeks of total incapacity under §212. Sometimes 100% benefits are paid pursuant to §213 for 100% partial incapacity. A problem exists because each 100% payment is not designated as a total incapacity payment under §212 or as a partial incapacity payment under §213.

A possible solution would be to require a modification form to be filed within seven days of a change to or from a §212 payment. Filing modifications in this way would allow the

Board to monitor benefit payments and ensure that COLA's are added to incapacity payments after 260 weeks as required by §212.

The Board will need to have discussions with NCCI about the descriptive terms used in Maine versus the codes that NCCI uses to identify benefit payments. Also, self-insurers do not report to NCCI, which would also have to be addressed. The goal is to standardize and track benefit types as they are being paid.

Director Gaudette thanked the staff and participants in the rules group. This has been a very productive process with a lot of valuable input.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

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

Executive Director Rohde reviewed proposed changes to forms.

- WCB-3 Memorandum of Payment (MOP) cosmetic changes and the WCB-3A this is a voluntary form that may save time when there are changes.
- WCB-10 Lump Sum Settlement added the present value of the structured settlements.
- WCB-11 Statement of Compensation Paid the feedback centered around changing the “if known” for the WCBN to “required” and how this would create a programming cost for a slight wording change. It is necessary to have the WCBN to identify the correct employee though.
- All forms that state the location of WCB offices will need to show the new Caribou address.

Further suggested changes to forms will be sent out and the Board will take this up again at the April meeting.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting formally adjourned at 11:00 a.m.