Workers' Compensation Board
Tuesday, June 30, 2022
10:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

By Phone/In-Person: Connie Wold, Board Chair
Sally Curey, Member
Roger Ousey, Member
Moises Ceja, Member
Robert Pardington, Managing Attorney
Joy Dougherty, Presiding ALJ
Katy Gunville, Board Executive Assistant
Terry Bello, Administrative Services Manager
Thomas Taylor, Information Systems Coordinator
Heidi Havercroft, Senior Staff Attorney
Lauren Eldridge, Senior Staff Attorney
Katelyn Crowe, Transcription Coordinator

Attendees:
Elaine Schooler, SAIF Corporation
Cathy Ostrand-Ponsioen, Workers' Compensation Division
Jennifer Flood, Ombudsman for Injured Workers
Aaron Clingerman, Dunn & Roy PC
Kevin Anderson, SBH Legal
Paloma Sparks, Oregon Business & Industry
Jaye Fraser (phonetic)
Jess Milliam (phonetic)
Steven Bennett (phonetic)

Call to Order
Chair Wold called the meeting to order.
The public and WCB staff are participating in this meeting via telephone; some WCB staff participated in the Salem office.

Roll Call
Thomas Taylor took roll, reflected in the attendee list above.

Approval of Agenda and Order of Business
Member Ousey moved for approval of the agenda and order of business. Member Curey seconded. Motion passes.

Approval of Past Minutes
Member Curey moved for approval of minutes from March 15, 2022. Member Ousey seconded. Motion passes.

Division Reports/Updates

Administrative Services Division: Terry Bello, manager of the Administrative Services Division (ASD) provided an update. Regarding the official reopening of WCB facilities, ASD has been working to ensure facilities are up to date. The Klamath Falls location is operating normally and is available to schedule hearings. As of June 29, 2022, the Ontario/Four Rivers location is also available to schedule hearings. The Coos Bay location's lease is currently being negotiated and is unavailable to schedule at this time. The location in the Roseburg/Sutherlin area is in the process of being reopened, but due to Umpqua Community College's changes in staffing, that process has been delayed. In regards to policy, agency employees will soon be transitioning to entering their time off into Workday instead of E-Payroll. There are plans to have workgroups and trainings to help staff with that transition. Another policy update is that IT&R will be disabling tech devices and access during approved leave (i.e., medical leave, job rotations) that exceeds 5 days (not applicable to vacation leave).

Hearings Division: Joy Dougherty, Presiding Administrative Law Judge, provided the update for the Hearings Division. Hearings Division hasn't defaulted back to in-person hearings yet, but are slowly transitioning back. August 1, 2022, is the goal for a return to normal, in-person hearings. Hearing notices will specify whether a hearing is in-person, video, or telephonic.

Board Review: Robert Pardington, Managing Attorney for the Board Review Unit, had no update in addition to the new business.

New Business

The recent rule updates from the Board included updating the Board's email address, and the Ombuds Office's new name. Managing attorney, Robert Pardington, served as the hearings officer for the rule hearing held on May 27, 2022. The transcript of the hearing and relevant exhibits are available on the Board's website. There were no substantive objections during the hearing. The only comment during the hearing was from Elaine Schooler, from SAIF Corporation, who requested 120 days from the date of the hearing for the rule changes to go into effect. Mr. Pardington stated that an effective date of October 1, 2022, would accomplish this. Member Curey moved to adopt the amendments (Exhibits A-F) of the rules. The effective date would be October 1, 2022. Member Ousey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Public Comment

Chair Wold asked if there was any public comment. Elaine Schooler from SAIF Corporation asked if comments from the public regarding the biennial attorney fee review will be posted on the Board's website before the next Board meeting. Chair Wold responded that yes, any submissions received will be posted to the Board's web-site contemporaneously. There was no further comment from the public.

Announcements

No announcements were made.

Adjournment

Chair Wold asked for a motion to adjourn. Member Ousey moved to adjourn. Member Curey seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.