

# *Workers' Compensation Board*

## *Meeting Minutes*

May 16, 2024

**Thursday, May 16, 2024**

### **I. Call to Order**

Workers' Compensation Director Charles Collins called the Board to order at 9:07 am on Thursday, May 16, 2024. The meeting was held in Anchorage, Alaska, and by video conference.

### **II. Roll call**

Director Collins conducted a roll call. The following Board members were present:

Brad Austin	Randy Beltz	John Corbett	Sara Faulkner
Bronson Frye	Sarah Lefebvre	Marc Stemp	Debbie White
Lake Williams	Brian Zematis		

Member Jonathon Dartt was absent, and members Pamela Cline, Mike Dennis, Steven Heidemann, and Anthony Ladd were excused. A quorum was established.

### **III. Agenda Approval**

Member White moved to approve the agenda, which was seconded by member Frye. A unanimous vote approved the agenda.

### **IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Member Lefebvre moved to adopt the minutes from the January 11, 2024, Board Meeting, which was seconded by member Beltz. The minutes were adopted without objection.

### **V. Director's Report**

Director Collins reviewed the list of Board Designees. Member Lefebvre made a motion to accept the board designees, which was seconded by member Stemp. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Collins discussed the division's accomplishments and goals and recapped the legislative season.

Director Collins presented the 2025 draft Hearing Calendar.

Administrative Officer Alexis Hildebrand provided an overview of Division staffing.

*Break 9:56am-10:17am*

## **VI. Public Comment Period 10:15 am- 11:15 am**

Justin Morigeau – self

- Provided an overview of his case and offered commentary on the workers' compensation experience from the perspective of injured workers, including the independent medical evaluation process, frivolous denial of claims, and unethical behavior by the claim administrator.
- Stated there should be oversight of controversions.

Anne Moen – self

- Written public comment included in the meeting packet.

## **VII. Old Business**

Member Lefebvre requested a presentation at a future meeting on ombudsmen or similar programs in other states, perhaps on the Tennessee model, in response to Justin Morigeau's public comment.

Adopt 8 AAC 45.070 relating to hearings. Member Beltz moved to adopt the amendment of 8 AAC 45.070. Member Lefebvre seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adopt 8 AAC 45.071, relating to commissioner's designees. Member Austin moved to adopt the amendment of 8 AAC 45.071. Member Lefebvre seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VIII. New Business**

Acting Chief Janel Wright presented a draft resolution to amend AS 23.30.110 regarding electronic service. Member Lefebvre motioned to adopt the resolution, and Member Frye seconded.

## **IX. Reemployment Benefits 2023 Annual Report**

Reemployment Benefits Administrator Stacy Niwa presented the 2023 Reemployment Benefits Annual Report.

*Break 2:05 pm-2:20 pm*

## **X. Case Review**

Hearing Officers William Soule, Kyle Reding, Kathryn Setzer, and Robert Vollmer presented notable Decisions and Orders from the Alaska Workers' Compensation Board, the Alaska Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission, and the Alaska Supreme Court.

Member Frye motioned to adjourn, seconded by member Zematis.

*Meeting Adjourned 3:47 pm*