

**Maryland Workers' Compensation
Commissioners' Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 26, 2021**

Call to Order: Acting Chairman Maureen Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:27 a.m.

Present: Acting Chairman Quinn and Commissioners Kathleen Evans, James Forrester, Allan Kittleman, Morrisann Martin, Howard Metz, Ju Oh, Delia Schadt and Tracey Parker-Warren.

Staff members attending were Mary Ahearn, Steven Jones, Scott Curtis, Amy Lackington, and Stacey L. Roig, Secretary of the Commission. Jeanne M. Metz attended the open meeting and stepped out during the closed session.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Commission Meeting on August 12, 2021 were reviewed, and with a motion made by Commissioner Martin and second by Commissioner Evans, to accept the Minutes, the Minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

Closed Session: At 9:29 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman and second of Commissioner Parker-Warren and upon unanimous vote, pursuant to GP §§3-305(13), LE §§9-402, 9-403, 9-405, 9-406 and 9-1104, and COMAR 14.09.13.12, the Commission entered a closed session for the purpose of discussing self-insured employers' financial information.

Steven Jones, Director of the Insurance, Compliance & Regulation (ICR) Division reported that Glatfelter Pulp & Wood has requested a decrease in security. After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Quinn with a second from Commissioner Kittleman to table the request until the September 9th meeting for additional claim information from ICR. After unanimous consent, the motion to table was approved.

The meeting was reopened at 9:39 a.m., upon motion of Commissioner Kittleman and second of Commissioner Parker-Warren and after unanimous vote.

Chairman's Report: Acting Chairman Quinn reported that September will have two meetings, one on September 9, 2021, which will be a full Commissioners' meeting. The second meeting, to be held on September 16, 2021, will be an open meeting by telephone to vote on the updates to the Regulations in accordance with the required eight-year review process which was completed in 2021 for the Commission. The special call-in meeting will be for final approval of the regulation review changes. The call will take place at 9:30 am prior to the start of the dockets. Commissioner Quinn also reported that the MWCEA decided to cancel the in-person conference this year and they are planning a semi-virtual program on some of the days of the conference. The virtual programs will take place in the afternoon after the dockets. Commissioner Quinn also reported that she has been working on the calendar with Amy, and they will try to accommodate overnight preferences in the more remote locations whenever possible. Mary Ahearn clarified that only twenty cases are being set but the docket sheets may show more because cases do fall off the docket and those slots are being filled. The backlog of over-30 days has improved with the fuller dockets. Commissioner Quinn discussed the EZ-Pass situation with the delay in posting tolls to EZ-Pass accounts and she has reached out to MDOT through the office of Delegate Kumar Barve.

Commissioner Quinn asked Principal Counsel, Scott Curtis to discuss the opinion of the Office of the Attorney General regarding the wearing of masks. The opinion states that State Employees who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear masks in state offices; however, those who are not vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear masks. State employees cannot be disciplined for not wearing a mask.

Old Business: No Report

New Business: Commissioner Martin announced that a Kids' Chance Bowling Event is scheduled for October 20, 2021 and encouraged all Commissioners to attend. The 25-year celebration Gala is scheduled for April of 2022 with more details to come later. The Commissioners discussed several fee petitions that have been filed and recent requests for K-Laser Therapy.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Commissioner Forrester and second by Commissioner Kittleman and upon unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Maureen Quinn, Acting Chairman

Stacey L. Roig, Secretary