

Present:

Michael Werier, Chairperson of the Board of Directors

Winston Maharaj, President & CEO (ex officio)

Peter Dyck

Liz Roberts

Glenn Hildebrand

Jean-Guy Bourgeois

Sylvia Farley

Marc Lafond

Ron Koslowsky

Michael Bereziak

Yvette Milner

Being a quorum of the Board of Directors under *The Workers Compensation Act*.

Also Attending:

Cathy Skinner, General Counsel & Vice President, Compliance & Corporate Services

Heather Baete, Recording Secretary

Candace Crossland, Technical Support

In Attendance for Specific Items:

Renzo Borgesa, Vice President, Assessments, Innovation and Technology (AIT)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order and the agenda confirmed at 10:04 a.m.

Yvette Milner asked that a discussion take place relating to the Third Party Liability Policy.

The Chairperson noted that this is the last full Board of Directors meeting for the President & CEO prior to his retirement.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

There were no conflicts of interest declared, potential or perceived, with respect to the discussions anticipated at this Board meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Chairperson presented the minutes from the June 18, 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors.

On motion duly made and carried,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the June 18, 2020 Board of Directors meeting are confirmed as a reasonable record.

Business Arising

The Board of Directors received the information provided with the agenda.

For Decision

There were no items for decision.

For Information

Impact of COVID to the WCB System

The Vice President, AIT joined the meeting. He provided highlights of the impact the COVID pandemic has had on the WCB system. Claims decreased by 40% during the peak in the spring, to date claims are now down 20%. Average claim costs have risen by about 10% as there have been delays in accessing medical services. Overall program costs have significantly decreased with the exception of wage loss. It was noted that while the investment market has been volatile, the WCB accident fund has weathered the fluctuations quite well.

The President noted the outcomes of this pandemic will be felt for some time as the number of claims and temporary decreases in premium revenue make their way through the system. There was discussion regarding the hardest hit sectors of the economy.

The Board of Directors received the report for information.

The Vice President, AIT left the meeting.

2021 Detailed Assessment Rates

The President and CEO provided an update on the 2021 detailed assessments rates. He noted the initiative to improve the rate setting model has concluded. The results of the changes have led to the smoothing of employer rates which has reduced rate variability. He noted that, while the pandemic has impacted the cost

to operate the system, the reserves have ensured the long term sustainability of the average assessment rate. There was discussion about the impact of the interruptions in payrolls in industries impacted by the pandemic on the rate model's allocation of costs. Further analysis will be undertaken to determine what, if anything needs to be done.

The Board of Directors received the report for information.

Committee Reports

The Board of Directors received the following Committee reports as information:

Prevention Committee Meeting - September 17, 2020

Investment Committee Meeting - September 22, 2020

Finance Committee Meeting - September 22, 2020.

Administration Reports

The President & CEO provided highlights of his report.

Pandemic Recovery: An update was provided on the WCB's recovery efforts and the plans for restoring services.

Adjudication Timelines: Board members reported they have been advised that there have been significant delays experienced in the adjudication of claims, in particular occupational disease claims. Board members were encouraged to follow-up on cases brought to them and forward these inquiries to the CEO office for investigation.

The Board of Directors received the information provided with the agenda.

Cost Relief Cost Transfer Policy: A Board member raised an issue about the threshold used on the transferring of experience to another registered employer. This is a policy matter and has been forwarded to the Governance Committee for their review.

WCB Legislation: An update on the status of the WCB pending legislation was provided.

Report of the Corporate Secretary

The Board of Directors received the report for information.

Board of Directors Work Plan

The Board of Directors received the information provided with the agenda. Consideration will be given to the time and form for a Board planning session.

Retirement Remarks: On behalf of the WCB, the Chairperson thanked Winston Maharaj for his nearly nine years of service to the WCB. He outlined Winston's many accomplishments during his tenure and wished him well in his future endeavours.

The President & CEO thanked the Board for its support of the many initiatives undertaken. He noted it was a pleasure working with stakeholders to build a better compensation system for all Manitobans. He thanked the Board of the opportunity to serve the WCB.

In Camera Discussion

The Board of Directors adjourned to an *in camera* session.

Conclusion

As all matters coming before the Board had been dealt with, the meeting concluded at 11:42 a.m.