



Wisconsin Compensation Rating Bureau

GENERAL CIRCULAR LETTER 1282 – DECEMBER 20, 2024

WISCONSIN GOVERNING BOARD and RATING COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Wisconsin Governing Board and Rating Committee meetings called to convene in the office of the Wisconsin Compensation Rating Bureau, 20700 Swenson Drive, Waukesha, WI 53186 on Thursday, December 12, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM.

A list of attendees at the Rating Committee and Governing Board meetings follows. The Chair of the Rating Committee was George Busche from General Casualty Insurance Company. Chair of the Governing Board was Scott Lange from Sentry Insurance Company.

| ORGANIZATION | REPRESENTATIVE | GOVERNING BOARD | RATING COMMITTEE |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| American Home Assurance | Aryeh Haselkorn | X | X |
| Associated General Contractors of Greater Milwaukee | Dan Burazin | X | X |
| Badger Mutual Insurance Company | Tyler Protz | O | O |
| Employers Insurance Co. of Wausau | Diana Trent | X | X |
| Employers Mutual Casualty Co. | Joe Hanssen | O | X |
| General Casualty Insurance Co. | George Busche | X | X |
| Rural Mutual Insurance Company | Sara Grade | O | O |
| SFM Mutual Insurance Co. | Brian Bent | X | X |
| | Jen Wolf | X | X |
| | Nick Marino | X | X |
| | Rhonda Wills | X | X |
| Secura Insurance, A Mutual Co. | Joe Schmidt | X | O |
| Sentry Insurance Company | Scott Lange | X | X |
| | Bev Beigel | X | X |
| | Gail Brown | X | X |
| Society A Mutual Company | Tricia Wood | X | X |
| Travelers Indemnity Company | Daniel Pascale* | X | X |
| United Wisconsin Insurance Co. | Dan Bell | X | X |
| West Bend Insurance Company | Scott Beaver | X | X |
| | Jason Lanza | X | X |
| Zurich Insurance Company | Scott Tracy | O | O |
| Wisconsin Compensation Rating Bureau | Bernard Rosauer | O | O |
| | Tad Cleveland | O | O |
| | Beth Nickel | O | O |
| | Laura Vande Hey | O | O |
| | Donna Knepper | O | O |
| | Andrew Stoughton | O | O |
| | Michelle Swessel | O | O |
| | Stephanie Staring | O | O |
| | Lisa Kornacki | O | O |
| Mitchell Matthews | O | O | |

Also Present:

| ORGANIZATION | REPRESENTATIVE | GOVERNING BOARD | RATING COMMITTEE |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) | David Haushalter | O | O |
| | Rebecca Rebholz* | O | O |
| | Brian Darrey* | O | O |
| Riegel Law | Paul Riegel | O | O |

X = Committee member attendee
 O = Non-committee member attendee
 *Virtual

WCRB Rating Committee Meeting

Antitrust Statement - “This Board meeting has been called to discuss the items of mutual interest and concern to the members of the Wisconsin Compensation Rating Bureau. In accordance with both Federal and Wisconsin State Anti-trust Laws, this Committee is prohibited from any discussion or action which constitutes any form of boycott, coercion, or intimidation.”

NEW BUSINESS

- Admiralty Law – Transportation, wages, maintenance and cure (TWMC). The Rating Committee reviewed a proposed WI Basic Manual Rule XIII amendment. The current rule allows the inclusion of TWMC. The charge for this inclusion is based on an “a” rate. There is no current method to calculate this “a” rate. Review of how other states charge for TWMC provided alternative methods of calculation. After discussion the Committee agreed to propose a 10% increase to the rates for the Admiralty law classifications for filing with OCI. The filing is proposed to be effective upon approval.
- WCPAP Analysis. The Contractor Credit Program is doing what it is designed to do. The Rating Committee requested the language on the WCPAP notification letter be clarified to distinguish between factor and credit.

ACTUARIAL SUBCOMMITTEE

- 3 Digit Rate Results. The WCRB sent communication to the IIAW for publication in their newsletter to notify agents to prepare for the change effective 10/1/26. This item is removed from the agenda.

WCRB Governing Board Meeting

Antitrust Statement

- The group adopted the minutes from the September 5, 2024 meeting.
- Bureau Operations – Industry Issues
 - Budget Update - The Governing Board members were presented with the following budget reports and were given the opportunity to ask questions on the information presented.
 - 2024 Estimated Year-End/2025 Proposed Budget
 - Income Report that included years 2023 through 11-30-24
 - Notice to Carrier Fine Comparison

- Unit Stat Fine Comparison
- 60-Day Fine Comparison

The Governing Board approved the proposed 2025 budget and voted to levy an assessment in the amount of \$2,817,429 for the general operating expenses for the WCRB for the first quarter of 2025.

- Administrative Affairs
 - WISPUR Update. The Governing Board was updated on the progress of replacing the Spectrum system. WISPUR (Wisconsin Policy Unit Rating) is planned for development in 2025.
 - WCRB Office Changes Update. The WCRB is planning to downsize their current office footprint. Research on the estimated annual savings, alternative locations, and future costs for furniture removal and replacement has been completed. Negotiations with building management are in the process of being scheduled.
 - WCRB Personnel Changes. The recent and upcoming turnover was shared with the Governing Board. Succession plans for future educational and knowledge growth were discussed. Candidate results from current open positions have been positive.
 - WCRB Operations Department Restructuring. The Operations Department has adopted title changes to better reflect current responsibilities, engaged in cross-training efforts, created a new position to offer upward mobility, and targeted hiring candidates with insurance knowledge and experience. These efforts will allow WCRB to better attract and retain talented employees, prepare for upcoming retirements, and support the industry and WISPUR project.
 - Bureau Efficiency Workgroup Update. This group was created to enhance carrier/WCRB relationship and to identify process improvements. The WCRB and insurance carrier work group have been successfully discussing goals, industry issues and concerns.
 - Unit Stat Fines Carrier Outreach Update. The intervention efforts have been successful in lowering fines. Improvements should be observed over the upcoming months.
- Carrier Report Card. Currently, carriers have available the tools necessary to track their fines and compliance. WCRB will concentrate their resources on the development of WISPUR. This item is removed from the agenda.
- Legislative Update. General discussion over pending and potential upcoming legislative issues. The new Agreed Bill cycle began on December 10, 2024 with a public hearing.
- With the unanimous consent of all members present, this item was added to the agenda.

General Casualty Insurance Company resigned their position on both the Rating Committee and the Governing Board. The Board accepted the resignation effective immediately.

The Governing Board accepted the nomination of Praetorian Insurance Company to fill the vacancies on the Rating Committee and Governing Board and to complete the terms for General Casualty Insurance Company. This will be affirmed at the Annual Meeting in May.

WWCIP Activity

- RFP Enhancement Process. Conversations are ongoing with OCI, and new process instructions are being developed. The new RFP process Circular Letter is scheduled for release in January 2026.
- Pool Surplus Status Update. The estimated approved \$27 million dollars has been disbursed. The Governing Board was reminded that ACH in lieu of check reimbursements are recommended for security, timeliness and cost savings. This item is removed from the agenda.
- Pool Servicing Carrier Withdrawal. West Bend Insurance Company has terminated their Servicing Carrier Agreement effective 3/31/25. They are sending Notices of Non-Renewal and transferring files to the remaining pool servicing carriers.
- Charge-Off Request – Diaz Construction LLC - \$80,778.00 – SFM. The Governing Board approved the recommendation to charge-off the uncollectible balance. SFM abstained from voting.

Following the adjournment of the Governing Board meeting, the Board met in Executive Session.