

MINUTES OF THE ILLINOIS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

HELD ON MARCH 21, 2022 at 10:00AM via WebEx

Present at the meeting via WebEx:

Chairman Michael J. Brennan
Commissioner Deborah Baker
Commissioner Kathryn Doerries
Commissioner Carolyn Doherty
Commissioner Christopher Harris
Commissioner Stephen Mathis (in person)
Commissioner Marc Parker
Commissioner Maria Portela
Commissioner Deborah Simpson

IWCC staff present at the meeting:

Ronald Rascia, General Counsel
Cole D. Garrett, Deputy General Counsel
Annette Roti, Confidential Assistant to the Chairman
Michele Kowalski, Secretary of the Commission
Whitney Martin, Manager Research and Education

On March 21, 2022, at 10:01 AM, Chairman Michael J. Brennan called the meeting to order. Michele Kowalski took roll and verified a quorum was present. Chairman Brennan advised that draft minutes for the Board Meeting held on December 3, 2021 had been circulated and asked for any objections to the minutes as written. Hearing no objection, Chairman Brennan called for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Harris so moved, Commissioner Parker seconded the motion, and the motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2021 Board Meeting carried unanimously.

As to new business, Chairman Brennan gave an update on the re-establishment of the Red Line and on the volume of pre-trials being completed. Chairman Brennan next discussed the status of the new Urbana hearing site. Finally, Chairman Brennan discussed pending legislation and brought the Commission up to speed on the legislative status of the pending bills.

Next, Chairman Brennan brought recommendation of the WCRB as to independent arbitrators to the Commission. Chairman shared the background and history of Mr. Antonio Jeffrey and Mr. Marc Perper. A motion was called to certify both candidates as independent arbitrators. The motion carried unanimously.

Continuing the conversation from the December 3, 2021 meeting, Chairman Brennan advised the Commission of inquiries from the bar as to if the Commission will return to in-person oral arguments and conferences or continue with WebEx conferences. The Commissioners engaged in spirited discussion and expressed support for both returning to in-person and staying remote via WebEx. Chairman Brennan discussed possibilities of conducting hybrid, concurrent in-person/remote and some infrastructure upgrades to support hybrid calls.

There were no members of the public present via WebEx and no public comment. Upon no further business, Commissioner Parker moved to adjourn, Commissioner Doherty seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:37AM.