**MONTANA SELF INSURERS’ ASSOCIATION**

**April 21, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes**

**11:00a Mountain**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 892 0845 7829**

**Passcode: 847373**

Members Present: A. Komac (Chair) MMIA, J. Haun (Vice Chair) Rosauers, D Haeder Northwestern Energy, D. Walcheck Logan Health, P. Strauss (Exec Dir) ex-officio and non-voting. M. Marsh (Sec’y/Treas) Midland Claims was excused and had provided his proxy to Komac, if it was needed.

1. **Approval of 3/23/2022 Board Meeting Minutes**

Strauss reviewed the inclusion of the email discussion regarding changing the motion adopted by the Board at the 3/23/2022 meeting regarding providing the Executive Director some flexibility in dues charges for new members who join during the last quarter of our fiscal year. By email on 4/14/2022 the Board voted unanimously by email, with no abstentions, to adopt language which allows the Executive Director to waive pro-rata monthly charges for new members who pay in full for the next fiscal year, when they join during the last quarter of the prior year.

**Komac moved and Haeder seconded a motion to approve the 3/23/2022 Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.**

1. **Director’s Report**:

**Financials**

Attached to the meeting invitation sent 4/17/2022 were the March 2022 monthly statements from First Interstate Bank, the DA Davidson Savings and Investment accounts and the most current fiscal year to date Financial Transactions spreadsheet, which is more up to date.

First Interstate Balance                               = $34,387.67

DA Davidson Bond Fund Balance        = $9,457.63

DA Davidson Investment Acct                   = $24,291.90

In addition, we have the Valley Bank 12-month CD deposit of $10,240.

Strauss reviewed the Association expenses incurred in March including the domain name, the February and March CardSetter website maintenance charge (due to delayed AmEx processing), the $699.80 hotel and travel related expenses for the Annual WCRI meeting. We also had the annual MT Secretary of State report fee of $20 and as discussed last meeting the $155 credit due to duplicate expense reimbursement. The WCRI registration fee was comped based on Strauss’s relationship with the organization and airfare was paid in February.

Strauss reported he had forgotten to include the mileage for the WCRI trip. He reported he drove to Bozeman because the airfare was less than half the cost of leaving from Helena. That $101.92 charge will be on the April expense request (91 miles each way). Other anticipated expenses in April will be the usual website maintenance and domain name charges.

Looking forward, Strauss anticipates attending the National Council of Self-Insurers as a member of their Executive Committee. They will pay some, if not all of my expenses, so I am not certain what expenses we will be asked to pick up. The Annual Conference will be June 12 – 16 in Scottsdale, AZ. The hotel is estimated to cost about $1000 and airfare is estimated at $750.

We still do not have a definitive answer as to whether we have to file an amended tax return for 2/4 – 6/30 (the period the IRS awarded our tax exempt status last year). Realistically, Strauss anticipates letting our accountant recover a bit from the end of filing season and then pursue this question. Strauss will be attending the Annual MSF Medical Conference only for a short time as he has a personal travel conflict but will be spending some time with our members who will be there. Strauss’s registration should be comped for that event.

**Membership**

As part of the minutes of the March meeting, Strauss included the email decision we made on 4/14 to authorize the flexibility of up to three months to new members, with fully paid membership for the next fiscal year. This is limited to new members and to those who join in the last calendar quarter of our fiscal year. Paradigm has taken advantage of that opportunity and has paid their annual dues for 2022 – 23 already. This will make it easier for new members to process their fees. Strauss will continue to pursue One Call, Rising Medical Solutions and Albertsons as potential new members as a result of contacts made at the WCRI meeting last month.

1. **MSIA Webinar Series** –

MSIA has gotten a commitment from Todd Johnson, Montana State Relations Executive for NCCI to conduct our next webinar currently scheduled for June 8. This next webinar is designed less for our membership and more to enhance the state-wide credibility of MSIA with the Montana workers’ compensation community, including public policymakers. Johnson and Strauss anticipate an interview style program with powerpoint slides to review the NCCI state system results and some Plan 1 information MSIA has from the Department of Labor as a contrast.

MSIA is surveying membership regarding future topics for our series. Thus far,

* claim closure on difficult cases,
* drugs and formularies,
* automation and efficiency tools,
* structured settlements,
* remote workers – non MT employees especially in ND, WY and WA,
* captives, and
* asbestos claims

have been suggested. The Board added a discussion of IMEs to the list for consideration.

We do not anticipate charging attendees for this webinar and anticipate using a broad email list for invitees – well beyond membership, to include all the Montana workers’ compensation stakeholders as invitees. We are not anticipating expenses related to this webinar. Going forward, Strauss has spoken with a number of people about issues and topics which may be of interest to our members and we expect to offer programs outside the membership which can be another revenue stream for the Association. MSIA is not planning to ask members to pay for webinar attendance.

1. **Web Site**

The Web Site has been updated with the most recent MSIA Updates and the new member contacts.

1. **Old Business / New Business**

**Tax Filing -** As discussed above, we do not yet have a definitive answer about filing an amended return reflecting our tax exempt status retroactive to February 4, 2021 and at this point do not expect a response until after 4/15. I will allow some recovery time after the end of tax season for our accountant and keep you apprised of what we will be required to do.

Conflict of Interest Statement – we had previously discussed an annual conflict of interest statement for the Executive Director and Board members to review and sign. With the adoption of our attached Board Member Responsibilities, we let the idea slide.

Strauss has recently been offered a contract to teach workers’ compensation to the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies staff. In checking in with Board members before accepting the contract, the issue of an annual signed statement came up again. The Board discussed that there may be value to our membership and good governance in having such a statement.

Attached to the meeting invitation sent on 4/17/2022 was a DRAFT we can consider. Strauss surveyed different Associations and tapped our contacts at the Montana Society of Association Executive s to review (and copy) different statements and propose the attached statement as something for us to consider adopting. The Board agreed to review the statement and consider it at our next meeting.

**MSF -** There was general discussion regarding the new MSF President, Holly O’Dell, who is a BSRN, an attorney and has an MBA from the Wharton School. O’Dell is anticipated to start working remotely in May and to be at the MSF in June. Lanny Hubbard will be leaving at the end of July to start his retirement.

Strauss reported that the American Association of State Compensation Insurance Funds (AASCIF) is hosting their annual meeting in Big Sky in July. While MSIA will not be attending, there may be value to some of the members’ staff to attend. AASCIF members are the largest workers’ compensation carriers in their states and their meetings bring nationally recognized leadership and speakers.

1. **Adjourn**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 19 at 11:00a MDT.