**MONTANA SELF INSURERS’ ASSOCIATION**

**November 17, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes**

**11:00a Mountain**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 881 8724 9485**

**Passcode: 523789**

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

1. **Approval of 10/20/2022 Board Meeting Minutes**

The October 20, 2022 Draft Meeting Minutes were provided to the Board as part of the Zoom meeting invitation sent 11/14. There were no questions, corrections or comments.

**Marsh moved and Haun seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the 10/20/22 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.**

1. **Director’s Report**:

**Financials**

The October 2022 monthly statements from First Interstate Bank, the DA Davidson Savings, and Investment accounts were provided to the Board with the 11/14 meeting invitation. The most current fiscal year to date Financial Transactions spreadsheet, which is more up to date, was also provided at that time.

First Interstate Balance                               = $50,864.23

DA Davidson Bond Fund Balance        = $ 9,122.93

DA Davidson Investment Acct                   = $21,609.11

Intrepid CD = $10,301.06

We saw a slight uptick in our combined DA Davidson accounts with the end of the month increase in the stock market. Our overall financial situation remains sound. The Intrepid CD is our savings account and would likely be the last funds we tapped, should there be a financial disaster. This CD matures in March, 2023. In addition, we have the Intrepid CU Savings account with $5.00 (required to open the CD).

Strauss reported he had just received a solicitation from American Express through the mail for a new business checking account service they are offering. There appears to be no fees we would incur, based on the way we use our checking account and the balance would earn 1.3% interest (currently). The interest rate is variable. There is more information available from the AmEx link, [Business Checking Account | American Express](https://www.americanexpress.com/en-us/business/checking/?eep=79090). The Board discussed the potential of depositing some funds in this kind of account. Strauss reported he was not aware of any other commercial checking account offering interest. He has a relationship already with Am Ex and reports it is easy to transfer money in and out and this provides us with an opportunity to put some of our money to better use. The Board discussed the pros and cons and asked if there was an additional workload issue for Strauss involved. The lowest our operational checking account gets is roughly $20,000 so we can take a good chunk of those funds and put them into this kind of account, without too much hassle, nor financial danger. The account would be FDIC insured. . While the interest we would earn is not earth-shattering, it is better than the current 0. And, this account does not require us to lock up our money, should we need it, as a CD does.

**Marsh moved and Walcheck seconded a motion to move $15,000 from our operations checking account into an AmEx interest earning business checking account. Motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.**

Association expenses incurred in October so far include only our usual domain name and CardSetter website maintenance charge for a total of $55.00.

Two members sponsored our most recent Webinar on Chronic Pain held on Nov. 9. Both Ritsema Law and Midland Claims Service paid $250 each to be sponsors. Ritsema Law has also pre-paid to be a sponsor for our Q 1 2023 Webinar, which has not yet been scheduled. We provided a package seat deal to the MT Association of Physical Therapists for this Webinar for $100 and sold three individual seats as well for a total income of $675 for this Webinar. More Webinar details are provided in the Webinars section.

**Taxes**

We have filed our 2021 – 22 tax return as a tax exempt entity timely, on November 10. A copy of the postcard filing was also attached to the meeting invitation provided on 11/14. We do not have a bill from the accountant as yet. My expectation is that this first year may be our most expensive, and based on the potential simplicity of the filing, we may not need an accountant for next year. On the other hand, the threshold for a post-card filing is $50,000 and with our broadened income streams, we may be getting close to that level of annual income.

**Membership**

We added two new Associate members, Ametros and Rising Medical Solutions during this month. Benefis has confirmed they are not interested in membership at this time. Still no response from Sedgwick and the Fort Belknap tribe continues to review membership. The only outstanding commitment we have is from Craig Hospital who had committed, has been billed but has not yet paid. We have three Associates on a January payment schedule – Health-e-Systems, USI and COMT/Sababa and I will be sending them a bill in December.

We currently have 24 Associate members and 18 Employer members.

1. **MSIA Webinar Series** –

Our last CE Webinar, with Take Courage Coaching founder and principal Becky Curtis, brought in 69 reservations and 43 attendees, both records for our Webinar programs. Ritsema Law and Midland Claims Service sponsored the Webinar at $250 each. I offered a package seat deal to the MT Association of Physical Therapists for an unlimited number of seats for $100. They took 15 seats. We also sold three individual non-member seats. Our total income from the Webinar was $675. Our expenses for Webinars have been limited to the CE credit application charge from the state of $78.48.

Perhaps more important, we increased our Webinar contact email list to a total of 244 individuals, 100 individuals associated with members and individuals not affiliated with MSIA. The non-affiliated list includes, MT PT’s, plaintiff and defense attorneys, claims examiners from other carriers and TPA’s, physicians, medical office staff, other medical professionals, business, labor and insurance agents both in Montana and nationally. Our affiliated members list for the Webinars, also includes legislative and regulatory staff, as we would not charge them for attendance.

While we do not record our Webinars, and do not have plans to do so, we provide a copy of the presentation slide deck to all who had registered. Feedback from the webinar has been extraordinarily positive.

Our next Webinar, projected to be held sometime during Q 1 2023 has not been set. We do not have a topic nor a date. We will provide at least one month’s notice prior to the Webinar. I am considering asking Ametros to provide a discussion on settling complex claims, particularly now that they are a member. I anticipate the Q 2 Webinar will be a discussion of legislative issues and actions. If you have ideas, please don’t hesitate to share them.

1. **Web Site**

The Web Site has been updated with the most recent MSIA Update, the new member contacts and the 2022 Business & Annual Meeting material. A new “Join Now” button has been added providing access to provide membership dues without having the password to the Members Only section. This can be used for current member renewals and new members. We are discussing with CardSetter how we can provide for variable pricing opportunities so meeting or webinar and meeting sponsors can pay via the site’s credit card processing system. Currently we provide for fixed fee levels for Webinar and membership dues only. We anticipate providing a link to the state’s self-insurance requirements and forms information. We (I) need to pay some attention to keeping the website more relevant and to start including pictures of members and find a way to include more up to date general industry information for anyone who lands on our site. The website will be updated with our positions during the next month or so.

Our Members Only password has been updated and I will provide each member with their password, and notification that the Business & Annual Meeting material is available for their review, including the amended Bylaws, our Conflict of Interest statement and budget information.

**5. Old Business / New Business**

**Legislative Issues** – There is not much language available at this point to review or respond to. This is the time of year when people request bills to “generally revise the workers’ compensation law” without much behind the request as yet. Of course, there are some ideas floating around. Nelly Nichol has a series of requests most of which are expected to limit the State Fund’s ability to do business in the manner they have. The EAIC has the independent contractor clean up language and Greg Hertz has a series of bills regarding State Fund as well, which are not likely to gain much traction, unless something else happens. Hertz was a plaintiff against the state when the legislature used some of the State Fund’s money to shore up the budget in 2017. I have 34 potential bill requests which could impact the WC law at this time, but do not know much about them yet. And, it is too early to worry about most of them – the language runs the gamut from changing the medical marijuana laws, which may not impact WC at all, to workforce housing to a proposed impact on the presumptive OD laws. As well as a spate of the “generally revise” language.

In short, it is generally too early to know anything for certain but to start to create our “watch” lists. I have every expectation of reporting to membership on a weekly basis again and contacting those members who’s individual interests may be impacted by proposals for their assistance and input.

**Meetings**

We had a period of a few months where we could not get together during the summer. The Board postponed further discussion until all members were able to consider the options regarding meeting less frequently than every month.

**Other Old or New Business**

1. **Adjourn**

The next meeting is scheduled for December 15 at 11:00a MDT.