

**Industrial Commission's Advisory Committee
On Workers' Compensation
Minutes
May 20, 2026**

Members Present:

Alex Garcia
Amanda Reginer
Dave Anderson
Dr. Cody Heiner
Jamie Arnold
Kelli Segroves
Kelly Paananen
Mark Peterson
Matt Pappas
Michael Kessinger
Shellie Martin
Stephaine Butler

Members Absent:

Joe Maloney
Andrew Marcham
Brian Whitlock
Ex-Officio: Representative James Hotlzclaw
Ex-Officio: Senator Tammy Nichols

Industrial Commission:

Claire Sharp, Chair
Aaron White, Commissioner
George Gutierrez, Director
Kamerron Slay, Commission Secretary

Opening Remarks and Introductions:

Mr. Arnold was unavailable, and Mr. Pappas led the meeting, opening it at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Pappas reminded attendees to sign in and next requested introductions from Committee members and public attendees.

Minutes of February 11, 2026:

The minutes of the February 11, 2026, meeting were reviewed Upon the motion of Dave Anderson, seconded by Mark Peterson, the minutes of February 11, 2026, were approved. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Industrial Commission Report:

Commission Update. The Commission's summer externship begins soon, with University of Idaho Law School students participating in hearings, providing practical workers' compensation experience.

The Commission's legislative activities have ended for now, but work on proposals for the next session continues.

IRIS Modernization. Mr. Linnarz shared that the IRIS Modernization project is nearly complete, with 28 of 31 IRIS 2.0 enhancements finished and the final 3 milestones (advanced reporting) expected within 1–2 months. He noted ongoing work continues on technology refinements and stakeholder engagement on the Rehab referral form The attorney portal for benefits is fully operational and offers additional sign-in options, and the CVCP portal will launch later this year.

Surety Report Card: Ms. Flores shared an update on the quarterly the report card and showed an example. The first quarterly summary for 2026 has already been sent out. The card compares surety performance to industry standards and audit rules, highlighting timely FROI and disability payments.

Ms. Butler asked if only, timeliness of filing of FROIs and initial payments statistics would be included in the reports, and whether they should expect quarterly updates. Ms. Flores confirmed that these are the two measurements that can be accurately tracked using EDI filing. Mr. Pappas noted that the information indicated that these performance reports are exempt from disclosure pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-107(1) and asked whether a claimant's counsel could obtain the report, to which Chair Sharp replied that they could not under that statute.

Public Comment: Ms. O'Toole asked if Idaho might impose penalties for late payments, as some other jurisdictions do. Chair Sharp replied that there is not enough support or infrastructure to pursue this, so that enforcement will focus on education.

Subcommittee Report:

Subcommittee on PODO: Mr. Wagener updated the group on the Peace Officer and Detention Officer Disability Fund, noting a draft revision to Idaho Code § 72-1104 with new provisions on benefits and on feedback regarding retirement and salary. The Commission is reviewing the draft and may recommend to include a statute of limitations, and ending enhanced benefits upon retirement to align with PERSI rules.

Public Comment: Barbra Jorden asked whether the subcommittee is still active, and Mr. Wagener confirmed that it is.

Concerns were raised about defining officers' base salary, especially for those with considerable overtime and complex shift patterns. A 13-week earnings calculation was suggested to better reflect actual pay, noting that relying solely on base salary could undermine the statutory intent and raise constitutional issues. Additional complications arising from benefits, seasonal earnings, and using a measure that reflects the base salary, not the maximum earned were discussed. There was no consensus, and further discussions are needed.

Subcommittee on Idaho Code § 72-602. Mr. Wagener summarized the subcommittee meeting on this issue and the suggested changes. There was then a discussion on subsection (3) about employers accessing medical records if a claim is filed, noting Idaho Code § 72-432 already lets employers get a medical release after a claim. The Commission noted that the regulation moved this rule into statute. Discussion was had regarding the need to add it to § 72-602 if it already exists in § 72-432.

Public Comment: Ms. Kear noted that it can be confusing for a layperson to understand the statute and determine the correct approach.

Members of the committee expressed concerns regarding their ability to get records from the doctor under Idaho Code § 72-432. It was noted that this change gives employers control over

employee info since they provide the benefit. Mr. Wagener added that access is limited to injury-related info and benefits sought.

Public Comment: Ms. Sharla Ng observed that relying on Idaho Code § 72-432 places control with the claimant, allowing them to determine whether a delay in payment occurs.

Members of the committee emphasized the need for medical records to assess claims, noting disputes over procedures cause delays and that providing all relevant info upfront speeds processing. It was suggested to revise Idaho Code § 72-602 for easier record access. A proposal was made to review comments and delay subsection (3) discussion until the next subcommittee meeting

Public Comment: Ms. Kear noted that subsection (2) refers to the term as FROI, which is the abbreviation commonly used in the industry, while subsection (1) describes it as the first report. She recommended that subsection (2) also refer to it as the first report for consistency. Additionally, she suggested including the abbreviation in parentheses so individuals unfamiliar with workers' compensation can understand what FROI stands for.

Mr. Wagener summarized the remaining changes and advised those interested in subcommittees to contact Ms. Slay.

Subcommittee on Neel. Mr. Peterson reported on the Subcommittee on Neel, noting an in-depth discussion of payment issues, including whether Neel paid directly or through a third party. Despite thorough discussions, no agreement on statutory changes was reached, and Mr. Peterson stated further meetings are unnecessary.

Mr. Pappas said they would skip the planned break and continue with the agenda.

Other issues/Announcement:

Mr. Pappas inquired whether there were any additional public comments; none were presented. He noted that the agenda for the next meeting will include the annual elections. Open positions will consist of: one representative of Workers (Joe Maloney), one Employer Representative (Andrew Marcham), one Insurance Representative (Shellie Martin), one Attorney Representing Claimants (Jamie Arnold), one Attorney Representing Employers (Matt Pappas), and a Chairman.

Topics for Next Meeting:

Mr. Kessinger reported a meeting cancellation due to miscommunication and noted ongoing progress with uncertain status. Director Gutierrez said the Commission is finalizing strategies to improve court reporting, working with HR to train staff to conduct the reporting, which may help to resolve this issue. Mr. Kessinger agreed, and it was decided that progress will be reported at the next meeting.

Next Meeting Date: August 6, 2026

Adjournment:

Mr. Anderson moved to end the meeting, seconded by Ms. Butler. The meeting ended at 10:10 a.m.