



Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

May 30, 2025

Call to Order: The meeting convened at 10 a.m. with the following participants:

Isabel A. M. Cole	Robert Silber	Sarah Kortokrax
Bob Battles	Chris Carlisle	Tim O'Connell
Anita Booker-Hay	Chris Bishop	Sarah Jackson
Brian Watkins	Ryan Miller	Cindy Gaddis
Kylee Redman	Shawna Fruin	Knowrasa Patrick
Jane Dale	Lionel Greaves IV	
Katherine Mason	Jason Dickey-North	

BAMS (Board Appeals Management System) Update: Anita reported June 16 is the internal launch date when our employees will begin using our new case management system. Enhancements, such as stakeholder access to your filings, will come later. She demonstrated how the online appeal filing will change.

- Shawna: I heard a rumor that the docket numbers will change.
 - Yes. In BAMS, the first letters will designate the appeal type, such as WC for a workers' compensation case. Current appeal dockets will not change.
- Chris B.: Do you have an anticipated date for stakeholder access?
 - Not at this time. After we launch and work out any bugs, we will turn our attention to the enhancements.
- Robert: Is this going to allow us to access all documents?
 - The anticipated enhancement will allow you access to your filings. There will be restrictions in place to keep the private things private.
- Bob thanked the BIIA staff who have been working on this for a considerable amount of time. Isabel reiterated the thanks and asked for your patience as our staff transitions to this new system.

BIIA Staff Update: Anita reported:

- Judges Daniel Johnson, Heidi Bolong, and Randolph Boling are retiring this summer.
- Judge Tom Kalenius's last day is today.
- Becky Broadbent and Donna Chambers will be retiring.
- Judge Mark Fowler's last day is June 30.
- Jo-EL Modeste's last day was yesterday.

- Welcome to new judges Peter Jones, Phillip Chinn, Robert Jimerson, Magda Baker, and Christina Haring-Larson.
- Katherine: We had previously asked for bios and we haven't really moved in that direction. Maybe this meeting could be an opportunity to introduce those judges so we recognize them when we have a proceeding before them.
 - Anita has noted that suggestion.

Kudos:

- Lionel complimented AC Anne Kysar and those judges who are really good about practical scheduling, such as when a self-represented party must present a prima facie case and the judge doesn't schedule the rest of the testimony until that has happened. That saves our staff from unnecessary scheduling and rescheduling. Yes, there are procedures to be followed, but shout-out for training new judges to be flexible.
- Anita noted that AC Carlson thanks AAG Jim Johnson for going the extra mile to get an SIE claim (where the wrong employer was identified) scheduled. Ryan echoed the kudos for Jim Johnson.
- Ryan: Thanks to CLO Watkins and Chief Booker-Hay. My firm had an issue and the BIIA immediately looked at it. It makes the constituents feel heard and cared about and we appreciate the due diligence.

Stakeholder Q&A:

- Lionel: The Department has started giving more deep-dive opportunities. Maybe we could get an offline small work group together to discuss, for example, best practices for exhibit management, and then give input to the BIIA. And then discuss if BIIA wants to adopt a standard for digital management.
 - Anita: I appreciate that Lionel doesn't just complain, he always brings an idea for a solution. I will reach out to Lionel offline to discuss this idea further.
- Brian noted that a couple of times recently, the court reporter hasn't filed a deposition transcript. Our judges need to catch it on our end, but also, attorneys need to make sure their court reporters file what they are supposed to.
 - Ryan: I've noticed attorneys are not always doing a preamble and that is helpful. For example, note the transcript should be filed with the BIIA. Rest letters are also helpful.
 - Katherine: If the missing dep wasn't caught till superior court it could not have been considered by the IAJ or the Board. Did the whole case have to get reconsidered?
 - Brian: Yes, the current case got remanded from superior court. The case is over five years old. The way to check it: when you get the Proposed Decision and Order, read the Addendum for the list of what was considered by the judge.

- Robert: How does the BIIA feel about staffing? Are you adequately staffed? How difficult has it been to get judges? Did you get the money in your budget to remain adequately staffed?
 - Anita: We currently are adequately staffed. Although there is a hiring freeze, we have been able to apply for an exception to hire behind retiring judges. Is it difficult? Yes. In the current market it is difficult to attract top talent. It is difficult when salaries aren't commensurate with the value employees bring to an agency. Different agencies have different compensation because the legislature doesn't understand the complexity of what we do. But yes, we are staffed currently. All agencies are concerned about the money they receive. We are always concerned with being good stewards with the funds. We would always love to be able to give more to our employees. Bob noted that because we are a dedicated fund agency, we received what we need, but we are still subject to the Governor's restrictions.

Next meeting: We proposed August 22, 2025, at 10 a.m. Please email jay.raish@biia.wa.gov if you have conflicts.

Public Comment: If you have a comment, please email jay.raish@biia.wa.gov and the Board will review it.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Jay Raish, Confidential Secretary