

WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
MANAGEMENT-LABOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
**Full Committee Meeting**  
**Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, The Dalles, OR**  
Oct. 10, 2024  
10 a.m.–noon

***Committee members present:***

Scott Strickland, Sheet Metal Workers Local #16  
Patrick Priest, Citycounty Insurance Services  
Lorne Bulling, Iron Workers Local 29  
Sara Duckwall, Duckwall Fruit  
Ryan Hearn, Roseburg Forest Products  
Stacy Lewallen, Fortis Construction, Inc. **(Absent)**  
Sarah Merrick, City of Salem Fire Department **(Absent)**  
Kim Schlessinger, Samaritan Health Services  
Margaret Weddell, Labor Representative  
Andrew Stolfi, DCBS Director, *ex officio* **(Absent)**

***Staff:***

Teri Watson, MLAC Committee Administrator

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
Opening (00:00:00)	Co-Chair Scott Strickland called the meeting to order, and let audience members know meeting materials were available on the back table.
(00:01:30)	<b>Public comment</b> No public comment.
(00:02:15)	<b>Review minutes from Aug. 8, 2024</b> The minutes from the Aug. 8, 2024, meeting were presented. Sara Duckwall moved to approve the minutes, and Ryan Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed.
	<b>Department updates</b>
	<b>Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) case law updates – Sara Larson</b> No updates from the WCB.
	<b>Workers' Compensation Division (WCD) update – Teri Watson</b> Teri Watson presented the updated 2024 MLAC calendar and the 2025 MLAC calendar for review. Members agreed to the updated 2024 and 2025 meeting calendars.

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- (00:02:45) **Rollcall of MLAC members**
- (00:05:46) **WCD Overview – Matt West**  
[WCD MLAC Presentation](#)
- (00:20:52) **WCD Preferred Worker Program (PWP)**  
**Oregon’s Best Kept Secret – Christy Johnson**  
[PWP fact sheet](#)  
[PWP MLAC.pptx](#)
- The Preferred Worker Program is funded through the Worker Benefit Fund, a cents-per-hour payroll assessment contributed by employers and employees. MLAC received the annual report at its April 2024, meeting.  
[Return to work website](#)  
[Worker Benefit Fund PowerPoint](#)  
[Worker Benefit Fund report](#)
- (00:47:59) **Ombuds Office for Oregon Workers Overview – Barbra Anderson**  
[Ombuds Office for Oregon Workers website](#)  
[What does OOW do-PPT.pptx](#)
- (01:02:15) **Small Business Ombudsman (SBO) Overview – Caitlin Breitbach**  
[SBO website](#)  
[SBO Presentation](#)  
[Oregon Workers’ Compensation Review and Advisory Committee information](#)
- (01:26:00) **Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences – Matthew Butler, Ph.D., associate professor, and Steven Shea, Ph.D., professor and Institute director**  
[Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences Presentation](#)  
[2023 Annual Report](#)
- (01:33:15) Patrick Priest asked if the Institute is currently conducting any research related to firefighting and cancer. The Institute reported on firefighting-related cancers 15 years ago, however, there is nothing current.
- (02:01:43) **Upcoming meetings – Nov. 7 and Dec. 5, both in-person meetings in Room 260 at the Labor and Industries Building in Salem.**  
Sara Duckwall will be virtual for the November meeting.

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**Meeting Adjourned** Scott Strickland adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

\*These minutes include time stamps from the meeting video found here:  
[DCBS Management-Labor Advisory Committee \(MLAC\) October 10, 2024, Meeting - YouTube](#)

\*\*Referenced documents can be found on the MLAC Meeting Information page here:  
<https://www.oregon.gov/E/DCBS/mlac/Pages/2024-meetings.aspx>