

Maine Retirement Savings Board
Date: October 16, 2024
Cross State Office Building
111 Sewall Street, Augusta, ME 04333

Minutes- Approved

Chair Beck called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. This meeting was conducted in person at the Burton Cross State Office Building, 111 Sewall Street, August, Maine and virtually through Teams.

Welcome and Ascertainment of Quorum

Chair Beck opened the meeting and welcomed those attending in person and virtually.

Board Members present:

- Henry Beck, Chair
- Rebecca M. Wyke, Vice Chair
- Jessica Linzer
- Nate Moody
- Gigi Guyton-Thompson (virtual due to being on an island)
- Matthew Colpitts
- Tina Wilcoxson (virtual due to illness)
- Deborah Adams Neuman (virtual due to travel distance)

Board Members absent:

- Daniel Piltch

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

- Elizabeth Bordowitz, Executive Director
- Jane Adams, Treasurer's Office
- Greg Olson, Treasurer's Office

Others Present:

- Courtney Eccles, Vestwell (Virtual)
- Soohyang Lee, AKF Consulting (Virtual)
- Hamdan Hussam, State Street Global Advisors (Virtual)
- Lisa Massena, Massena Associates (Virtual)
- Georgetown Center for Retirement Initiatives (Virtual)
- Elise Thiemann, State Street Global Advisors (Virtual)

Approval of Minutes of the August 21, 2024 Board Meeting.

Chair Beck asked if there is a motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2024 Board meeting.

Dr. Wyke moved approval of the August 21, 2024 Board meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Colpitts. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Chair Beck invited Beth to provide the Executive Director's Report.

Executive Director's Report

Beth reviewed the Executive Director's Report.

The members of the Partnership for a Dignified Retirement (PDR) are discussing ways that we can share expenses going forward. We have a proposal for a Program Consultant, who can help with some governance and other matters. Beth expects there will be a line item for that in the 2025 budget.

Beth reviewed the upcoming presentations, noting that there are fewer scheduled. Employers are very focused on the PFML legislation that will take effect starting in January. It was suggested that it would be an opportunity to dovetail messaging to employers. Ms. Guyton-Thompson suggested coordinating with the Statewide CASH Coalition and VITA sites. These would be largely focused on employees.

Beth added that she is working with AARP and their consultant on a one year anniversary event. This is envisioned as an opportunity to talk about the Program and share some stories. Beth suggested that the event be held at a MERIT venue. There are several possibilities that she will be checking out.

Beth advised the Board that the Internal Revenue Service has published a Request for Information regarding the Saver's Match. There was discussion about the differences between the current Saver's Credit and the forthcoming replacement – the Saver's Match. Beth noted that the income phase out for the Saver's Match is low. Our current information suggests that there will be many MERIT savers who are eligible to receive it, so it is important that there is a structure in place to allow State Auto IRA program participants to obtain the Saver's Match. There are industry groups that are working on a response to the questions. Beth intends to sign on to the industry letter and submit a separate letter from the Board. The Board members supported that approach.

Beth shared the request she had submitted to have an appropriation for the Board included in the State's 2025-2026 budget. She has not heard anything new since the submission.

Beth invited comments on the Dashboards included in the Board materials

Beth provided the Members with the monthly withdrawal report. There was discussion about the number of withdrawals and the reasons for the withdrawals.

Chair Beck called for additional questions for Beth.

Program Update - Vestwell

Chair Beck invited Courtney Eccles of Vestwell to provide the Program Update.

Ms. Eccles reviewed the Program Update that is in the Board materials. She noted that the Program is in a between time – we are past the deadlines, but not yet at enforcement. We will be looking at the universe that remains to determine ways to reach them.

Vestwell will pull the updated 5500 data to do a match to our Program data, both the new data we will be receiving for next year and our existing data. There was discussion about the age of the 5500 data we use. The forms that were required to be filed in July 2024 report on plan year 2023.

A last email went out yesterday to employers who have not yet registered letting them know that enforcement will commence in 2025. A separate email/letter will be sent to employers who have

registered but have not yet started making payroll contributions. These messages strike a balance between encouraging enrollment and noting that enforcement is coming.

Ms. Eccles reminded the Board that the first auto-escalation will take place in January. There may be a bump up in the average contribution rate. She reviewed the withdrawal amounts from the Program that have been added to the monthly report, as requested at the last board meeting. The withdrawal amounts are low relative to other states.

Vestwell is launching some program enhancements. The Vestwell team will be running the employer customer service line, which is now staffed by BNY Mellon. This group will consider making strategic outbound calls to employers to try to maintain the momentum when they commence registering. They are working on new processes that are likely to allow more employees to pass the required Customer Identification Process. The new process will include phone numbers, which change less frequently, as a match element.

They are also making the payroll integrations more visible in the employer's portal. They also are working with a third party that will provide an integration solution for clients of ADP and Paychex, both of which have chosen not to have a direct integration with Auto IRA programs. Vestwell is launching a mobile app for savers. The iPhone App will be available this year. The Android App will be available in 2025.

Vestwell is working on how best to support the Saver's Match that will be coming in 2027. It provides a 50% match up to \$1000. There is a low maximum income for eligible recipients. There are a lot of questions as to how it will function, such as how taxpayers can apply for the match and how the funds will be remitted to the taxpayer's retirement account.

There was discussion about how Board members can support the Saver's Match and how the response to comments compares with talking to the delegation. Ms. Eccles noted that commenting in response to the Request for Information is a unique opportunity. It is always possible to communicate with the delegation on this issue as well.

Treasurer Beck thanked Ms. Eccles for her presentation.

Policy Discussion: Informational Videos in Multiple Languages

Beth reviewed her memo on the opportunity to create an informational video in multiple languages with the Vermont Language Justice Project (VLPJ). The Board expressed support for undertaking the project. Beth can determine how many and which languages the video should be translated into.

Policy Discussion: Home Health Care Workers

Beth reviewed her memo on Home Health Care Workers. The Board discussed the questions identified in the memo. The Board members suggested that this is not the highest priority for Beth to pursue at this time and that rulemaking on this matter would be appropriate.

Authorization for the Chair to enter into Employment Agreement with the Executive Director

Beth reminded the members that since the public left while the Board was in Executive Session at the end of the last meeting, they had not taken action at that time, tabling it until this meeting.

Dr. Wyke made a motion to authorize the Chair to reach employment terms with the Executive Director, substantially as discussed at the last meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Moody and approved unanimously.

Chair Beck asked for a Motion to Adjourn

Ms. Wyke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Chair Beck and approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:02.