



STATE OF WASHINGTON
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION

MICHAEL P. SELLARS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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MINUTES

March 10, 2025

The regular meeting of the Public Employment Relations Commission
was called to order at 1:37 p.m.

Via Zoom &
PERC Conference Room
112 Henry Street NE, Suite 300
Olympia, Washington 98506

Those present and participating:
Mark S. Lyon, Chairperson
Elizabeth Ford, Commissioner
Henry E. Farber, Commissioner
Mike Sellars, Executive Director
Charity Atchison, Appeals Administrator
Vanessa Smith, Confidential Secretary

Also present:

Lynn Eccles, PERC, Administrative Services Manager
Alyssa Gerchak, PERC, Legal Assistant
Dianne Ramerman, PERC, Field Services Manager
Joye Rolfer, PERC, Communications Consultant
Jamie Siegel, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator
Chad Standifer, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
Katie Sypher, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator
Page Todd, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator
Emily Whitney, PERC, Unfair Labor Practice/Representation Administrator
Lloyd Willaford, PERC, Labor Relations Adjudicator/Mediator

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on February 10, 2025, were adopted as presented.

Report of the Executive Director

1. Mike reviewed the case and decision report for February, noting that unfair labor practice cases have picked up after falling below the previous 5-years' average last year. This report also featured data on the number of decisions issued compared to the average days to issue them since 2012.
2. The biggest changes since last month relate to the budget. We were recently required to engage in a 6% budget cut exercise, in which we indicated that we could meet those cut targets by holding open two vacant positions. Two weeks ago, the governor submitted a supplemental budget proposal that included the cuts to PERC. This takes away our elasticity and will likely impact timelines down the road if our caseload continues to be high. We are also awaiting the impacts of federal agencies shrinking. The FMCS has laid off its probationary employees and eliminated its arbitration unit. Further, it will no longer conduct grievance mediations for private-sector employers. The House and Senate must still propose their budgets. There are about 50 days left in the session. The Governor's budget also proposed 24 furlough days over the biennium for state employees. We have not received any more information about that. Many details will have to be figured out, such as whether these furloughs would impact retirement. They would also take away 24 days in which we could provide services.
3. Mike met with labor regarding SB 5503. This bill addresses a variety of things, none of which were previously raised with PERC, and we have several concerns. The provisions either do not solve the problem proponents of the bill want to fix, or they are in direct conflict with (or would dictate a process contrary to) how other labor relations agencies would handle certain matters. Mike also met with Senator Saldaña, the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee Chair, to discuss and express our concerns about the bill. He reiterated that we are not taking a position on the bill, but we are expressing concerns and providing technical information.

Legislative Update

Charity gave an update about the legislation PERC has been monitoring. Confirmation hearings for Mark Lyon and Henry E. Farber are scheduled for March 18 and March 14, respectively.

Commission & Court Docket

Charity provided a brief update on the two cases pending in court. Lists of pending cases that have been appealed to court or the Commission are available on the agency website at <https://perc.wa.gov/commission/>.

Adjournment

There being nothing further to come before the Commission, the public meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m. The Commission along with Appeals Administrator Charity Atchison, Executive

Director Mike Sellars, and Assistant Attorney General Chad Standifer went into executive session to discuss pending litigation in court.

APPROVED at Olympia, Washington, this 14th day of April, 2025.


PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS COMMISSION



MARK S. LYON, Chairperson



ELIZABETH FORD, Commissioner



HENRY E. FARBER, Commissioner