

In the Matter of:

**The Mutual Holding
Company Plan of West
Bend Mutual Insurance
Company**

FINAL DECISION

Petitioner.

OCI Case No. 23-C45278

FINAL DECISION

I adopt the Hearing Examiner's Proposed Decision, including the findings of fact and conclusions of law, which is attached to this Final Decision and which was served on the Petitioners with an opportunity for submitting written objections.

Based upon these findings of fact and conclusions of law, I order that:

(1) The Petitioners' request for approval of the MHC plan, including the formation of a mutual holding company, should be approved subject to the following conditions:

- a. Petitioner consents to an order issued by the Commissioner under s. 601.41, Wis. Stat., which shall, at a minimum require that the MHC Plan be implemented in accordance with its terms and the Stipulation and Order in Case No. 23-C45278.
- b. West Bend Mutual Holding Company and WBM Corporation shall consent to the same Stipulation and Order to which the Petitioner consents pursuant to Section 15(a) of this Proposed Order.
- c. West Bend Mutual Insurance Company and its successors in interest shall ensure that voting procedures with respect to the MHC Plan are in accordance with the voting protocol filed with the Commissioner on May 5, 2023, or such other voting protocols as may be approved by the Commissioner. West Bend Mutual Insurance Company shall retain the services of a proxy agent to assist it in the receipt, custody, safeguarding, verification and tabulation of proxy forms.

- d. Until the MHC Plan is consummated, the Commissioner shall have the right to alter, suspend or withdraw its approval should any material interim development warrant such action.
- e. West Bend Mutual Insurance Company and its successors in interest shall comply with the MHC Plan as approved by the Commissioner herein.
- f. The MHC Plan may not be amended without the prior written consent of the Commissioner.
- g. Within 30 days following receipt by its Board of Directors, West Bend Mutual Insurance Company or its successors in interest shall file the tax opinion from Foley & Lardner LLP, substantially to the effect that (a) the members of West Bend Mutual Insurance Company will not recognize taxable gain or loss in connection with the mutual holding company restructuring, and (b) neither West Bend Mutual Holding Company, WBM Corporation, nor West Bend Insurance Company will recognize taxable gain or loss in connection with the mutual holding company restructuring.

NOTICE OF APPEAL INFORMATION

(Notice of rights for rehearing and judicial review, the times allowed for each, and the identification of the party to be named as respondent)

The following notice is served on you as part of the Final Decision:

1. Rehearing.

Any person aggrieved by this Final Decision may petition for a rehearing within 20 days after the service of this Final Decision, as provided in s. 227.49, Wis. Stat. A petition for rehearing is not a prerequisite for appeal directly to circuit court through a petition for judicial review.

A petition for rehearing must be filed with the Commissioner at the address below.

2. Judicial Review.

Any person aggrieved by this Final Decision has a right to petition for judicial review of this Final Decision as provided in s. 227.53, Wis. Stat. The petition must be filed in circuit court within 30 days after service of this Final Decision if there has been no petition for rehearing, or within 30 days after service of the order finally disposing of the petition for rehearing, or within 30 days after the final disposition by operation of law of any petition for rehearing.

A petition for judicial review must be served on, and name as the Respondent:

Commissioner of Insurance, Respondent
Office of the Commissioner of Insurance
P. O. Box 7873
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7873

A copy of the relevant statutory provisions is attached.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, this 8th day of December, 2023.

DocuSigned by:

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Nathan Houdek
Commissioner of Insurance

WISCONSIN STATUTES

At all times material, the relevant parts of s. 227.49, Wis. Stat., read as follows:

227.49 PETITIONS FOR REHEARING IN CONTESTED CASES.

(l) A petition for rehearing shall not be a prerequisite for appeal or review. Any person aggrieved by a final order may, within 20 days after service of the order, file a written

petition for rehearing which shall specify in detail the grounds for the relief sought and supporting authorities. An agency may order a rehearing on its own motion within 20 days after service of a final order. . . .

(2) The filing of a petition for rehearing shall not suspend or delay the effective date of the order, and the order shall take effect on the date fixed by the agency and shall continue in effect unless the petition is granted or until the order is superseded, modified, or set aside as provided by law.

(3) Rehearing will be granted only on the basis of:

(a) Some material error of law.

(b) Some material error of fact.

(c) The discovery of new evidence sufficiently strong to reverse or modify the order, and which could not have been previously discovered by due diligence.

(4) Copies of petitions for rehearing shall be served on all parties of record. Parties may file replies to the petition.

(5) The agency may order a rehearing or enter an order with reference to the petition without a hearing, and shall dispose of the petition within 30 days after it is filed. If the agency does not enter an order disposing of the petition within the 30-day period, the petition shall be deemed to have been denied as of the expiration of the 30-day period.

(6) Upon granting a rehearing, the agency shall set the matter for further proceedings as soon as practicable. . . .

At all times material, the relevant part of s. 227.52, Wis. Stat., read as follows:

227.52 JUDICIAL REVIEW; DECISIONS REVIEWABLE.

Administrative decisions which adversely affect the substantial interests of any person, whether by action or

inaction, whether affirmative or negative in form, are subject to review as provided in this chapter. . . .

At all times material, the relevant parts of s. 227.53, Wis. Stat., read as follows:

227.53 PARTIES AND PROCEEDINGS FOR REVIEW. (1)

Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, any person aggrieved by a decision specified in s. 227.52 shall be entitled to judicial review thereof as provided in this chapter.

(a) 1. Proceedings for review shall be instituted by serving a petition therefor personally or by certified mail upon the agency or one of its officials, and filing the petition in the office of the clerk of the circuit court for the county where the judicial review proceedings are to be held. . . .

2. Unless a rehearing is requested under s. 227.49, petitions for review under this paragraph shall be served and filed within 30 days after the service of the decision of the agency upon all parties under s. 227.48. If a rehearing is requested under s. 227.49, any party desiring judicial review shall serve and file a petition for review within 30 days after service of the order finally disposing of the application for rehearing, or within 30 days after the final disposition by operation of law of any such application for rehearing. The 30-day period for serving and filing a petition under this paragraph commences on the day after personal service or mailing of the decision by the agency.

. . .

(b) The petition shall state the nature of the petitioner's interest, the facts showing that petitioner is a person aggrieved by the decision, and the grounds specified in s. 227.57 upon which petitioner contends that the decision should be reversed or modified. . . .

(c) A copy of the petition shall be served personally or by certified mail or, when service is timely admitted in writing, by first class mail, not later than 30 days after the institution

of the proceeding, upon each party who appeared before the agency in the proceeding in which the decision sought to be reviewed was made or upon the party's attorney of record. . . .

(d) The agency . . . and all parties to the proceeding before it, shall have the right to participate in the proceedings for review. . . .