

M.C.C.A.

William Blodgett, President
Lincoln County

Peter Baldacci, Vice President
Penobscot County

Thomas Coward, Secretary-Treasurer
Cumberland County



Maine County Commissioners Association

4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 2
Augusta, ME 04330
207-623-4697

www.mainecounties.org

Rosemary Kulow
Executive Director

Lauren Haven
Administrative Assistant

MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

MCCA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes 10:00 a.m., December 15, 2014

I. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Introductions & Attendance

President William Blodgett called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m., and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: *Androscoggin* – Comm. Beth Bell; *Aroostook* – Comm. Norman Fournier; *Cumberland* – Comm. Tom Coward; *Kennebec* – Comm. George Jabar; *Knox* – Comm. Roger Moody; *Lincoln* – Comm. William Blodgett; *Oxford* – County Admin. Scott Cole proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill; *Penobscot* – Comm. Peter Baldacci; *Piscataquis* – Comm. James Annis; *Sagadahoc* – Admin. Pam Hile proxy for Comm. Charles Crosby; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler; *York* – Comm. Michael Cote, proxy for Comm. Sallie Chandler; *MACCAM* - Bill Collins; *MACT* – David Parkman; *MARP* – Kathleen Ayers; *MECCA* – Owen Smith; *MRODA* – Susan Bulay; *MSA* – Sheriff Todd Brackett

OTHERS PRESENT: *Cumberland* – County Manager Peter Crichton and Assistant County Manager Bill Whitten; *Kennebec* – Admin. Bob Devlin; and *Knox* – County Admin. Andrew Hart.

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Rosemary Kulow, Risk Pool Manager Malcolm Ulmer, and Administrative Assistant Lauren Haven.

II. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

Administrator Scott Cole moved to add to the agenda reconsideration of the approval of the policies which were adopted at the last meeting, Comm. Fowler seconded the motion and the motion failed with a vote of six to eight. Comm. Moody moved and Comm.

Baldacci **seconded** accepting the agenda as written. It was approved unanimously with no additions.

III. Approval of November 12, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Comm. Baldacci made a **motion** to approve the minutes of the November meeting. Comm. Moody seconded the **motion** and the **motion** was approved unanimously.

IV. Old Business

A. MCCA Strategic Plan

The group discussed the level of completeness of the Strategic Plan draft. Comm. Fournier stated that the document would continue to be a work in progress and we should move forward in the direction we want to see the organization to go. Administrator Scott Cole believed the group had not had a chance to review it and was not ready to vote. Register of Deeds President Susan Bulay stated it's a good plan and we should adopt it. Comm. Fournier made the **motion** to accept the Strategic Plan. Comm. Coward seconded the **motion** and the Strategic Plan was adopted with a passing vote.

V. New Business

A. Consideration of Nominating Peter Crichton to the Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health

Comm. Moody made the **motion** to nominate Peter Crichton to continue serving on the Statewide Coordinating Council for Public Health, seconded by Administrator Bill Collins and the **motion** was approved unanimously.

B. Consideration of the Proposed MCCA 2015 Budget

The group discussed the increase of annual dues which have remained the same for the past four years. Comm. Baldacci commented that the overall budget had decreased. Comm. Fournier added that the Risk Pool assessment was not being increased. Administrator Pam Hile made a **motion** to approve the proposed 2015 budget as written. Comm. Coward seconded the **motion** and the budget was approved with a majority vote. The budget will be presented to the general membership at the annual meeting.

C. Consideration of Legislation to Address County Borrowing Limits

Executive Director Rosemary Kulow explained the idea behind the potential legislation. The group discussed the possibility of using a formula to calculate the borrowing limit for each county. Manager Peter Crichton talked about the advantages such legislation would give to counties. Comm. Baldacci made the **motion** to submit a placeholder for legislation that would determine the borrowing authority using a formula based on

property valuation without the need for a referendum to be passed. Treasurer David Parkman seconded the **motion** and it was approved unanimously. Ms. Kulow will draft the language to submit to the Board of Directors at the next meeting.

D. Consideration of Legislation to Encourage or Mandate Regionalization of Services

Assistant Manager Bill Whitten presented the idea of proposing consolidation and regionalization among county services. He has seen some indication that there may be support from the Governor and MMA for startup funding for this type of a project. The group discussed the many areas where these types of sharing are already taking place and how it could be implemented in other areas. Although practices are already in place, establishing language would help prevent de-organization. Sheriff Todd Brackett made a **motion** to submit a placeholder for legislation that would encourage regionalization of services among counties. The **motion** was seconded by Comm. Baldacci and approved unanimously.

E. Establish Location for Annual Membership Meeting

The group considered the proposals for three available meeting venues. Comm. Baldacci made a **motion** to select the Governor Hill Mansion. The **motion** was seconded by Comm. Fournier and it was approved unanimously.

VI. Reports

A. Executive Director's Report – Rosemary Kulow

B. Financial Reports – Rosemary Kulow

Ms. Kulow explained her written reports. The group discussed the material briefly. Administrator Scott Cole requested a copy of the letter sent on behalf of MCCA regarding the Proposed Rule on the Definition of “Waters of the United States Under the Clean Water Act”. Comm. Fournier **moved** to accept the Executive Director's Report and the Financial Reports as written, seconded by Administrator Pam Hile and the **motion** was approved unanimously.

C. Legislative Report

The group talked about obtaining a list of legislative requests and how soon that would be available. It was noted that MMA had backed off eliminating legislation on LD 1 and MCCA was not leading the charge.

D. Association Reports

MACT: David Parkman talked about people in financial positions who are retiring at the end of the year.

MACCAM: Bill Collins reported that an association meeting is scheduled for the end of January, and that MACCAM is ready to assist MCCA in any way.

MARP: Kathy Ayers reported issues with the new electronic filing system. They are working with attorneys to iron out the problems. Also, there is new legislation involving DHHS adoptions being **moved** to District Court. There are more legislative changes expected sharing information and interfacing with district courts.

MECCA: Owen Smith proposed a bill to decrease the 911 surcharge now that the NexGen is complete. Administrator Bob Devlin thinks the surcharge should be left in place to support revenue.

MRODA: President Susan Bulay reported that there was no association meeting in December due to the weather. They do have three or four new registrars. At this time she is not aware of any new legislation being proposed.

MSA: Sheriff Todd Brackett reported there would be an orientation for newly elected sheriffs at the Senator Inn on Thursday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Risk Pool Manager Malcolm Ulmer will be coming to speak to the group.

E. Corrections Report

Assistant Manager Bill Whitten explained that in his lobbying efforts, he is not representing MCCA, but at the request of Cumberland County, the Board of Corrections (BOC) Chair, Sheriff Joel Merry, and Executive Director Ryan Thornell. The Governor is interested in dissolving the BOC and giving the jails back to the counties. Financial Analyst Mallory Pollard is resigning, and Mr. Thornell may be looking for employment as well. Counties need to take a position and stand together. The group discussed possible points that might or might not be agreed on. Comm. Baldacci stated we should start with the one thing we agree on which is that counties should keep managing the jails and to do that, counties need to continue to get financial support from the State. Comm. Coward **moved** to submit a placeholder for a bill to support jail operations and this should be a priority of the MCCA Joint Corrections Task Force. Treasurer David Parkman seconded the **motion** and it was approved unanimously.

F. Annual Convention Report – York County

Executive Director Rosemary Kulow explained the Convention Planning Committee met on November 21st for the purpose of learning what worked and what didn't work at the last convention as well as starting to plan for the 2015 convention that will be hosted by Hancock County. The group looked at minutes from that meeting and evaluation results from the 2014 convention.

G. NACo Report – Peter Baldacci

Comm. Baldacci reported that the annual NACo Legislative Conference will be in late February 2015.

B. Other Business

President Bill Blodgett announced the members of next Nominating Committee for officers for 2015: Comm. Fournier, Comm. Moody, and Comm. Jabar.

C. Adjournment

*Mr. Parkman made a **motion** to adjourn at 12:15 p.m.; Comm. Fowler seconded the **motion** which was unanimously approved. The group adjourned to lunch.*

Respectfully submitted,

MCCA Administrative Assistant, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Thomas S. Coward