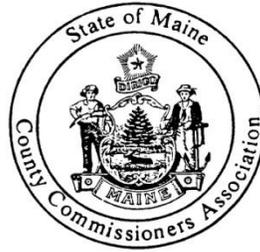


# M.C.C.A.

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Gary McGrane, Vice President  
Franklin County

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## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes September 13, 2013 Annual Conference of Maine Counties at Sugarloaf

### I. Call to Order, Introductions and Attendance

President Steve Joy called the meeting to order at about 10:00 a.m. and introduced Governor Paul LePage, who proceeded to speak with the assembly about regionalizing public services.

### II. Regional Services Discussion with Governor Paul LePage

Below are key points made by Governor LePage.

- Road maintenance and public safety services should be provided by counties.
- Public administration of governmental entities should be combined, using an example of one administrator for a city of about 36,000.
- We need to reduce energy costs, and towns need to work together.
- Maine's work ethic is good, but it could be better.
- Maine has a high cost of living and cost of education at \$15,000 per student.
- We should consolidate the administration of schools and reduce the number of administrators, especially superintendents.
- The state should pay for teachers, but not administrators.
- Urges County Commissioners to work with communities to provide regional services.
- We're doing more state road paving projects in Maine now than ever before because the Commissioner of MDOT looks for the lowest cost ways to do things.
- Counties should be used to drive prosperity in Maine.
- Top-down reform is too difficult; it should work from the bottom-up.
- Counties should support the Governor's proposal to provide 50/50 incentives to municipalities and counties.
- The Legislature is opposed to on-line learning, and the Governor believes it to be a valuable asset.
- The Governor wants to abolish State Revenue Sharing, as he sees it as welfare for communities.
- Regionalized public services should include public safety, road maintenance, tax assessing, and school administration.
- Counties should handle all roads and be a catalyst to a more prosperous state.
- Maine has too many forms of government.
- Regional dispatch/emergency communications must be provided by counties, and we need to find ways to make it work.

- Owen Smith stated that there are thirteen regional county communication centers in the state and that most were formed as a result of the E-911 law.
- Governor urged communities to discontinue their memberships with the Maine Municipal Association, as it fosters too much independence and high cost of providing public services.
- Peter Crichton described the regional communications center and assessing project that is occurring in Cumberland County.
- The Governor said he may present a bill to enable counties to provide regional assessing service.
- Jim Ryan talked about Penobscot County's regional dispatch center.
- The Governor stated that he will no longer work on resolves with the Legislature because they are a waste of time, and nothing gets done that way. He also states that legislative task forces don't accomplish anything.
- Commissioner Fred Hardy of Franklin County said his county sent a letter out to municipalities asking them to identify what public services they might like the county to provide. He said the responses indicated that Franklin County should have five commissioners and a manager.
- The Governor said he told the Board of Corrections to "fix it, or I will," in regard to the current jails situation and the lack of funding. He agrees that the state hasn't funded jails properly, but his funding priorities lie with the elderly, disabled, hospitals, and schools more than jails. He must prioritize because he can't print money the way the federal government can.
- Peter Baldacci mentioned Penobscot County's program to provide IT (information technology) service to police departments in the county. He said we need to make counties stronger, but points out that the MMA is fighting the loss of local control.
- The Governor says that drug addiction is down with his administration. He also said that the state's pension fund was preserved by reform introduced by his administration, but we need to be more diligent about making investments. He says there is one more step to take in this reform and that is to model the system after a 401K investment program.
- Mark Westrum talked about the Board of Corrections and the funding crisis for county jails. There is not enough money remaining for the Board of Corrections to fund the remainder of the FY14 jail budgets. He said we should look at our own organizations and streamline whenever possible. The number of administrators in jails should be reduced. Courts should use video arraignment, but in many areas the judicial branch does not accept it.
- Governor LePage replied that the current statewide jails system was doomed from the start. He mentioned that he despises politics and believes civility cannot be brought into politics. He says the MMA, voters, and unions are responsible. He believes in a bottom-up approach and incentivizing, not top-down, ram-it-down-their-throats approaches.
- The Governor said his administration is going after abuse and fraud in welfare and the funds raised from these efforts should pay for the funding of more Medicaid. TANF requires people to look for work, and his administration is increasing prosecutions of those who are defrauding the system. He says all people should have to pay something for health insurance.
- President Joy asked the Governor to summarize and tell those assembled how he can help counties as they move forward.

- The Governor said counties should work with communities to reduce costs and focus on education, roads, public safety, and policing. He also told us we should support legislation that will fund incentives to make these things happen.

The discussion about regionalizing public services with Governor LePage concluded at 11:26 a.m.

### III. **Other Business**

David Flannigan, former head of CMP, has been appointed as a citizen representative and chairman of the Corrections Commission (Jails Task Force), and he was present to explain how the commission will operate. He said that something has to give to alleviate the current fiscal crisis with the jails.

Mr. Flannigan says he will provide a fair hearing to everyone and make sure that points of view are understood. He will utilize concepts of Total Quality Management to analyze problems by getting to the root of them by relying on facts. He is highly cognizant of the deadline and that the success of the commission will require collaboration among constituencies. Mr. Flannigan asserted that a new way of thinking about the issue is required, but his eyes are wide open about the difficulty of the situation.

Mr. Flannigan says he has no bias or “dog in the fight.” He will exercise fairness, act in good faith, ascertain the facts, and come up with realistic solutions.

The meetings will be open to the public.

Bill Whitten and Elizabeth Trice of Cumberland County government will provide staff support to the commission.

Commissioner Robin Frost of Somerset County insisted that Somerset County have representation on the commission, but Mr. Flannigan explained that the composition of the commission has already been established by the Legislature. He assures everyone present that all counties can appear before the commission and get a fair hearing.

Mr. Flannigan expressed his appreciation for any staff assistance and other resources that will help prepare and assemble information. He welcomes help from everyone. He also said he is going to try to visit all the jails, but doubts that there is enough time before the December deadline to allow him to visit all fifteen. The first order of business for the commission is to come up with the problem statement and establish meeting guidelines.

- IV. **Pledge of Allegiance** – There was no United States flag in the room, so the Pledge of Allegiance was not said.

V. **Approval of the Agenda/Additions**

*Commissioner Gary McGrane moved to accept the agenda at 11:44 a.m., and the vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.*

- VI. **Approval of August 14, 2013 Meeting Minutes** – No action

VII. **Old Business**

A. **Review Proposed Revisions to Bylaws** – No action

B. **Establish Host County for 2014 Annual Conference** – No action

**VIII. New Business**

**A. Approval of MCCA's Paying Lynne Schlosser's September Health Insurance Premium – No action**

**IX. Reports** – No reports given verbally. Written reports from the Executive Director and Treasurer were provided with the agenda packet.

**A. Executive Director's Report**

**B. Legislative Platform Report**

**C. Treasurer's Report**

**D. Association Reports**

**E. Convention Report**

**F. NACo Report**

**X. Adjournment**

*President Steve Joy adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m. due to the late hour and because lunch was being served.*

No other agenda items were addressed, and all will be carried over until the October 9, 2013 Board of Directors' meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rosemary Kulow, Executive Director

Date: September 18, 2013

Approved,

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Roger Moody, Secretary-Treasurer

Date: October 9, 2013