

M.C.C.A.

Peter Baldacci, President
Penobscot County

Thomas Coward, Vice President
Cumberland County

Michael Cote, Secretary-Treasurer
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MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

MCCA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes 10:00 a.m., April 13, 2016

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

President Peter Baldacci called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. The attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and all present introduced themselves. Carrie Kipfer was welcomed as the new Administrator for Lincoln County.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: *Androscoggin* – Comm. Beth Bell; *Aroostook* – Comm. Norm Fournier; *Cumberland* – Comm. Thomas Coward; *Franklin* – Comm. Gary McGrane; *Kennebec* – Comm. George Jabar II; *Knox* – Comm. Roger Moody; *Lincoln* – Comm. William Blodgett; *Oxford* – Administrator Scott Cole proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill; *Penobscot* – Comm. Peter Baldacci; *Piscataquis* – Comm. James Annis; *Sagadahoc* – Administrator Pamela Hile proxy for Comm. Charles Crosby III; *Somerset* – Comm. Newell Graf; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler; and *York* – Comm. Michael Cote.

OTHERS PRESENT: *Cumberland* – Comm. Steve Gordon, Manager Peter Crichton; *Kennebec* – Administrator Bob Devlin; *Lincoln* – Administrator Carrie Kipfer; *MACCAM* – Bill Collins; *MACT* – David Parkman; and *MECCA* – Owen Smith.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: *Hancock* – Comm. Steven Joy; *Oxford* – Comm. Steven Merrill; *Sagadahoc* – Comm. Charles Crosby III; and *Washington* – Comm. Chris Gardner.

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

II. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

Comm. Moody *moved* and Comm. Fournier *seconded* approving the agenda with as written. The *motion* was *approved* unanimously.

III. Approval of March 9, 2016 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Comm. Blodgett *moved* and Comm. Fowler *seconded* approving the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on March 9, 2016. The *motion* was *passed* unanimously.

IV. Old Business

No old business was brought before the Board.

V. New Business

A. NACo's-FSC Retiree Health Program

Executive Director Rosemary Kulow explained the email from David Thompson regarding the Retiree Health Program from NACo's Financial Services Center. The initial offering is a private exchange to provide medical and prescription drug coverage to retirees of member counties. The group reviewed the outline of the *Retiree Private Health Care Exchange Services* program included in the agenda packet.

Comm. Fournier suggested inviting a NACo representative to make a presentation at the convention on this topic and be available to answer questions. Administrator Bill Collins remarked that each county could gather information prior to the presentation in order to compare with other options.

B. NACo's *FirstNet* Nationwide Wireless Broadband Network for Public Safety's Data Traffic Needs

Ms. Kulow explained the Governor has 90 days to decide to accept the *FistNet* State Plan or create an alternative plan to pay for, build, and deploy a radio access network within 180 days. This could be another presentation at the convention to educate county employees on the program.

Communications Director Owen Smith commented that a surprising percentage of Maine has little or no access to high speed broad band. This network will greatly improve communications between emergency and law enforcement agencies. All agreed MCCA should be in contact with someone at Governor's office to keep us apprised of the progress and the Governor's final decision.

C. Adoption of *National County Government Month* Proclamation

Comm. McGrane made a motion, seconded by Comm. Coward to adopt the proclamation of National County Government Month. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. Schedule First Meeting of the *Professionalism in Management Committee*

Comm. Cote suggested the members of the Professionalism in Management Committee meet after the Board of Directors' meeting. The charge for the committee will be to develop the following:

- A manual for Commissioners with county statutes.
- A training syllabus for newly elected commissioners. (See agenda item V. F.)
There isn't enough time at the convention for this important training, as it only scratches the surface. It would be better to organize a full-day class early in the year, perhaps the day before or after the annual meeting.
- A list of ways to improve organization management.
- Centralized policies and procedures.
- Information sharing about best practices.
- Ideas about what counties can do better.
- Information about county charters.

Candidates and legislators need to be educated about county issues. Comm. Baldacci stated a Candidates' Forum ad hoc committee could develop a legislative candidates' forum, send out questionnaires to candidates in the summer, and meet in the fall to share the results. Anyone interested in serving on the ad hoc committee should contact Rosemary Kulow. Comm. Fournier suggested getting information from the Maine Teachers Association.

E. Identify Host County for 2017 Annual MCCA Convention

President Baldacci said commissioners should consider hosting the next convention in their county. Ms. Kulow mentioned MCCA staff is able to contribute much of the organizational work for the event. Commissioner McGrane mentioned Franklin County as a potential host. Comm. Bell offered to look into Androscoggin County being the host for 2017. This matter will be on next month's Board of Directors' meeting agenda.

F. Establish an ad hoc Committee to Develop Training Syllabus for Newly Elected Commissioners

(Please see notes from agenda item V. D.)

G. Consideration of Approving NACo Research Training for MCCA Office Manager

Executive Director Rosemary Kulow explained the benefits of the free training being provided by NACo's Emilia Istrate, Director of Research and Outreach in Washington, DC. One of the directives in MCCA's strategic plan is to be an information clearinghouse for the counties. This training would educate MCCA's Office Manager about data collection, analysis and tracking being done at the national level and by county associations in other states. County Manager Peter Crichton encouraged the Board to support the training as it would be worth the investment. Comm. Fournier made a motion, seconded by Comm. Coward, to approve the training using budgeted money as long as money is available in the budget to cover expenses.

VI. Reports

A. Executive Director's Report

B. Financial Report

Executive Director Rosemary Kulow presented her reports. (*See attached.*) Comm. Annis thanked Ms. Kulow for the many legislative updates that kept county officials informed during the session. Comm. Blodgett made a **motion** to approve the Executive Director's Report and the Financial Report as written. Comm. Moody seconded the **motion** which was **passed** unanimously.

C. Legislative Report

LD 1614, *Resolve to Provide Funding for the County Jail Operations Fund*, if passed, provides supplemental funding for one year only. Cumberland County Manager Peter Crichton proposed that everyone immediately begin talking to legislators. Ms. Kulow said Maine Municipal Association's Garrett Corbin voiced his concern over the possibility of raising the tax cap and his interest in working with MCCA on a solution that would be good for towns and counties. The group agreed that meeting with MMA is a good idea. Comm. Fowler questioned how the current formula was determined and how the numbers should be changed to reflect realistic income and expenses in county jail budgets. The LPC will start working on new legislation to be introduced in the next session.

D. Association Reports

EMAD: Sean Goodwin – No report was given.

MACCAM: Bill Collins reported the group met on March 24th at the Kennebec County offices to recognize Lincoln County Administrator John O'Connell, Androscoggin County Pat Fournier and Hancock Administrator Gene Conlogue who have moved on.

Hancock County has hired Scott Adkins as its new Administrator.

MACT: David Parkman reports restitution payment changes are working. Comm. Baldacci confirms Penobscot's no cash policy is working for them too.

MARP: Kathy Ayers – No report was given.

MECCA: Owen Smith – No report was given.

E. Corrections Report - Mark Westrum - No Report was given.

F. Annual Convention Report

The Convention Planning Committee met on March 18th at the Penobscot Commissioners' Office in Bangor. Penobscot County Administrator Bill Collins encouraged commissioners and other county officials to bring their personnel to the conference. The convention schedule is not complete, but it will be packed full of interesting educational sessions and entertainment. Attendance is crucial to make the event a success.

The group will meet next on April 22nd at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bangor.

G. NACo Report

NACo's Annual Conference will be in Long Beach, CA in July. Comm. McGrane will be accepted as Maine's second NACo Board member at the meeting in the Western Division.

VII. Other Business

Cumberland County Manager Peter Crichton announced the retirement of Assistant County Manager Bill Whitten. He has made a significant contribution to Cumberland County and he deserves to enjoy a long and happy retirement.

VIII. Adjournment

*Comm. McGrane made a **motion** to adjourn at 11:30 a.m.; Comm. Fowler seconded the **motion**, which was unanimously **approved**.* The group adjourned to lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

MCCA Office Manager, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Michael Cote