

M.C.C.A.

Stephen Gorden, President
Cumberland County

Brian Hobart, Vice President
Sagadahoc County

Norm Fournier, Secretary-Treasurer
Aroostook County

Lauren Haven
Administrator



4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 2
Augusta, ME 04330
207-623-4697
www.mainecontinies.org

MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes MCCA Zoom Conference, May 12th, 2021

I., II. Call to Order and Roll Call Attendance

MCCA President Steve Gorden called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 am. Attendees announced themselves.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Aroostook – Comm. Norman Fournier
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden
Hancock – Comm. William Clark
Kennebec – Admin. Bob Devlin proxy for Comm. George Jabar
Knox – Comm. Sharyn Pohlman
Lincoln – Comm. William Blodgett
Oxford – Admin. Donald Durrah proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill
Penobscot – Comm. Peter Baldacci
Piscataquis– Comm. Wayne Erkinen
Sagadahoc – Comm. Brian Hobart
Somerset – Admin. Dawn DiBlasi proxy for Comm. Newell Graf
Waldo – Comm. Betty Johnson
Washington – Comm. Chris Gardner
York – Comm. Richard Dutremble

OTHERS PRESENT:

Aroostook – Admin. Ryan Pelletier
Hancock – Admin. Scott Adkins
Knox – Admin. Andy Hart
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer
Piscataquis– Comm. Mike Williams
Sagadahoc – Admin. Pam Hile
MSA – Sheriff Ken Mason

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Noel Madore
Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar
Oxford – Comm. Steven Merrill
Somerset – Comm. Newell Graf

STAFF PRESENT:

Risk Pool Manager – Malcolm Ulmer
Lobbyists – James Cohen and Clara McConnell from Verrill Dana
Administrator – Lauren Haven

III. Approval of the Agenda

President Steve Gorden asked if there any additions to the agenda and noted a permanent change in the order. There were no additions requested. Comm. Hobart **moved** to approve the agenda as written. The motion was **seconded** by Admin. Pam Hile and Comm. Gorden stated the agenda was approved.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

President Gorden asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the prior month's meeting. Comm. Blodgett **moved** to approve the minutes from the General Membership meeting on April 14th. The motion was **seconded** by Comm. Fournier and the motion **passed** with no revisions.

V. Officer Reports

A. Finance

1. Lauren Haven presented the monthly Financial Reports. Lauren mentioned she had received and deposited all payments for membership dues. She reported the Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness application through Camden National Bank (CNB) had been processed. The loan had been completely (100%) forgiven. MCCA's online account reflects this and the outcome was also verified by CNB VP Patricia Harriman. Comm. Hobart **moved** to approve the financial reports **seconded** by Admin. Donald Durrah and the motion **passed** with no opposition.
2. Treasurer: Norm Fournier
 - a. Comments about the state of MCCA finances.
 - b. Budget and Finance CommitteeThere nothing further to report.

B. NACo: Peter Baldacci - Updates on Federal legislation, national programs and resources

Comm. Baldacci reported NACo has received guidance from the treasury on how counties can use their federal recovery funding and are trying to digest the details now. There is a process in place to meet the requirements. They have opened a portal and developed a fact sheet summary with more in-depth information coming soon.

Comm. Fournier asked about the webinar meeting on Tuesday in which they talked about another directive coming out specifically for counties. The first ten pages really lay out what you can do with the money. The group talked about retroactive hazard pay being acceptable, building modifications, and ventilation systems. We should check on a project-by-project basis if there is any question. In a couple of months, we can look into what counties of similar size and makeup are doing with their money for ideas.

NACo's 2021 Annual Conference in July was moved to Prince George's County, Maryland to reduce travel for government speakers. This will be a hybrid platform with both in-person and virtual attendance options. He and Comm. Sharyn Pohlman plan to attend on MCCA's behalf.

C. President:

1. Comm. Gorden announced NACo has reported to MCCA that there are counties missing from the Treasury's portal. They are working to discover omissions and correct the list right now. If, as a county, you have not registered with the required documents, you may be one and thus, not receive your first tranche of funding.
2. Lauren has emailed to each county the Treasury's (151 page) set of their rules and regulations as to how the funding may be dispersed. Should we try to arrange a workshop so County's may share their information?

Comm. Baldacci reported that Penobscot County was hiring former Administrator Bill Collins to coordinate their funds. The group talked about each county having their own workshop.

3. Peggy Schaffer, Executive Director of ConnectME contacted MCCA and would like to meet to share county considered Broadband project information for funding. She indicated by working together, it's very

possible to leverage the funding. Lauren will invite Peggy to join at the end of the June 9th Board of Directors' meeting.

As an aside, the State is creating a Broadband Authority of which ConnectME will become part. They are setting up an appointed board. MCCA is requesting to have one of the seats be a county appointment.

4. This is important: The legislature is heating up and we need your assistance with your local Representatives and Senators; please talk with them about issues as we call on this type of legislative communication, personal communication, and swings votes.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Standing Committees

1. Budget and Finance Committee – Norm Fournier, Chair (This item was moved to earlier in the meeting.)
2. Legislative Policy Committee – Brian Hobart, Chair

Comm. Hobart asked Jim Cohen for a legislative update.

Jim Cohen gave the group the highlights of the legislative activity. Regarding the timing, they were looking at an anticipated adjournment in June, and would be meeting as a full legislature next week. Even though last Friday they were supposed to have voted on all bills referred to them, no committee has met that directive. Public Utilities has only discussed thirty percent of their bills. Therefore, they will clean up as much as they can, but will not have enough time to carefully consider all the bills and get them to the floor for a vote. A large portion will be carried over although the goal is to have only ten percent of bills carried over. Some committee meetings could happen in the fall.

Clara McConnell updated attendees on the progress of the state budget process, spending packages and supplemental proposal.

Jim Cohen reported on the status of the bills the Legislative Policy Committee is following.

During the Q&A portion, the group discussed the current bills addressing homelessness. Comm. Gorden spoke at one of the workshops and answered committee questions. Clara said he made some excellent points. We might have a say via a fiscal note if needed. MCCA might be asked to submit projected costs of implementing any homeless programs or services that might be put in place.

Norm asked about LD 553, "*An Act To End At-will Employment*" sponsored by Representative Michael Sylvester. We should oppose. Comm. Baldacci said this bill is addressing the private sector. The public sector is not at will. Jim said progressive discipline policies are needed to dismiss someone and would place limitations. Dismissing county employees requires cause except for those on probation. Bob said unless the language in the personal contract conflicts with existing law, the terms of the contract will govern.

Andy Hart asked if the census would cause redistricting. The deadline cannot be met due to the timing. It's unclear how the issue will be resolved.

3. Risk Pool Agency - Norm Fournier and Malcolm Ulmer– Comm. Fournier said there was nothing to report.
4. Affiliate Organization Committee Reports:

MACCAM – Admin. Carrie Kipfer said the group would meet later this month.

MSA - Sheriff Ken Mason reported on LD 1668, "*Resolve, To Develop a Plan To Close the Long Creek Youth Development Center and Redirect Funding to Community Integration Services for Adjudicated Youth*". The plan would close the Long Creek Youth Development Center by June 30, 2023. An amazing amount of time has been spent working on expanding 18 to 25-year-old age group, transitioning into adult programs. If the youth center is closed, it is not likely we will have a plan in place to deal with situations

involving young offenders. Law enforcement needs to have somewhere to take a youth when they are arrested. These could potentially be a dangerous situation. The bottom line is that more work needs to be done on this before the Youth Center is closed and we should keep on top of what happens.

5. Other – No other business was brought before the board.

B. Ad Hoc Committees -

1. Update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) discussions between MMA/MCCA: Ryan Pelletier. This is essentially a municipality/county managers discussion on ARPA funding and how, together, they may engage the State into partnering with their ARPA funds for common projects.

Admin. Ryan Pelletier reported he had missed the last meeting and had received notes about the meeting from Kate. Carrie and Andy attended the meeting with Heather Johnson and Hannah Pingree regarding LD 1484, "An Act To Enhance the ConnectMaine Authority's Capacity To Provide World-class Internet" Sponsored by Senator Richard Bennett. The bill is being worked by the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. The proposal will appoint a board to oversee, encourage and support projects and partnerships that further the goals of developing broadband. The group will provide feedback, develop tools, best practices, etc. Some would like to expand the group with topics focused on a specific area and invite people who would be involved such as district managers who would have a better understanding of the needs of the project funding. Carrie stated we don't want to make the group too large, so if there's something specific that should be discussed, let us know so we can bring it up.

- C. MCCA Staff Reporting – Admin. Lauren Haven said there was nothing significant to report beyond the financials already discussed.

VII. New Business

VIII. Adjournment

MCCA President Steve Gorden invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 11:22 p.m. Comm. Hobart made the **motion** seconded by Comm. Baldacci, and the **motion** to adjourn was **approved**.

Respectfully submitted,



MCCA Administrator, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Comm. Norman Fournier