

M.C.C.A.

Stephen Gorden, President
Cumberland County

Brian Hobart, Vice President
Sagadahoc County

Norm Fournier, Secretary-Treasurer
Aroostook County

Lauren Haven
Administrator



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MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

MCCA Zoom Conference, October 13th, 2021

1. Call to Order: Roll Call

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

2. Attendance: Phone attendees will be requested to introduce themselves

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Roland Poirier
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
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
Cumberland – Manager Jim Gailey
Hancock – Admin. Scott Adkins
Knox – Admin. Andrew Hart
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer
Sagadahoc – Admin. Bill Post
Risk Pool Manager – Malcolm Ulmer
Lobbyists – Jim Cohen and Clara McConnell

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Administrator – Lauren Haven

3. Approval of the Agenda

President Steve Gorden requested a motion to move the consent agenda as previously introduced. Comm. Baldacci moved to approve the consent agenda which would include the agenda, minutes, and financials. Comm. Fournier requested the removal of the item concerning consideration of the Purchasing Policy revisions and the Financial Management Policy revisions from the consent agenda. Comm. Baldacci amended the motion to exclude the referenced item. The motion was seconded by Comm. Hobart, and the motion passed.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes were approved with the consent agenda.

5. Officer Reports

5.1 Finance

5.1.1 Financial Report - Lauren Haven

The financial reports were approved with the consent agenda.

5.1.1.1 Treasurer: Norm Fournier

Comments about the state of MCCA finances.

5.1.1.2 Budget and Finance Committee - Norm Fournier, Chair

Consideration of the recommended Purchasing Policy revisions and the Financial Management Policy revisions.

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

Comm. Baldacci stated the next NACo conference would occur in February (12th to the 16th) for the annual Legislative Conference. It is expected to be hosted in Washington D.C.

5.3 President: Announcements

5.3.1 Will Continue to Use the Consent Agenda Option

5.3.2 Legislation for upcoming session and next biennial lots of bills submitted

6. Committee Reports

6.1 Standing Committees

6.1.1 Legislative Policy Committee – Brian Hobart, Chair

6.1.1.1 James Cohen, Verrill Dana

Lobbyist Clara McConnell reviewed and provided the group with details about the list of marked bills MCCA was interested in. Some comments during the discussion included the following:

Six votes of the legislative council are needed to be considered as emergency bills.

There were 330 bill requests put forward for 2nd legislative session.

Comm. Pohlman will talk to her representatives about LR: 2255 titled, “An Act To Repeal the Law Regarding the County Jail Reimbursement Fee”

There was a second LR introduced to close Long Creek (2257), however, there is not supposed to be a duplicate bill considered in the 2nd session that has been dealt with in the first session.

LR: 2382 is, “An Act To Amend the Remote Meeting Law in Maine's Freedom of Access Act” This bill would amend the law on remote participation in public meetings in Maine's Freedom of Access Act to remove the requirement that a remote meeting policy adopted by a public body must include an expectation that members of the body be physically present. It also would permit a public body to limit public attendance solely to remote methods in certain circumstances.

Jim Cohen said other bills could come up this fall or winter. It was unsure if legislative hearings would be conducted in person or virtually. We should be prepared for either approach. Clara said the committee rooms are being equipped for a hybrid method – zoom into committee. Jim said it would be tougher to have hybrid than either one or the other.

Comm. Fournier asked when the deadline was to submit bills. Jim responded that the time frame had passed, however bills can be proposed up until end of session. Comm. Fournier said Aroostook legislation was being requested to set term limits for county commissioners. This was as a result of a mask requirement at meetings. Some people came with paper bags over their head and were not permitted into the meeting room. They felt their rights were violated.

Comm. Gorden asked if we could get the list of LR's. Jim said the list would go to Lauren to distribute.

6.1.1.2. Legislation: Oversight board for county commissioners ?/ Dawn

Admin. Dawn DiBlasi reported on the idea of an oversight board for county commissioners. There is no language yet, but the intent is to have protocols in place to be able to stop a commissioner from doing illegal things.

6.1.2. Affiliate Organization Committee Reports - recognize those in attendance or submitted information.

MACCAM: Admin. Carrie Kipfer reported there was a meeting held a couple of weeks ago. The main topic of discussion was the ARPA funds, using money for hazard pay, navigating the application process, etc. Clearly, they would not be able to fund every project requested, but they were working on an oversight process. Not many of the projects have been started yet.

6.1.3. Other – No other business was discussed at this time.

6.2. Ad Hoc Committees

6.2.1. Update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) discussions between MMA/MCCA, Ryan Pelletier

Update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) discussions between MMA/MCCA: Admin. Ryan Pelletier reported the group met a few weeks ago. They distributed a survey that talked about priorities. Thirteen of the sixteen counties responded to the survey. Of course, Maine is predominantly small towns, limited water and sewer is provided by counties. They are still considering broadband needs. Mr. Pelletier invited questions. Seeing none, the meeting continued.

6.3. MCCA Staff Reporting – Admin. Lauren Haven

Lauren reported she was working on the 2022 budget.

7. New Business

Secretary/Treasurer Norm Fournier requested to circle back to the consideration of the changes to the Purchasing Policy and the Financial Management and Investment Policy. One of the proposed changes was to keep three months of fund balance in reserve instead of the current policy of two months reserve. After a review of the budget, it might even be prudent to keep four months or \$60,000 in reserve. He noted the changed items in the policies were listed in red enclosed in the agenda packet. President Steve Gorden invited a motion to accept the changes. Comm. Baldacci made the motion, seconded by Comm. Hobart. Comm. Betty Johnson requested that the new Budget and Finance Committee members have an opportunity to work on the project before consideration by the Board of Directors. Comm. Baldacci withdrew his motion, Comm. Hobart agreed, and the item was tabled.

Comm. Poirier asked if there was a credit card procedure to protect Lauren. Comm. Fournier said all the purchases on the credit card were approved in a warrant signed by him.

8. Adjournment

MCCA President Steve Gorden invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 11:00 p.m. Comm. Baldacci made the **motion** seconded by Comm. Fournier, and the **motion** to adjourn was **approved**.

Respectfully submitted,



MCCA Administrator, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Comm. Norman Fournier