

# M.C.C.A.

Peter Baldacci, President  
Penobscot County

Thomas Coward, Vice President  
Cumberland County

Michael Cote, Secretary-Treasurer  
York County



Maine County Commissioners Association

4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 2  
Augusta, ME 04330  
207-623-4697  
[www.maine counties.org](http://www.maine counties.org)

Rosemary Kulow  
Executive Director

Lauren Haven  
Office Manager

---

## MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

### MCCA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes 10:00 a.m., November 9, 2016

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

President Peter Baldacci called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. The attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and all present introduced themselves.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** *Cumberland* – Comm. Steve Gorden, Manager Peter Crichton and Assistant Manager Jim Gailey; *Knox* – Comm. Carol Maines and Admin. Andrew Hart; *MACCAM* - Bill Collins; *MACT* – David Parkman; *MECCA* – Owen Smith; *MSA* – Sheriff Troy Morton; *NACo* and *Nationwide* representatives Carlos Greene, Brendan Morrison and David Belnick.

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** *Hancock* – Comm. Steven Joy; *Kennebec* – Comm. George Jabar II; *Oxford* – Comm. Steven Merrill; *Sagadahoc* – Comm. Charles Crosby III; *Somerset* – Comm. Newell Graf; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler 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. Baldacci suggested moving item V.A., the Presentation from NACo and Nationwide on Deferred Compensation Plans to the top of the agenda. Comm. Fournier **moved** and Comm. McGrane **seconded** approving the agenda with the exception of hearing item V.A. first. The **motion** was **approved** unanimously.

## V. New Business

### A. Presentation from NACo and Nationwide on Deferred Compensation Plans

President Baldacci welcomed Carlos Greene, Senior Program Director for NACo Financial Services, David Belnick, Endorsement Partner Manager of NACo, and Brendan Morrison, Program Director for the New England & New York Territory at Nationwide Retirement Solutions. Board members listened to the advantages of MCCA endorsing Nationwide deferred compensation plans.

Some of the benefits include:

- \$4,000 annually as non-dues revenue for MCCA
- A dollar amount awarded to MCCA determined by a percentage based on plan participation
- Zero administrative costs to employees
- Education and support from Nationwide representatives to sponsors, counties and employees
- Online management tools
- Non-exclusive in that the plans can be offered as additional options

After the NACo/Nationwide presentation, Comm. Baldacci stated there seemed to be no reason for MCCA not to endorse Nationwide. Each county could then look at the option to offer the plans. Comm. McGrane made a **motion** to endorse Nationwide, **seconded** by Comm. Fournier and the **motion** was **approved**. Ms. Kulow will submit the necessary paperwork.

## III. Approval of October 12, 2016 Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Comm. Cote **moved** and Comm. Coward **seconded** approving the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on October 12, 2016. The **motion** was **passed** unanimously.

## IV. Old Business

### A. Finalize Legislation to Propose for 2017 State Legislative Session

Rosemary Kulow has spoken with Maine Municipal Association's Laurie Smith, and will be allowed to attend their Legislative Policy Committee meeting. At this time MMA's recommendation is for the state to take over the jails. Ms. Kulow will encourage the committee members to work with MCCA to find solutions and report back to the board following the meeting. County Manager Peter Crichton offered to attend the meeting also. Comm. Baldacci said the state is not interested in taking over the jails, although there may be some push to re-institute a board of corrections.

The group agreed with the list of ideas narrowed down in the last meeting. Administrator Pam Hile thinks each county should revisit the jail tax cap. Comm. Baldacci stated each county should meet with their legislators.

Sheriff Troy Morton reported the Maine Sheriff's Association has narrowed down their list of ideas for legislation and will compare it with MCCA's list to verify we are working toward common goals.

**B. Consideration of Corrections Handout for Legislators**

The group reviewed the list of *Non-county Factors That Increase Jail Time and County Jail Costs* included in the agenda packet. Sheriff Morton stated that psychological evaluations contributed immensely to delays in trial court and sentencing. Comm. Cote recommended finding solutions and then suggest a plan for improvement with documentation to back up the proposal. The group agreed the list should not come from MCCA, but from individual counties after tweaking the language to fit their needs.

**V. New Business (continued)**

**B. Consideration of Charging a Registration Fee for County Commissioner Training**

The group talked about the syllabus for the training day and the cost of the meeting space, food and speakers. Comm. Fournier made a **motion** to charge \$25 per person for the training. The motion was **seconded** by Comm. Coward and the **motion** was unanimously approved.

**C. Consideration of Approving a Fee Funded by Contingency Account #6260-00 for Attorneys to Provide Training to County Commissioners**

Comm. Cote suggested offering up to \$1,000 to the attorneys providing training for newly elected officials on December 9th. Comm. Fournier made a **motion** to utilize the funds available in this account for the training, **seconded** by Comm. Moody and the **motion** was passed.

**D. Consideration of Venue for 2017 Annual Convention**

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported that the proposal received from Point Lookout was unexpectedly high. The Convention Planning Committee is now entertaining proposals from other venues not necessarily in Waldo County due to the lack of appropriately sized meeting spaces available in the area. Point Lookout is also revising their proposal with MCCA's budget constraints in mind. Currently, the committee is looking to Sunday River and Sugarloaf. Executive Director Rosemary Kulow suggested considering Sebasco as another option and said the committee would like permission to negotiate a multiple year contract if it would mean a significant cost savings. Comm. Moody mentioned the reduction of registration revenue over time. Commissioners need to attend and invite other county employees to attend as well.

**VI. Reports**

**A. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Rosemary Kulow presented her report and invited questions. Comm. McGrane **moved** and Comm. Cote **seconded** approving the report as presented. The motion was

unanimously approved. Comm. Moody congratulated Ms. Kulow on her upcoming retirement. Comm. Gordon expressed concern about finding a lobbyist to continue after Rosi leaves. Comm. McGrane said they should start a search soon.

**B. Executive Director's Financial Report**

Executive Director Rosemary Kulow presented her report. As there were no questions, Comm. McGrane moved and Comm. Moody seconded placing the report on file. The motion was unanimously approved.

**C. Legislative Report**

Members would be appointed for a new legislative committee for 2017.

**D. Professionalism in Management Committee (PMC) Report**

Comm. Cote reported the syllabus for the training day has been completed. He thanked MCCA staff for their assistance in managing the details.

**E. Association Reports**

No report was given for the following associations:

- *EMAD*
- *MACCAM*
- *MACT*
- *MARP*
- *MRDA*

*MECCA*: Owen Smith reported that Fire Protocol training was in progress. They are looking at legislation that effects emergency management. The association is planning to meet in December.

*MSA*: Sheriff Morton reported the association was planning to work on their potential legislative ideas at their upcoming meeting in Vassalboro and would report back to MCCA on the final list.

**F. Corrections Report**

No report was given.

**G. Annual Convention Report**

Office Manager Lauren Haven reported that the evaluation forms for the 2016 convention had been compiled and were included in the agenda packet. Most of the comments were positive. The committee is planning to meet December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**H. NACo Report**

President Baldacci mentioned that the NACo representatives who attended the convention were very impressed with the content. Comm. McGrane said he would be attending two committee meetings next week via conference call and would report to MCCA on the subject matter.

**VII. Other Business**

Comm. Bell reported that Androscoggin County Comm. Ronald Chicoine announced his resignation yesterday.

**VIII. Adjournment**

Comm. McGrane made a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 11:45 a.m.; Comm. Cote 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

**IDEAS FOR LEGISLATION - 128th Maine State Legislature**

**Equitable Jail Sentencing** – (A) Any inmate incarcerated in a county jail longer than 9 months shall either be moved to state prison for the remainder of their incarceration, or the county shall be fairly compensated by the State for all time the inmate is incarcerated in county jail in excess of 9 months. (B) Individuals who violate probation shall be returned to the corrections facility in which they were initially incarcerated and when their probation was granted.

**Phlebotomy Regulation** – Individuals, who administer blood draws for the purpose of obtaining evidence in suspected illegal substance use cases (phlebotomy), shall be medically certified.

**Jail Tax Cap** – The current 3% cap on property tax increases for county jails shall be eliminated; and property tax raised for county jail budgets shall be regulated by the same LD 1 growth factor that applies to county budgets, with the provision that the limit may be overridden by the requisite vote of the legislative body.

**Revenue from the Legalization of Marijuana for Recreational Purposes** – If the sale and use of marijuana is declared legal in Maine for citizens 21 years and older, county government shall be included in any revenue sharing formula developed and utilized as a result of marijuana sales. County government will need additional revenue to pay for increased planning, policy development, monitoring, and enforcement and must receive a “piece of the revenue pie” to help defray costs that may accompany such a major change in public policy.

**Video Arraignments** – The availability and use of video arraignments shall be mandatory in all jurisdictions of the State of Maine.

**Medicare and Medicaid for County Jail Inmates** – The State of Maine shall allow for the *suspension* of Medicaid or Medicare eligibility while persons are incarcerated, rather than *termination* of those benefits. That way, when the person is released from jail, their benefits may resume, thereby eliminating one factor that may lead to higher rates of recidivism.