

# M.C.C.A.

William Blodgett, President  
Lincoln County

Peter Baldacci, Vice President  
Penobscot County

Thomas Coward, Secretary-Treasurer  
Cumberland County



Maine County Commissioners Association

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Rosemary Kulow  
Executive Director

Lauren Haven  
Office Manager

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## MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

### MCCA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes 10:00 a.m., November 18, 2015

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

President William Blodgett called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. The attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: *Androscoggin* – Comm. Beth Bell;; *Kennebec* – Administrator 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* – Administrator Bill Collins proxy for Comm. Peter Baldacci; *Piscataquis* – Comm. James Annis; *Somerset* – Comm. Newell Graf; *Waldo* – Comm. Amy Fowler; *Washington* – Manager Betsy Fitzgerald proxy for Commissioner Chris Gardner; *York* – Comm. Michael Cote; *MACCAM* – Scott Cole; *MACT* – David Parkman; *MARP* – Kathleen Ayers; *MRDA* – Susan Bulay; and *MSA* – Sheriff Todd Brackett.

OTHERS PRESENT: *Aroostook* – Comm. Paul Underwood; *Cumberland* – Commissioner Stephen Gorden and Assistant Manager Bill Whitten; *Franklin* – County Clerk Julie Magoon; *Knox* – Administrator Andy Hart; *Piscataquis* – Interim County Manager Tom Lizotte; *Somerset* – Admin. Dawn DiBlasi.

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

#### II. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

County Manager Betsy Fitzgerald **moved** and Comm. Fowler **seconded** approving the agenda as presented. The **motion** was approved unanimously.

### III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Comm. Moody **moved** and Comm. Fowler **seconded** approving the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on October 14, 2015 as presented. The **motion** was approved unanimously.

### IV. Old Business

#### A. Discussion of Proposed Amendments to MCCA Bylaws

The group discussed the history of the MCCA bylaws and the proposed amendments, as well as implications these changes would have on participation from associations. Several representatives from member associations voiced concerns that not having a voting member on the MCCA Board of Directors would diminish the perceived value of their contribution. Some said that approving the amendments would be regressive and work contrarily to improvements made in recent years.

It was suggested that the amendments being considered should be voted on as a package at the annual meeting in January, not as individual revisions. Comm. Cote **moved** and Comm. Fowler **seconded** accepting Comm. Norm Fournier's additional amendments as follows:

##### 1. ARTICLE IV. ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

NACo Representative Section 5. Should read: NACo representatives. Revised first sentence should read: "The Board of Directors shall elect two Commissioners from Counties which are members of both the National Associations of Counties and MCCA to represent MCCA at the National Association of Counties"

Rationale: Based on actions taken at MCAA Board of Directors meeting in September

##### 2. ARTICLE V. MEETINGS-----Membership Meetings

last sentence in this section I would put a period after delete and add the following language:

"Each County shall have one vote at any membership meeting"

Rationale: This is to assure a level playing field for every County. We now have four Counties that have more than 3 Commissioners. If you continue with the present language these four Counties have 10 extra votes. Also because of the geography of this state it is hard for all the Counties to get all of their Commissioners to travel to Augusta for a membership meeting.

Administrator Scott Cole moved to add the following language to 2. ARTICLE V. MEETINGS-----  
"Each County shall have one vote at any membership meeting, **and one vote only.**" The **motion** to add the amendment **passed** with 14 in favor and two in opposition. The original **motion**, as amended and the **motion** passed with three voting in opposition.

The proposed amendments may be discussed further at the December Board of Directors' meeting. As the changes have been introduced by five commissioners, the item will be added to the agenda for the annual meeting on January 13, 2016.

### V. New Business

#### A. Announce President's Appointments to Budget & Finance Committee

- Aroostook County Commissioner Norman Fournier

- Cumberland County Commissioner, Thomas Coward
- Franklin County Commissioner, Gary McGrane
- Knox County Commissioner, Roger Moody
- Penobscot County Administrator, Bill Collins

**B. Announce President’s Appointments to Nominating Committee**

- Aroostook County Commissioner Norman Fournier
- Cumberland County Commissioner Thomas Coward
- Kennebec County Commissioner George Jabar II
- Knox County Commissioner Roger Moody
- Penobscot County Commissioner Peter Baldacci

**C. Determine Scoring Criteria for Audit Proposals**

Rosemary Kulow explained the evaluation grading sheet and guidelines for choosing the firm that will perform the MCCA audit. The Budget and Finance Committee will review the submitted proposals and make the final recommendation to the board. Administrator Scott Cole **moved** and Comm. Fowler **seconded** accepting the scoring criteria, and the **motion** passed unanimously.

**D. Presentation of Proposed 2016 Budget**

The Board was presented the proposed budget. There will be an opportunity at the December Board of Directors’ meeting for more discussion before the budget is voted on at the annual meeting.

**E. Determine 2016 Annual General Membership Meeting Location**

Four estimates were obtained for prospective meeting locations: The Sportsman’s Alliance catered by White Flour Catering, The Senator Inn & Spa Event and Conference Center, The Camden National Bank Ice Vault catered by Rebecca’s Place, and The Governor Hill Mansion. Bill Blodgett **moved** to hold the meeting at the Senator Inn which is known to be suitable for our needs, easily accessible and comparatively well priced. Comm. Fowler seconded the **motion** and the **motion** was approved.

**F. Nominations to Governor’s Review Panel for State’s Fund for the Efficient Delivery of Local & Regional Services**

MCCA has been asked to present three nominees to the Governor’s Review Panel. After some discussion, Comm. Newell Graf was nominated by Comm. Fowler and seconded by Scott Cole; Comm. Stephen Gorden was nominated by Comm. Blodgett and seconded by Comm. Moody; and Comm. Amy Fowler was nominated by Comm. Cote and seconded by Comm. Graf to serve on the panel. All voted in favor of the three nominations.

**VI. Reports**

**A. Executive Director’s Report (See attached.)**

## **B. Financial Report (Attached.)**

Executive Director Rosemary Kulow presented her reports. Comm. Cote 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**

Bill Whitten suggested using one of the two bills that had been carried over as a vehicle for the supplemental budget proposal. He recommended not trying to make any more changes to the legislation at this time.

Ms. Kulow has scheduled a joint meeting of MCCA and MSA. She encouraged everyone to attend the meeting on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at The Governor Hill Mansion on State Street in Augusta at 1:30 pm.

## **D. Association Reports**

*MACCAM:* Andy Hart reported the group met recently and discussed restructuring and improving the handling of restitution monies, so that receipts are given and monetary amounts are properly applied to the correct account.

Scott Cole brought up the topic of "Waters of the US" in which regulations on the boundaries were potentially being expanded. Ms. Kulow stated that NACo is heavily involved. Since the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) finalized their Definition of Waters of the U.S. under the Clean Water Act, NACo has expressed multiple concerns on the rule's impact on county-owned and maintained roadside ditches, flood control channels, drainage conveyances and wastewater and storm water systems. She has been in touch with Senator Collins and Senator King and intends to follow up. Sen. King's staff will be invited to the next meeting to explain the Senator's position on this issue.

*MARP:* Kathleen Ayers reported that more LDs mandating changes for probate are being addressed. She will forward the list to Rosemary to share with the group. There is currently a noticeable increase in turnover of Registrars' staff due to the stress placed by these changes in an effort to stay in compliance. Family issues concerning guardianship and family court continue to be at the forefront.

*MRDA:* Susan Bulay reported the group has been addressing the issue of space as linen-based or mylar maps need to be stored. They are working with the bail lien process using property writing guidelines. A couple of the registrars are talking to members of the Bar Association to keep on target.

*MSA:* Sheriff Brackett stated there is a meeting scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup>. They plan to work through the jail legislation.

## **E. Corrections Report**

Comm. Cote reported that progress was being made on reducing the number of Maine Jail Standards. He will keep the Board updated.

## **F. Annual Convention Report**

Administrator Bill Collins reported that Penobscot County is looking at a few area venues such as the Cross Center, the Residence Inn and the Hilton for the 2016 convention. The commissioners are taking several factors into consideration including room capacity and overall price.

## **G. NACo Report**

The 2016 NACo Legislative Conference will be held February 20-24 in Washington, DC. Comm. McGrane plans to attend with Penobscot Comm. Peter Baldacci and MCCA Executive Director Rosemary Kulow.

## **VII. Other Business**

Comm. Fowler mentioned Spirit of America program in which community volunteers are recognized for their efforts. Bruce Flaherty, who came to the 2015 Convention of Maine Counties, promotes the awards program. It is his hope that all Maine counties will adopt the program and put in place a process for honoring deserving individuals.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Comm. Fowler made a **motion** to adjourn at 12:00 p.m.; Comm. Cote seconded the **motion**, which was unanimously approved. The group adjourned to lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

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MCCA Office Manager, Lauren Haven

Attested:

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MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Thomas S. Coward