

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, June 9th, 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 Erkkinen
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:

Hancock – Admin. Scott Adkins
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer
Penobscot – Erika Honey
Piscataquis– Comm. Mike Williams
Sagadahoc – Admin. Pam Hile
Maine Broadband Coalition – Andrew Butcher (11:30 am)

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
Administrator – Lauren Haven

III. Approval of the Agenda

President Steve Gorden asked if there any additions to the agenda noting the broadband discussion was scheduled for 11:30 am. There were no additions requested. Comm. Hobart moved to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Comm. Bill Blodgett, 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. Fournier moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting on May 12th. The motion was seconded by Comm. Hobart and the motion passed with no revisions.

V. Officer Reports

A. Finance

1. Lauren Haven presented the monthly Financial Reports and invited questions. Lauren mentioned she was working on audit documentation for RHR Smith. Comm. Hobart moved to approve the financial reports seconded by Comm. Fournier and the motion passed with no opposition.
2. Treasurer: Norm Fournier
 - a. Comments about the state of MCCA finances.
 - b. Budget and Finance CommitteeComm. Fournier stated the finances for the organization were in good shape and there was nothing further to report to the Board.

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

Comm. Baldacci reported NACo's 2021 Annual Conference was set for July 9-12 in Prince George's County, Maryland. He and Comm. Sharyn Pohlman planned to attend on MCCA's behalf. Comm. Baldacci said he expected to bring back more information on the US Treasury guidance and the Medicaid coverage issue. He was looking forward to the conference. Comm. Gorden asked if the compensation for former Penobscot Administrator, Bill Collins would be an appropriate use of the rescue funds. Comm. Baldacci said it is clearly a legitimate reimbursement. The group talked about the possibility of a collaborative project. Counties partnering with municipalities could develop a method similar to a program for grant requests, reviewing ideas brought forth by towns. Comm. Pohlman said there were many questions about the use of the funds. Maine Municipal Assoc. should be assisting towns. Comm. Johnson said they were considering giving an employee a stipend for extra work on the project. Comm. Fournier said Aroostook was taking the same approach as Penobscot, accept they will hire an employee. Also, there are 20 municipalities who have volunteered to help with funding for the person who will help facilitate the project.

Comm. Gardiner recommended that counties not partner with the state on how to use the money as we always get the short end of the stick; it's like opening a pandora's box. Admin. Scott Adkins said the money should be flowing fairly freely to municipalities. Comm. Gorden thought the states are responsible for what towns do with the money.

C. President: Consider August respite.

Comm. Gorden suggested during the board meeting in August participants could use a portion of the meeting as a workshop on the funding and how it might be used. We could have a short meeting and then a workshop. The Executive Committee would discuss the topic closer to the date and make a recommendation.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Standing Committees

1. Legislative Policy Committee – Brian Hobart, Chair

Comm. Hobart reported Jim Cohen and Clara McConnell were absent from this meeting as they were occupied with legislative activities due to the session quickly coming to a close. Jim Cohen reported at the

LPC meeting on Monday there was much work left to be done and many bills were expected to be carried over. The Governor was looking for a bipartisan budget. All bills with a fiscal note would need to go to the Appropriation Committee table. The Bonding bill had been killed as requested.

Register of Probate Kathleen Ayers sent an email reporting LD 480 was voted to reconsider and was tabled. She spent all day last Friday in work sessions. She was glad she attended because they were able to make the point that the Counties were insisting on a fiscal note on those issues.

Comm. Hobart reported that the bill regarding remote meetings (LD 32 "An Act Regarding Remote Participation in Public Proceedings") had passed. The MACCAM group would be asked to help develop a standard protocol for counties to consider adopting.

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

MACCAM – Admin. Bob Devlin said the group would meet later this month.

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

Comm. Hobart announced the retirement of Sagadahoc County Admin. Pamela Hile. The group congratulated Pam, thanking her for years of service dedicated to county government. Everyone wished her well in the future. A barbeque celebration was planned at the Sagadahoc Courthouse tomorrow, June 10th.

B. Ad Hoc Committees –

1. Update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) discussions between MMA/MCCA: Comm. Steve Gorden said there was nothing new to report. Admin Carrie Kipfer said there was a meeting scheduled for the following week.

C. MCCA Staff Reporting – Admin. Lauren Haven

VII. New Business

Comm. Gorden announced that Peggy Schaffer, Executive Director of ConnectME was planning to attend this meeting to open a discussion about broadband projects. However, she was in an emergency meeting. Andrew Butcher from Maine Broadband Coalition would give an informational presentation at 11:30. *At 10:45 Comm. Baldacci made a motion to recess until 11:30 seconded by Comm. Fournier and the motion passed.*

Attendees reconvened at 11:30 and Mr. Butcher jumped right into his presentation. He shared a crowdsourcing map with speed testing. He announced MCCA would be assisting as “co-host” for the Regional Broadband Dialogues Kick Off Event June 25th at 9:00 am for the purpose of engaging diverse sectors to highlight and promote cross sector collaboration in support of broadband planning and development.

Admin. DiBlasi described a study performed by a Somerset employee documenting cell phone and internet connectivity in various locations.

Admin. Ryan Pelletier invited attendees to participate in a workshop sponsored by Aroostook County. He would send the registration link when it became available. Comm. Erkinen said Piscataquis had signed up for a study. The contractor is Brian Lapold Casco Bay Advisors.

Comm. Pohlman asked if counties could have a copy of the presentation. Mr. Butcher said he would share it via email upon request. Email requests should be sent to connect@MaineBroadbandCoalition.org. Also, the speed test map can be found at the following link: <https://expressoptimizer.net/projects/Maine/speedtestmap.php>. Comm. Gorden thanked him for his time and information.

VIII. Adjournment

MCCA President Steve Gorden invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 12:30 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