

M.C.C.A.

Stephen Gorden, President
Cumberland County

Michael Cote, Vice President
York County

William Blodgett, Secretary-Treasurer
Lincoln County

Lauren Haven
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MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

MCCA Zoom Conference, June 10th, 2020

I. Introductions and Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes 5-13-20

MCCA Vice President Michael Cote called the meeting to order. Attendees announced themselves. Comm. Baldacci moved to accept the May meeting minutes. Admin. Carrie Kipfer requested to be added to the meeting attendee list. The motion was **seconded** by Comm. Blodgett and the motion **passed** unanimously.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Aroostook – Comm. Norman Fournier
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden
Hancock – Admin. Scott Adkins proxy for Comm. William Clark
Kennebec – Admin. Bob Devlin proxy for Comm. George Jabar
Knox – Comm. Sharyn Pohlman
Lincoln – Comm. William Blodgett
Oxford – Admin. Tom Winsor 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. Amy Fowler
Washington – Comm. Chris Gardner
York – Comm. Michael Cote

OTHERS PRESENT:

Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer
Piscataquis – Admin. Mike Williams
Sagadahoc – Admin. Pam Hile
Somerset – Comm. Robert Sezak
MACCAM – Admin. Bill Collins

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Noel Madore
Hancock - Comm. William Clark
Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar
Oxford – Comm. Steven Merrill
Somerset – Comm. Newell Graf

STAFF PRESENT:

Risk Pool Manager Malcolm Ulmer
Office Manager Lauren Haven

II. Executive Committee Officers

Vice President Mike Cote asked Comm. Norm Fournier to speak on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee which included Comm. Fournier, Comm. Blodgett, and Comm. Baldacci made the recommendation to nominate Comm. Stephen Gorden to MCCA president for the remainder of 2020. Comm. Cote asked the group if there were any other nominations to consider. Hearing none, Comm. Hobart moved to cease nominations, seconded by Comm. Fowler and the motion passed with no objections. Comm. Fournier moved to elect Comm. Gorden to serve as the MCCA president. Comm. Hobart seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Comm. Cote stated he would remain in his position as Vice President. All thanked Comm. Cote for filling in during the absence of a president.

President Stephen Gorden graciously accepted the position, saying a few words to the meeting attendees. He then proceeded with the remaining agenda topics.

III. MCCA Organizational Structure

There were two items under this topic: the results of the organizational structure survey, and consideration of the legislative coverage proposal submitted by former Executive Director, Charles Pray.

President Steve Gorden presented a summary of the results of the organizational structure survey. There were 22 completed forms submitted including 17 surveys from commissioners. The overall opinion revealed participants were not strongly in favor of hiring a full-time, or a part-time executive director. However, participants generally leaned toward hiring a part-time lobbyist who would work the necessary hours during the active legislative session and who would provide little or no coverage during times when there was little or no legislative activity. President Gorden stated a change in the office manager position might be in order as the survey results reflected eight participants in favor, and ten who might be in favor of a change. There were also many helpful overall comments and ideas about staffing.

During the open discussion, the group seemed to agree the history of MCCA showed members of the organization were not likely to be happy with an executive director who was charged with providing lobbying services for the Association. If a lobbyist needed to be hired, it would be important to develop guidelines for the contract before requesting proposals and estimates from individual lobbyists and lobbying firms. Also, the Board might consider a two-year contract with higher monetary compensation for the first session when more hours would be required. Comm. Baldacci moved to request the Executive Committee create an org chart for the Board to consider as well as an outline of expectations for a prospective lobbyist. The motion was seconded by Comm. Gardner and the motion passed unanimously. President Gorden agreed to hold a meeting of the Executive Committee to create a document draft which would be forwarded to all the Board members for comment.

The Executive Committee met on Monday June 8th to discuss the lobbying proposal submitted by Mr. Pray. The group discussed negotiating several points in the contract to make it a better fit for MCCA. Some of these included an end date of September 25th, a price cap of \$9,000, pre-approval for lodging and meals, no charge for drive time, and the wording changed from, “a minimum of ten (10) hours per week” to, “not to exceed eight (8) hours per week”.

There was some question if lobbying coverage was needed for the summer. Even though the legislature was not currently holding public hearings and meetings, there was activity. The Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee had met twice recently, and MCCA might need representation as there is 150 million dollars in federal funding not yet distributed. Funds are earmarked for county and towns but \$9,000 is a likely to be a wise investment to continue to have county interests represented. Comm. Baldacci moved to accept the revised legislative coverage proposal if Mr. Pray agreed to the contract changes. The motion was seconded by Comm. Cote and the motion passed with Somerset County and Washington County in opposition.

IV. Reopening Business and COVID-19 (No discussion took place on this topic.)

V. Financial Reports

Office Manager Lauren Haven presented the May financial reports. There was not much to note aside from the deposit of the funds approved for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) in the amount of \$26,972. New legislation had been passed (The PPP Flexibility Act) regarding the guidelines for utilizing the funds. One significant change was the allotted funds could now be used through the end of the year. If MCCA spends the money on the office manager's salary, the loan forgiveness requirement of 75% usage for payroll will be met. Not all meeting participants were in favor of utilizing these funds. Comm. Gardner commented the loss of revenue due to COVID-19 was not enough to warrant MCCA participation in the program. He requested a breakdown of MCCA's loss of revenue from Finance Committee Chair Norm Fournier. Others commented it is the Board's fiduciary responsibility to take advantage of such programs as the association supports county government thus benefiting taxpayers.

After the discussion, Lauren invited questions about the reports. As none were posed, Comm. Baldacci moved to accept the financial reports, seconded by Comm. Fowler and the motion passed without opposition.

VI. Legislative Policy Committee (There was no further discussion on this item.)

VII. Stakeholders Advisory Group (Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative)

Comm. Wayne Erkkinen had been selected to participate the Stakeholders Advisory Group on May 14th and May 21st. No report about the meeting was given, however, audio recordings are available on the COVID-19 page here: <https://www.courts.maine.gov/covid19.shtml>.

VIII. 2021 Convention of Maine Counties

Office Manager Lauren Haven presented the new 2021 contract proposal from Sunday River. If accepted, the 2020 conference deposit would be transferred to the next year. Beyond the loss of expected revenue in the budget, the band hired for 2020 filed for bankruptcy, therefore the \$1,200 already paid would not be refunded.

President Steve Gorden requested the Board of Directors wait to consider this contract until the Executive Committee developed a plan for next steps for the organization.

IX. Other Business

No other business was brought before the Board.

X. Adjournment

MCCA President Steve Gorden invited a motion to adjourn at approximately 11:55 a.m. Comm. Baldacci made the motion seconded by Comm. Hobart, and the motion was approved. The group adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

MCCA Office Manager, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Comm. William Blodgett