

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, July 14th, 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:

Androscoggin – Admin. Larry Post proxy for Comm. Noel Madore
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 – Admin. Andy Hart proxy for Comm. Sharyn Pohlman
Lincoln – Comm. William Blodgett
Oxford – Admin. Donald Durrah proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill
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:

Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer
Penobscot – Erika Honey
Piscataquis– Comm. Mike Williams
Sagadahoc – Admin. Bill Post

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Risk Pool Manager – Malcolm Ulmer
Administrator – Lauren Haven
Lobbyist Team –Jim Cohen and Clara McConnell

III. Approval of the Agenda

President Steve Gorden asked if there were any additions or changes to the proposed agenda items. None were requested. President Gorden stated the agenda was approved.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Comm. 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 June 9th. The motion was **seconded** by Comm. Gardner 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 had spent \$2,500 which had been set aside in 2020 for the current audit being performed by RHR Smith. Documentation of the transaction was included with the monthly reports. Comm. Hobart moved to approve the financial reports **seconded** by Comm. Baldacci 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 there was nothing further to report.

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

Comm. Baldacci reported that he and Comm. Sharyn Pohlman recently returned from attending NACo's 2021 Annual Conference at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center at National Harbor. Comm. Baldacci reviewed some of the many highlights of the conference.

Vice President Kamala Harris was a featured speaker at the conference and addressed county leaders as a former county government employee having served in a California DA's office. She emphasized the importance of supporting infrastructure.

Dr. Deborah Birx, former White House Coronavirus Task Force Coordinator, and the government's top official in the battle against global HIV/AIDS, lead a COVID-19 update and discussion of mitigation best practices, including smart investments in air purification technologies to limit indoor transmission.

The IT director on the simulated cyberattacks project spoke about their sponsored program. We should redistribute the information about this from earlier this year.

During the conference Comm. Baldacci volunteered to be the Vice Chair of Membership Committee. Comm. Baldacci expressed his disappointment that not all MCCA members belong to NACo at this time. He was asked about it during the conference.

Gilbert Gonzales Director of the Department of Behavioral Health in Bexar County talked about diversion strategies, what works and what doesn't work. Josh Cantwell the Chief Operating Officer at Grand Lake Mental Health Center in Oklahoma formed a crisis team who responds to calls that are nonviolent situations reducing hospitalizations and violent escalations due to their specialized training. This was inspired by the CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) program, which is a mobile crisis intervention program staffed by White Bird Clinic personnel using City of Eugene vehicles. This program has been in place for nearly 30 years and is well embedded in the community. It reduces police intervention, and the community sees it as a tremendous help as a cost savings and more positive outcomes from these interactions.

The U.S. Treasury presented a session on the American Rescue Plan Act's Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund in which participants discussed how they planned to invest Recovery Funds. NACo is setting up a site to share funded projects around the country.

Comm. Gardener asked about the status of the Medicaid issue. The proposed change is hung up in the Senate and needs to be reintroduced. The House is supportive, but there's a bias in the Senate about having state government

doing everything rather than counties as many are former governors where there are many former county officials in the house, 80 in this caucus. The group discussed sending another letter to Senator King and Senator Collins. The system treats people unequally. If someone can't make bail, he/she loses their health insurance. Comm. Gardner made the motion to send such a letter, seconded by Comm. Baldacci. Steve suggested including representatives as well. Comm. Gardner made this a friendly amendment, and the motion passed unanimously. Comm. Gorden said he would get assistance from Jim and Clara. We could modify the letter sent earlier this year.

- C. President: Announcements - Scheduled for next meetings: August, Summary of Legislative year and final outcome of Bills pertinent to Counties by James Cohen; scheduled for September, luncheon meeting at the Senator - MACCAM to review County ARP projects.

Comm. Gorden suggested using a portion of the board meeting in August as a workshop on project funding and how it might be used. The Executive Committee could discuss the topic closer to the date and make a recommendation. Some of the managers thought they would not be ready for a workshop, and many of the managers planned to be absent from the August meeting to attend the annual MTCMA (Maine Town, City and County Management Association) conference at Sugarloaf.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Standing Committees

1. Legislative Policy Committee – Brian Hobart, Chair

Comm. Hobart asked Jim Cohen and Clara McConnell for a short synopsis of the legislative session. Jim said he and Clara enjoyed having the opportunity to work with MCCA. The LPC met every week. By the end of the session there were 50 pages of bill tracking and 73 bills with written testimony weighing in on various topics. Steve Gorden had been the primary spokesperson for the association. There were some wins and losses. A number of bills were unresolved, the bonding bill was killed, the jail standards bill succeeded, the bill to add a member on board of the Criminal Justice Academy did not pass, the bill to increase probate fees did pass. Charlotte Warren's jail bill was carried over. The budget LD 221 was passed with the supplemental funding rolled into one. Criminal Justice increased jail funding by three million in the base line budget for a total of 18 million. Next year there might be a better opportunity to talk to legislators.

Amin. Dawn DiBlasi inquired about bill for the State to take over probate. There would be a study to figure out how it would work.

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

MACCAM – Penobscot Admin. Erika Honey reported the last meeting occurred on June 11th and focused on Legislative action and updates. July 21st was planned as a round table discussion. The next meeting was scheduled for August in which they planned to discuss American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding. Another project was a salary survey being conducted by a 3rd party HR organization. Counties will split the cost.

MSA – Comm. Gardner said we need to put pressure on the Maine Criminal Justice. There are simply not enough training opportunities available for the need, and the issue must be addressed. The group agreed.

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

B. Ad Hoc Committees –

- 1. Update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) discussions between MMA/MCCA: No further information was shared in this portion of the meeting.

C. MCCA Staff Reporting – Admin. Lauren Haven

Lauren asked everyone to welcome William (Bill) Post, the new Administrator for Sagadahoc County.

VII. New Business – No new business was discussed.

VIII. Adjournment

MCCA President Steve Gorden invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 12:00 p.m. Comm. Gardner 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