

M.C.C.A.

Stephen Gorden, President
Cumberland County

Michael Cote, Vice President
York County

William Blodgett, Secretary-Treasurer
Lincoln County



Lauren Haven
Administrator

Charles Pray
Lobbyist

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MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

MCCA Zoom Conference, July 8th, 2020

I., II., III., IV. Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of the Agenda, and Approval of the Minutes

MCCA President Steve Gorden called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 am. Attendees announced themselves. He stated the group would be discussing the items in the agenda packet such as the RFP draft and the proposed org chart. Comm. Cote moved to accept the June meeting minutes, seconded by Comm. Blodgett and the motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Aroostook – Comm. Norman Fournier
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden
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 Erkinen
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:

Knox – Admin. Andrew Hart
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer
Penobscot – Comm. Laura Sanborn
Piscataquis – Admin. Mike Williams
Sagadahoc – Admin. Pam Hile
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
Administrator – Lauren Haven
Lobbyist – Charles Pray

V. Officer Reports

a. Financial Report

Lauren Haven presented the June Financial Reports. The only significant note was an invoice for \$3,000 expected from a grant to be used to create drug abuse educational materials. The way the grant was written, counties were not directly eligible, but could receive the end product if MCCA facilitated the project. Lauren was working with RALI and NAMI to develop a brochure or other training resource which will be given to county offices for distribution.

b. NACo: National Legislation, Peter Baldacci

Comm. Baldacci mentioned the pending distribution of monies from the Federal Bill. NACo is advocating for the funds to be directly received by counties instead of given to states to be distributed. The amount counties will receive is unclear.

Lobbyist Charles Pray stated the Legislature expects to have a vacation in August which would further delay meetings and decisions.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees:

i. Legislative Committee - Amy Fowler, Chair

Comm. Fowler stated there was not much to report from the Legislature. She thanked the group for work done on the RFP draft. Also, some bills still need to be watched, particularly from Senator Jackson. Admin. Carrie Kipfer mentioned in Bill 973, "An Act To Stabilize County Corrections" which was carried over, the calculation has changed a little bit. MACCAM had a deadline end of the day to work on this. Charlotte Warren and Sheriff's language had already been voted on. The entire bill had been reviewed and feedback was given to Sheriff Brackett.

1. w/ Norm Fournier: Explain the (Draft) Lobbyist RFP and the reason for the proposed dates

Comm. Norm Fournier gave the group a detailed overview of the draft of the RFP for a lobbyist explaining the reasoning for various elements included in the RFP as well as the timeline for hiring. Any changes made at this meeting would be incorporated into the document and the final draft would be sent to the list compiled from recommendations and any others who might be suggested. August 13th was the recommended deadline for proposals, which would allow time before the September 9th meeting when the final decision would be made by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee will review proposals based on criteria in the RFP and perform interviews and reference checks on the top candidates if warranted. The Committee will present their recommendation to the full Board with pros and cons of the top two or three proposals. An offer would be extended to the chosen candidate with a commencement date of October 5th. The contract would be in effect for one year at which time a performance review would take place, and the group would consider extending the contract through the second half of the Legislative session.

Comm. Cote moved to approve the RFP and described timeline with additional suggestions of potential lobbyists. The motion was seconded by Comm. Fowler and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Legislative Activity - Charles Pray
3. The Legislative Committees that affects Counties, Charles Pray
4. Do we have any legislation we wish to propose?

No new legislation was discussed. However, the group agreed the organization needed to be more proactive in developing legislation. This would be a future goal to be actively pursued.

ii. Professional Committee - Mike Cote

1. MCCA State Convention sub-committee
 - a. Announcement of dates & location
 - b. Sub-committee members

The group discussed the new proposal from Sunday River for 2021 which would transfer our \$500 deposit from this year to next year and keep similar dates. Comm. Cote said we should move forward cautiously as there was no way to predict what the situation will be next year. Lauren Haven said the contract could be approved now to reserve the dates for the event, and the decision to hold the convention could be made later without further penalty. Comm. Baldacci moved to

accept the Sunday River proposal for the 2021 Convention of Maine Counties **seconded** by Comm. Erkinen and the motion **passed** unanimously.

2. Volunteers for updating MCCA governing Docs?

President Steve Gorden stated the Executive Committee had discussed reviewing and updating the MCCA By-laws last amended in 2016. The Professionalism in Management Committee was the logical choice for the project. Comm. Cote, currently the Chair of the committee, invited volunteers to contact him if interested in joining to work on updating the document.

iii. Risk Pool Agency - Norm Fournier w/ Malcolm - announcements?

There was nothing to report from the Risk Management Pool meeting earlier that day. The group discussed the pros and cons of meeting in person for the August meeting and decided to use Zoom for the August meeting and plan to meet in person in September perhaps at a larger venue for the sake of social distancing. Lauren will look into it.

iv. Affiliate Association Committee: Do any of our Affiliated Associations have reports?

Lauren reported she received an email from Register of Probate Kathleen Ayers. The Maine Association of Registers of Probate was looking at a couple of changes to the new code and had arranged for a meeting with a member of the Probate Trust and Law Advisory Committee Thursday July 9th. One request will be an increase in the fee structure due to all the added responsibilities with tracking guardianships. They have had no increases since 2005.

v. Other

b. Ad Hoc Committees (none at this time)

VII. Special Orders

VIII. Unfinished Business

IX. New Business

President Steve Gorden introduced the new organizational chart constructed by the Executive Committee using feedback from previous discussions and the results of the recent opinion survey. During the discussion, the group decided to leave the name, "Executive Committee" in place and simply add to the committee members the chair of any standing committees. This was the only change to the new org chart proposed. Comm. Blodgett **moved** to approve the organizational chart as amended, **seconded** by Comm. Cote and the motion **passed** unanimously.

X. Remarks for Good of the Association

President Steve Gorden stated the MCCA as an organization needed to have a working Board actively participating in the committee work. Doing this will ease the burden which now falls on a few people instead of spreading it out. Many counties are relying on proxies, but we need to make sure the commissioners are involved.

Some good news mentioned, Piscataquis has been awarded \$145,000 by the Maine Highlands Federal Credit Union to purchase the new sheriff's office headquarters. The building was formerly the Key Bank building on Hudson Avenue in Guilford.

XI. Adjournment

MCCA President Steve Gorden invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 11:02 a.m. Comm. Blodgett made the **motion** seconded by Comm. Fowler, and the **motion** was **approved**.

Respectfully submitted,

MCCA Administrator, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Comm. William Blodgett