

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, August 11th, 2021

- 1. Call to Order:** Roll Call
- 2. Attendance:** Phone attendees will be requested to introduce themselves.

MCCA President Steve Gorden called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 am.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Roland Poirier
Aroostook – Comm. Norman Fournier
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden
Hancock – Admin. Scott Adkins proxy for Comm. William Clark
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
York – Comm. Richard Dutremble

OTHERS PRESENT:

Knox – Admin. Andy Hart
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer
Penobscot – Erika Honey

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Hancock – Comm. William Clark
Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar
Oxford – Comm. Steven Merrill
Somerset – Comm. Newell Graf
Washington – Comm. Chris Gardner

STAFF PRESENT:

Risk Pool Manager – Malcolm Ulmer
Administrator – Lauren Haven
Lobbyist – Jim Cohen

3. 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.

4. 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 July 14th. The motion was **seconded** by Comm. Hobart and the motion **passed** with no revisions.

5. Officer Reports

5.1 Finance

5.1.1 Lauren Haven had included the monthly financial reports in the agenda packet for the Board to review. Lauren reported the latest audit was nearing completion and they expected to invite RHR Smith representatives to the September meeting. Comm. Baldacci moved to approve the financial reports **seconded** by Comm. Fournier and the motion **passed** with no opposition.

5.1.2 Treasurer: Norm Fournier

5.1.2.1 Comments about the state of MCCA finances.

5.1.2.2 Budget and Finance Committee

Comm. Fournier stated there was nothing further to report.

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

The group discussed NACo's broadband initiative. The Broadband Task Force is working to identify the areas of most need, the unserved and underserved, doing speed tests throughout the country. However, the targeted download and upload speeds being targeted, 100 Mbps of download and 20 of upload (100/20 Mbps) will not meet our needs in the future. This is likely a short-sighted goal. A better goal would be 100 Mbps of download and 100 Mbps of upload (100/100 Mbps). Otherwise, the technology will be immediately outdated as it's being built.

5.3 President: Announcements:

5.3.1 Introduce the Concept of a Consent Agenda; explanation enclosed Please take a look and we can discuss it at the next meeting

5.3.2 September's Meeting is in question re: face-to-face versus ZOOM - CDC's requirements
After a brief discussion, the group agreed to continue with Zoom meetings for the near future.

President Gorden reported the Executive Committee was in disagreement with former Executive Director, Charles Pray. He did not go into detail about the nature of the disagreement.

Attendees talked jail funding, regarding the \$18 million in the budget and the correction of the distribution process originally presented by Scott Ferguson of the Department of Corrections (DOC). Many county jails will fall short without supplemental funding and not having to jump through hoops is a welcome change.

Comm. Baldacci said a notice had been received stating that Penobscot Jail's operating license was suspended due to overcrowding. This has been a long-standing situation that the county has been working to correct. The Risk Pool had been notified and a Zoom meeting was scheduled for tomorrow with Commissioner Liberty of the DOC to resolve the issue.

6. Committee Reports

6.1 Standing Committees

6.1.1 Legislative Policy Committee – Brian Hobart, Chair

6.1.1.1 Verrill Dana will present a Legislative Summary of the first session of 130th's biennial.

Jim Cohen said Clara was sorry she wasn't able to attend this meeting. Jim reported Verrill Dana had been working on behalf of the MCCA for about ten months. President Gorden had requested a walkthrough of the outcome and/or

status of bills – passed, killed, or carried over. Money seemed to be the theme for the session. Many bills MCCA was interested in involved diversion programs and homelessness, balancing money with more services.

Jim led the group through a review of the bills the Legislative Policy Committee followed during the session, offering comments and more explanation on many of the bills about what had transpired. The carry-over bills will be back, the cloture deadline is September 24th, and some new bills will be introduced. There is much work to be done as we look at the next half of the biennial.

Steve thanked Jim and his team for their services. He said it was comforting to know they were on top of everything. All agreed.

6.1.2. Risk Pool Agency - Norm Fournier and Malcolm Ulmer
Comm. Fournier said there was nothing more to report beyond the Penobscot Jail situation.

6.1.3. Affiliate Organization Committee Reports - recognize those in attendance or submitted information.

MACCAM – Administrator Carrie Kipfer reported that their last association meeting occurred on July 21st, the group talked about the wage and benefits study being conducted by Laurie Bouchard. They discussed wage and hiring issues, particularly with corrections officers. The market rates are a big concern. Also, they worked on developing a remote meeting policy, and establishing ARP funding hazard pay. As the September MCCA meeting approaches, they are working to identify and define projects, some counties looking at their own county needs, and some collaborating on mutually beneficial projects.

6.1.4. Other

6.2 Ad Hoc Committees:

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

6.3 MCCA Staff Reporting – Admin. Lauren Haven

Lauren asked everyone to welcome Commissioner Roland Poirier to the Board of Directors, the new representative for Androscoggin County. Commissioner Noel Madore was stepping down as he was moving out of his district.

7. New Business

Legislative contract renewal:

President Gorden reported the Executive Committee had been in negotiations with Jim Cohen at Verrill Dana to come to an agreement on the terms of a renewed contract for 2022. Steve asked Treasurer/Secretary Norm Fournier to elaborate.

Comm. Fournier said they had discussed the amount of time spent on lobbying. Considering the number of bills MCCA was following and weighing in on, some of the months we paid \$4,500 when \$10,000 should have been billed. It was clear they could not continue to do lobby for MCCA without modifications. Jim proposed an increase to \$6,000 per month or \$72,000 per year. After some friendly negotiations on the terms, the group settled on \$5,000 per month or \$60,000 per year. This would mean narrowing the scope a bit. Based on the work done simply on jail funding, this would be well worth the increase. Therefore, the Executive Committee unanimously recommended accepting that proposal. Comm. Baldacci moved to renew the lobbying contract with Verrill Dana at the rate of \$5,000 per month or \$60,000 for 2022. The motion was **seconded** by Comm. Hobart. Administrator Lauren Haven took a roll call vote and the motion **passed** with no opposition.

NACo Dues through MCCA:

President Gorden proposed the idea of member counties paying NACo dues with their MCCA dues. This would ensure that all counties would continue supporting NACo and the important work from which each county enjoys the benefits. Comm. Baldacci said many states have adopted this procedure to support NACo. Lauren mentioned MCCA had tried to accomplish this a couple of years ago without success. Comm. Baldacci moved to collect NACo dues with the MCCA dues, **seconded** by Comm. Fournier and the motion **passed** with no opposition.

The discussion turned to the national opioid case in which approximately \$22.8 billion in settlement proceeds will be payable to state and local subdivisions. States have until September 3rd to decide to join. Funds can begin to flow to states and local governments as early as April 2022, depending on when a settling state meets certain requirements. There is a list of pre-approved uses including a wide range of intervention, treatment, education, and recovery services. These settlements require that a critical mass of both state and local governments “opt in” over the next few months. All agreed we should buy into it. The State of Maine jumped in late, but the local government funds are not dependent on the state. There is a three-page summary available. For documentation on opting in contact attorney Shayna Sacks (ssacks@napalee.com).

8. Adjournment

*MCCA President Steve Gorden invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 12:00 p.m. Comm. Blodgett made the **motion** seconded by Comm. Hobart, and the **motion** to adjourn was **approved**.*

Respectfully submitted,



MCCA Administrator, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Comm. Norman Fournier