

M.C.C.A.

Stephen Gorden, President
Cumberland County

Brian Hobart, Vice President
Sagadahoc County

Norm Fournier, Secretary-Treasurer
Aroostook County

Lauren Haven
Administrator



4 Gabriel Drive, Suite 2
Augusta, ME 04330
207-623-4697
www.mainecontinies.org

MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes MCCA Zoom Conference, September 8th, 2021

1. Call to Order: Roll Call

MCCA President Steve Gorden called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 am. Attendees announced themselves.

2. Attendance: Phone attendees will be requested to introduce themselves

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Roland Poirior
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. Andrew 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 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:

Aroostook – Admin. Ryan Pelletier
Cumberland – Manager Jim Gailey
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer
Penobscot – Erika Honey
Franklin – Charles Woodworth, Economic and Community Development
Hannah Pingree, Director of the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future
MSA – Sheriff Ken Mason
RHR Smith Representatives – Ron Smith and Brittany Gilman
Risk Pool Manager – Malcolm Ulmer

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar
Oxford – Comm. Steven Merrill
Somerset – Comm. Newell Graf

STAFF PRESENT:

Administrator – Lauren Haven

3. Approval of the Agenda

President Steve Gorden asked if there any additions to the agenda noting the ARP presentations by county discussion was scheduled for 11:00 am. Admin. Dawn DiBlasi said they might discuss proposed legislation that would oversee county commissioners. Attendees thought we might wait on this legislative discussion as the agenda is quite full for this meeting. Comm. Fournier moved to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Comm. Erkkinen, and Comm. Gorden stated the agenda was approved.

4. Approval of the Minutes

President Gorden asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the prior month's meeting. Comm. Hobart moved to approve the minutes from the August Board of Directors meeting. The motion was seconded by Comm. Fournier and the motion passed with no revisions.

5. Officer Reports

5.1 Finance

5.1.1 Financial Report - Lauren Haven presented the monthly Financial Reports and invited questions. Lauren mentioned there was nothing remarkable in the monthly reports. However, the audit had been completed and representatives, Ron Smith and Brittany Gilman from RHR Smith were attending this meeting to answer questions. Comm. Fournier moved to approve the financial reports seconded by Comm. Hobart and the motion passed with no opposition.

5.1.1.1 Treasurer: Norm Fournier

Secretary/Treasurer Norm Fournier stated the organization was in good standing with no concerns at this time.

5.1.1.2 Comments about the state of MCCA finances. No other comments were made at this time.

5.1.1.3 Budget and Finance Committee - Norm Fournier, Chair

Committee Chair Norm Fournier reported the Purchasing Policy and the Financial Management and Investment Policy were being revised. The Executive Committee was expected to review the policies and recommend the adoption of the proposed changes at the October meeting.

Audit Report – Comm. Fournier introduced guests, Ron Smith and Brittany Gilman from RHR Smith. Ron said Lauren was a pleasure to work with and the books were in great order. She provided everything that was needed, and all the items were laid out in lavender. In many cases, audits don't go this well, Ron said, "so hats off" to Lauren. She's doing a great job handling everything in the office. We are issuing a clean audit. His leading recommendation was to get current with audits which he knew was the goal. Yet there were no fires, and no problems found with the books or procedures. Ron invited questions.

Comm. Dutremble asked why we were just completing the 2018/2019 audit. Comm. Fournier responded that the Board of Directors opted to have an audit every two years. Additionally, we recently transitioned from the prior organizational structure of employing an Executive Director to only an Administrator. This was followed by the RFP and bidding process to select and hire an auditor before beginning to perform the audit work. Comm. Fournier moved to accept the audit reports seconded by Comm. Hobart and the motion passed with no opposition.

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

Comm. Baldacci reported NACo was distributing constant updates on Federal legislation and more detail about the ARP funds from the US Treasury almost daily. NACo has set up a clearinghouse to distribute the latest updates.

5.3 President: Announcements

5.3.1 Will use the Consent Agenda option next meeting - explanation of consent agenda enclosed.

5.3.2 Legislation for upcoming session and next biennial (questions for the Board to consider):

5.3.2.1 How broad a legislative area do we wish to cover?

5.3.2.2 How do we develop the legislative list?

5.3.2.3 Who will be responsible for each County's legislative work?

5.3.2.4 How much Commissioner time does each County wish to commit?

5.3.3 Announcement: Finance Committee

President Gorden appointed the following directors to the Budget and Finance Committee: Norman Fournier, Bill Blodgett, Dick Dutremble, Betty Johnson and Scott Adkins

- 5.3.4 Announcement: An email was included in the agenda packet from Jim Cohen about a L D 1513 Subcommittee - discontinued Roads. Please, if you have UT responsibilities pay attention to it. I'm appointing Brian Hobart, our VP, to take lead for MCCA should an unusual issue arise.

6. Committee Reports

6.1 Standing Committees

6.1.1. Legislative Policy Committee – Brian Hobart, Chair

6.1.2. Risk Pool Agency - Norm Fournier and Malcolm Ulmer

Commissioner Fournier advised that there were no issues beyond the FOAA appeal filed against MCCA that had been discussed during the Risk Pool meeting, that Commissioner Gardner commented that the appeal against MCCA seemed frivolous and he questioned whether it is possible for MCCA to file a counter-suit and to seek an award of legal fees, that Commissioner Baldacci commented that the proper action is likely for MCCA to file a motion to dismiss the appeal, and Commissioner Fournier advised that Malcolm Ulmer would provide an update during the next Risk Pool meeting.

6.1.3. Affiliate Organization Committee Reports:

MSA – Sheriff Ken Mason referred to the proposed legislation suggested by Somerset County Admin. Dawn DiBlasi that would oversee county commissioners. He stated that even though it seemed to reflect poorly on MSA, Senator Keim's bill language had been voted down twice. The Sheriff's Association had tried to come to an agreement. The discussion continued, the group concurred if there was to be oversight set up for county commissioners, it should include all elected officials. However, this would be problematic to give the state additional authority over county officials. Also, Sheriff Mason said in the defense of the current system, the Commissioners in that county didn't act expediently in the removal of the sheriff.

Comm. Gorden said we should address this, and we would also like to be privy to bills being introduced by MSA.

Comm. Gardner asked if the law enforcement shortage was being addressed. The Maine Criminal Justice Academy seems to control who and how we hire. Mr. Mason responded that the academy has very high standards and it's imperative to keep the standards high. Furthermore, it was a good thing the bill about qualified immunity didn't pass, because it would have made it impossible to hire.

MACCAM: Ryan Pelletier said he would wait for the ARP funding presentation portion of the meeting to speak.

6.1.4 Other – No other business was discussed at this time.

6.2. Ad Hoc Committees

Update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) discussions between MMA/MCCA: Admin. Ryan Pelletier reported the group met a few weeks ago. They distributed a survey that talked about priorities. Thirteen of the sixteen counties responded to the survey. Of course, Maine is predominantly small towns, limited water and sewer is provided by counties. They are still considering broadband needs. Mr. Pelletier invited questions. Seeing none, the meeting continued.

6.3. MCCA Staff Reporting – Admin. Lauren Haven

7. New Business

Presentation by MACCAM on ARPA county project plans. The following Counties, so far, have indicated they will present: Kennebec, Knox, Hancock, Oxford, Cumberland, Aroostook, York, Penobscot. I suspect others will add their projects to the presentation. (This is important information. It will provide us, collectively, more confidence in serving our citizens and being stewards of the funding we've received.

This portion of the meeting was recorded and the video as well as the transcript is available on the MCCA website here:
<https://www.mainecontinies.org/covid-relief.html>.

8. Adjournment

MCCA President Steve Gorden invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 12:15 p.m. Comm. Erkinen made the **motion** seconded by Comm. Fournier, and the **motion** to adjourn was **approved**.

Respectfully submitted,



MCCA Administrator, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Comm. Norman Fournier