

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, September 9th, 2020

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:

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. Tom Winsor proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill
Penobscot – Admin. Bill Collins proxy for 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:

Androscoggin – Comm. Mark Roy
Hancock – Comm. Antonio Blasi
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer
Penobscot – HR Manager Erika Honey
Piscataquis – Admin. Mike Williams
MSA – Sheriff Troy Morton

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Risk Pool Manager – Malcolm Ulmer
Administrator – Lauren Haven

III. Approval of the Agenda

Comm. Fournier **moved** to approve the meeting agenda **seconded** by Comm. Erkinen and the motion **passed**.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Comm. Cote **moved** to approve the minutes from the Board of Directors' meeting on August 12th. The motion was **seconded** by Comm. Fournier and the motion **passed** with no opposition.

V. Officer Reports

a. Treasurer/Financial Report

- i. Lauren Haven presented the August Financial Reports. There were no surprises in the financial reports. Comm. Cote **moved** to approve the financial reports **seconded** by Comm. Blodgett and the motion **passed** with no opposition.
- ii. Treasurer: Bill Blodgett: There were no further comments about the state of the MCCA finances.

b. NACO: National Legislation, Peter Baldacci - No report was given.

c. President:

- i. Request that those serving on committees or external organizations representing the MCCA indicate such to Lauren (i.e. internal committees and external appointments: Legislative, Risk Pool, Professional / Jail Standards Committee). That way we may assign people to those areas in which the MCCA needs assistance.
Admin. Carrie Kipfer offered to continue with the Legislative Policy Committee.
- ii. Appoint the finance committee: The following appointments to the Finance Committee were announced: Chair Norm Fournier, Comm. Bill Blodgett, Comm. Amy Fowler, Comm. Mike Cote, Admin. Pam Hile
- iii. Consideration of the Procurement of Lobbying Services for the period of October 2020 through December 2021. – Norm Fournier, on behalf of the Executive Committee, described the selection process and final recommendation of James Cohen of Verrill Dana who was determined to best represent the association and came with glowing references. His price was well within the expected cost and the Executive Committee further recommended to offer the firm a 15-month contract.

The discussion commenced with questions and answers about the five proposals MCCA received and the process by which the final recommendation was made. A roll call vote was requested. Comm. Fournier **moved** to accept the recommendation and authorize President Gorden to sign a 15-month contract with Verrill Dana. The **motion** was **seconded** by Comm. Fowler and the motion **passed** unanimously.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees:

- i. Legislative Policy Committee - Amy Fowler, Chr
Comm. Fowler as Chair of the LPC will invite Mr. Cohen to the next Board Meeting.
 1. Legislative Activity - Charles Pray
Mr. Pray was absent from the meeting with an injury.
 2. Do we have any legislation we wish to propose?

Admin. Carrie Kipfer brought up LD 973 and the distribution of funds to jails approved by Criminal Justice in accordance with the budget shortfall numbers reported by each county. Comm. Roy suggested the calculation for Oxford county was not correct and should be adjusted. Ms. Kipfer stated the numbers had been requested and supplied by each county. She was submitting the report on behalf of MACCAM and was not prepared to make revisions. After more discussion it was decided MACCAM would revisit the numbers before moving forward. Once completed, the document will go to Lauren to put on MCCA letterhead before being sent to Scott Ferguson.

Comm. Fournier **moved** to request MACCAM meet to revise the spreadsheet and respond by noon Friday to President Gorden. Comm. Fowler **seconded** the motion, and it **passed** with no opposition.

The conversation turned to establishing the County Corrections Coordinating Council and balancing representation from different groups.

- ii. Professional Committee - Mike Cote
 - 1. Volunteers for updating MCCA governing Docs?
Comm. Sharyn Pohlman and Admin. Dawn DiBlasi volunteered to assist with Bylaw revisions. Comm. Fournier and President Gorden offered to assist with the project.
 - 2. Discussion on Jail COVID-19 protocols
The group discussed the outbreak in the York County Jail. There were approximately 74 known cases at this time including staff, inmates and family members infected. Sheriff Morton said all the jails were working on best practices, trying to enforce social distancing, testing new admissions and attempting to keep up with the latest recommendations. Of course, cost is a consideration as well.
 - iii. Risk Pool Agency - Norm Fournier and Malcolm Ulmer
Comm. Fournier introduced the subject of community liaisons being a potential liability for counties. The group talked about the bigger picture regarding connecting people with resources rather than doing this through jail programs. This is even more difficult if inmates lose access to benefits. Commissioners should not wait for NACo to work on legislation on this and hope for the trickle-down effect to occur. MCCA needs to be proactive and develop legislation to be considered in the next session.
 - iv. Affiliate Organization Committee: Do any of our Affiliated Associations have reports: None were offered.
 - v. Other?
- b. Ad Hoc Committees - none at this time
 - c. MCCA Staff Reporting – Lauren reported supplies had been procured for the printing of the resource guide which was the product of the grant applied for through RALI and with the help of NAMI customized by county. She hoped to send copies to each county before the next meeting.

VII. New Business

Admin. Bill Collins announced his retirement as of December. All thanked Mr. Collins for his years of service and welcomed Erika Honey who will be moving from HR Director to the Administrator position.

Sheriff Morton mentioned a closed meeting occurring Thursday about the standards for reproductive healthcare and related funding. Comm. Fowler and Comm. Cote planned to attend.

VIII. Adjournment

*MCCA President Steve Gorden invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 12:30 a.m. Comm. Fowler made the **motion** seconded by Comm. Erkinen, and the **motion** was **approved**.*

Respectfully submitted,



MCCA Administrator, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, Comm. William Blodgett