

# M.C.C.A.

Richard Dutremble, President  
York County

Norm Fournier, Vice President  
Aroostook County

George Jabar, Secretary-Treasurer  
Kennebec County

Stephen Gorden, Past President  
Cumberland County

William Blodgett, Emeritus  
Lincoln County



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Lauren Haven  
Administrator

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## MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes Senator Inn and Spa, January 11th, 2023

### 1. Call to Order

MCCA President Steve Gorden called the meeting to order at approximately 11:00 am.

#### DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Aroostook – Comm. Norman Fournier  
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden  
Franklin – Comm. Bob Carlton  
Hancock – Comm. William Clark  
Kennebec – Comm. Patsy Crockett proxy for Comm. George Jabar  
Knox – Comm. Sharyn Pohlman  
Lincoln – Comm. William Blodgett  
Oxford – Admin. Donald Durrah proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill  
Penobscot – Comm. Andre Cushing proxy for Comm. Peter Baldacci  
Piscataquis – Comm. Wayne Erkinen  
Sagadahoc – Comm. Carol Grose proxy for Comm. Brian Hobart  
Somerset – Comm. Robert Sezak proxy for Comm. Newell Graf  
Waldo – Comm. Amy Fowler proxy for Comm. Betty Johnson  
Washington – Comm. Chris Gardner  
York – Comm. Richard Clark proxy for Comm. Richard Dutremble

#### DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Garrett Mason  
Oxford – Comm. Steven Merrill  
Sagadahoc – Comm. Brian Hobart  
Somerset – Comm. Newell Graf  
York – Comm. Richard Dutremble

#### OTHERS PRESENT:

Aroostook – Comm. Paul Underwood, Admin. Ryan Pelletier  
MCCA Risk Pool - Manager Malcolm Ulmer  
MCCA - Admin. Lauren Haven  
MSA – Sheriff Ken Mason, Sheriff Todd Brackett, Sheriff Scott Kane, Sheriff Dale Lancaster, Sheriff Scott Nichols, Chief Deputy Jeremy Forbes, Chief Deputy Corey Bagley  
Piscataquis – Comm. Paul Davis, Comm. Andy Torbett, Manager Mike Williams  
Sagadahoc – Admin. Amber Jones  
Somerset – Admin. Dawn DiBlasi  
Verrill Dana – Lobbyists Clara McConnell, Jim Cohen, and Brody Haverly-Johndro

## 2. Approval of Membership on the 2023 Board of Directors

Androscoggin	Commissioner Garrett Mason; proxy Administrator Clarice Proctor
Aroostook	Commissioner Norman Fournier; proxy Commissioner Paul Underwood
Cumberland	Commissioner Stephen Gorden; proxy County Manager Jim Gailey
Franklin	Commissioner Bob Carlton; proxy HR Director/Deputy Admin. Tiffany Baker
Hancock	Commissioner John Wombacher; proxy Administrator Mike Crooker
Kennebec	Comm. George Jabar; proxy Comm. Patsy Crockett, Comm. Joe Pietroski, Admin. Scott Ferguson
Knox	Commissioner Sharyn Pohlman; proxy Administrator Andrew Hart
Lincoln	Commissioner William Blodgett; proxy Administrator Carrie Kipfer
Oxford	Commissioner Steven Merrill; proxy Administrator Donald Durrah
Penobscot	Commissioner Peter Baldacci; proxy Administrator Scott Adkins
Piscataquis	Commissioner Paul Davis; proxy Manager Mike Williams
Sagadahoc	Commissioner Carol Grose; proxy Administrator Amber Jones
Somerset	Commissioner Robert Sezak; proxy Administrator Dawn DiBlasi
Waldo	Commissioner Betty Johnson; proxy Commissioners Amy Fowler
Washington	Commissioner Christopher Gardner; proxy Comm. Vinton Cassidy, Manager Betsy Fitzgerald
York	Commissioner Richard Dutremble; proxy Commissioner Richard Clark

President Steve Gorden requested a motion to approve the slate of nominated commissioners to the Board of Directors. Comm. Fournier **moved** to approve the proposed 2023 Board members. Comm. Pohlman **seconded** the motion, and the motion **passed** with a unanimous vote.

## 3. Consent Agenda:

### 3.1. Approval of the Minutes

### 3.2. Officer Reports:

#### 3.2.1. Finance

##### 3.2.1.1. Financial Report - Lauren Haven

##### 3.2.1.2. Treasurer - Norm Fournier

President Gorden requested a motion to move the consent agenda. Comm. Gardner **moved** to approve the consent agenda which included the minutes, the financial report and the Treasurer's report. Comm. Blodgett **seconded** the motion, and it was **passed** with no further comments.

## 4. Committee and Officer Reports:

### 4.1. Budget and Finance Committee – Norm Fournier, Chair

Budget and Finance Committee Chair, Norm Fournier, explained the highlights of the 2023 budget and dues formula which had been presented and approved by the Board of Directors at the December Meeting. The only change to the draft had been the agreed upon addition of Franklin County's membership dues. This revision increased the budget line item for the overall dues amount and reduced the amount needed for the Transfer in from Fund Balance.

Comm. Gardner **moved** to approve the proposed 2023 budget as presented. Comm. Crockett **seconded** the motion, and the motion **passed** with no opposition.

#### 4.2. NACo: Sharyn Pohlman

Updates on Federal legislation, national programs, and resources

Comm. Pohlman, one of the two MCCA NACo representatives, explained some of the features and benefits of NACo membership for new board members and attendees. She reported that she and Comm. Baldacci would be attending the NACo Legislative Conference in February where they would meet with any available legislators from Maine.

#### 4.3. Legislative Policy Committee: James Cohen, Verrill Dana

##### 4.3.1. Legislative Update

##### 4.3.2. New Legislation

Jim Cohen reported that Clara McConnell, Brody Haverly-Johndro, and he had been working on preparations for the session. Hybrid meetings were expected to be available with zoom and in-person options giving attendees the ability to testify remotely if they choose to do so. Our key issues include jail funding. The Governor's Biennial Budget Proposal is being released now. It will include \$20.3 million dollars for county jails. This is more than counties used to receive which was \$15 million, and then request supplemental funding for \$3 million. The consolidated jail funding bill secured \$18 million plus \$1.9 million last year. This is expected to be in the new budget. However, the current cost of inflation as well as other factors will cause a shortfall. Counties need to pull data together to support a request for more funding.

The second issue is rural patrol. As discussed in previous meetings, the Maine State Police (MSP) is cutting back on rural patrol and counties have started taking the majority of calls for rural areas. Funding through legislation will be necessary. Although it's unfortunate there is no language yet, there is at least a concept draft submitted. Work will need to be done to determine the best solution. problems. MSP was denied more funding for hiring additional personnel. Counties need to gather the data to support the request for funding and counties will need law enforcement support as well. Comm. Underwood said we should be sure the bill doesn't overlap. Mr. Cohen said there should be a designated bucket for this purpose. Comm. Chris Gardner asked MSA members if they would be meeting with the Colonel prior to the swearing in confirmation. Sheriff Lancaster said unfortunately MSP can't publicly admit they're pulling back on rural patrol because they might lose money. He agreed

that MSA and MCCA should work together without going against MSP. We will need to have a constructive conversation.

There's a bill that has been introduced which will negatively impact the revenue for Registry of Deeds. We will need to monitor the bill and research the amount of the potential revenue loss.

The County Corrections Professional Standards Council needs funding for administrative staffing. The Department of Corrections should provide this for website work, minutes, etc.

Clara McConnell reported that the democratic leadership would be happy to meet another day. Due to the timing of the Governor's budget, they needed to decline our invitation for today's meeting.

#### 4.4. Affiliate Organization Committee Reports - recognize those in attendance or submitted Information: MSA, MACCAM, MARP, MRODA, Others

MSA: Ken Mason – Sheriff Mason said there was nothing more to report.

MACCAM – Ryan Pelletier said Scott Adkins wasn't present at their meeting to accept his new position as association president. Ryan reported he is on a committee for abandoned roads. Counties came out unscathed, and the report was due in February.

Admin. Don Durrah reported there was an issue with the lack of enforcement of Maine Land Use Planning Commission (LUPC) rules in unorganized territories (UT). Legally there's nothing that says counties can or cannot enforce these ordinances. The UT problems are not going to go away. The LUPC is short staffed. Could UT's be forced to organize when they reach a certain population level? Plowing, maintaining roads, building broadband and other expenses are a concern. Comm. Gardner said realtors need to disclose that no internet is available as well as other services. We should look for a solution to propose before raising the issue.

#### 4.5. President Report

##### 4.5.1. Jail Funding Update

Comm. Gorden reported that the inflation issue would be brought to the County Corrections Professional Standards Council. Jails will need additional funding above the Governor's budget. Lewiston reported a wage hike of 42%. There were repercussions across the state.

##### 4.5.2. 2022 Remarks

President Gorden talked about the need for a long-term plan. There was an aging population to consider. This top-heavy demographic forecasts an unusually high number of citizens will be going toward retirement. Furthermore, there was a sharp decline of workers in 2021. Many of these people did not return to work after the pandemic. As the population ages, more people will retire leaving fewer workers for goods and services. This has caused a noticeable shift in the workforce. Additionally, we will need to prepare for the rising cost of health care services.

How will we best serve our residents? We should not ignore the signs and wait until a crisis emerges. We need to tackle the issues while we have time. Let's not wait until there are no good options. MCCA made a great decision to hire a professional lobbyist team. MCCA would also benefit from an executive director.

#### 4.6. Nominating Committee – Norm Fournier, Chair Recommendation and Election of 2023 Officers

Nominating Committee Chair, Norm Fournier expressed heartfelt thanks to Comm. Gorden from all of us for his service to MCCA and all Maine counties. He said we recognize the time and effort he has put forth to advance the association to where it is today. The attendees applauded in agreement.

Comm. Fournier reported that the Nominating Committee recommended the following slate of officers for 2023:

- Comm. Richard Dutremble, President (York County)
- Comm. Norm Fournier, Vice President (Aroostook County)
- Comm. George Jabar, Secretary/Treasurer (Kennebec County)

Comm. Gorden would stay on the Executive Committee as the Immediate Past President, and Comm. Bill Blodgett would continue as emeritus.

Comm. Fowler **moved** to cease nominations. Comm. Crockett **seconded** the motion, and the motion **passed** with no opposition. Comm. Gardner then **moved** to approve the proposed 2023 slate of officers as recommended by the Nominating Committee. Comm. Pohlman **seconded** the motion, and the motion **passed** unanimously.

#### 5. Adjournment

Comm. Steve Gorden asked if there were other comments for the good of the organization. Hearing none, President Gorden invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 12:10 p.m. Comm. Fournier made the **motion**, **seconded** by Comm. Blodgett, and the motion to adjourn was **approved**.

Respectfully submitted,



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MCCA Administrator, Lauren Haven

Attested:

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MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, George Jabar