

# MCCA

Andre Cushing, President  
Penobscot County

Robert Sezak, Vice President  
Somerset County

Sawin Millett, Secretary-Treasurer  
Oxford County

Richard Dutremble, Past President  
York County

Lauren Haven  
Administrator



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## MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION Board of Directors Meeting Minutes July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 3:00 pm Franklin County

### 1. Call to Order

President Andre Cushing called the meeting to order at approximately 2:45 pm with the following directors and other participants in attendance: (Note: Not all attendees signed the attendance sheet so this list may be incomplete.) Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Jane Pentheny  
Aroostook – Comm. William Dobbins  
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden  
Franklin – Comm. Bob Carlton  
Hancock – Comm. Samuel DiBella  
Kennebec – Comm. Joe Pietroski proxy for Comm. George Jabar  
Knox – Comm. Ed Glaser  
Lincoln – Comm. David Levesque  
Oxford – Comm. Sawin Millett  
Penobscot – Comm. Andre Cushing  
Piscataquis – Comm. Paul Davis  
Sagadahoc – Comm. Todd McPhee  
Somerset – Comm. Robert Sezak  
Waldo – Comm. Kevin Kelley proxy for Comm. Betty Johnson  
Washington – Manage Renee Gray proxy for Comm. David Burns  
York – Comm. Richard Dutremble

#### DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar

#### OTHERS PRESENT:

Franklin – Comm. Tom Saviello, Manager Amy Bernard  
Hancock – Admin. Mike Crooker  
Knox – Comm. Morgan Hynd  
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer  
MCCA Risk Pool - Manager Malcolm Ulmer  
MCCA - Admin. Lauren Haven  
MSA – Sheriff Ken Mason, Sheriff Troy Morton  
Oxford – Admin. Zane Loper  
Penobscot – Comm. David Marshall, Admin. Scott Adkins  
Piscataquis – Admin. Mike Williams  
Sagadahoc – Admin. Amber Jones  
Somerset – Admin. Tim Curtis  
Verrill Dana – Lobbyists Jim Cohen and Sam Hamilton (Earlier for the LPC Discussion)

2. Consent Agenda:
  - 2.1. Approval of the Agenda
  - 2.2. Approval of the Minutes
  - 2.3. Financial Reports: Lauren Haven

Comm. Cushing thanked Franklin County team for hosting the meeting day. President Cushing then requested a motion to move the consent agenda. Comm. Gorden made the **motion** which was **seconded** by Comm. Millett and the motion to approve the consent agenda **passed**.

3. Committee Reports:
  - 3.1. NACo Update: George Jabar and Robert Sezak

The group of meeting attendees were reminded that the 2025 NACo Annual Conference and Exposition would occur on July 11<sup>th</sup> through July 14<sup>th</sup> in the City and County of Philadelphia, PA. Several county representatives planned to attend and would report back to the group.

- 3.2. Events Committee - Lauren Haven

Admin. Lauren Haven reported that vendors, sponsors and attendees were registering for the September conference. The Events Committee continued to finalize the details on the educational sessions, speakers, activities and entertainment. Comm. Cushing mentioned the flyers that were made available at the meeting. He reviewed all the plans for each day of the convention as well as potential sponsors and income goals. Unlike previous years, the golfing activity would be a tournament at the resort the day prior to the conference, September 17<sup>th</sup>. He referred to the MCCA website for more information.

Comm. Cushing described the new employee awards and the plan to develop criteria for choosing award recipients. He talked about honoring significant years of service with a commemorative coin.

4. Legislative Policy Committee: Jean-Marie Caterina and Kevin Kelley, Co-Chairs
  - 4.1. James Cohen, Verrill Dana
    - 4.1.1. Legislative Update
    - 4.1.2. Next Steps

The legislative discussion took place earlier in the day with reports from MCCA's lobbyist team Jim Cohen and Sam Hamilton. The group talked about the high points of the conversation, bills that were considered important in moving counties in the direction of more sufficient funding from the state. They talked about the LPC group which met regularly with good participation via Zoom, and many of whom testified in person on bills at committee hearings. Attendees discussed continued work on defining and fighting unfunded mandates to push the state to assume the responsibility for a larger share of the cost of such mandates. Admin. Tim Curtis had agreed to formulate a report to this end. The hope was that the final report would be used as a basis for new legislation providing historical facts and persuasive arguments to make the needed changes. Comm. Cushing said we ought to be thinking about ways of making our progress more measurable, substantial and affordable. He talked about the concept of re-establishing the executive director's position in the organization and its potential benefits. He said that Admin. Ryan Pelletier suggested it might be more feasible to hire for the position in the middle of the year to lessen the impact on the budget. The drive to obtain sponsorship money from the convention could contribute to the budget line for the executive director's salary. Other considerations were the general organization structure and the pros and cons of keeping a contract with Verrill Dana for lobbying services. Lauren was asked to distribute to board members the last job description written when hiring the last executive director.

## 5. Officer Reports

### 5.1. President Report, Andre Cushing

### 5.2. Vice President, Robert Sezak

Comm. Sezak reported that the Bylaw Review Committee met earlier that day. He thanked members for their time commitment and their work on the project. A couple of questions were asked at the meeting and Comm. Sezak was able to bring those questions to the Budget and Finance Committee members who were meeting at the same time. Most of the proposed changes were updates to the language for the sake of clarity and political correctness. A draft was expected to be presented to the board with the changes for a formal vote.

### 5.3. Secretary/Treasurer, Sawin Millett

Comm. Millett reported that the Budget and Finance Committee had met that morning and discussed the status of income and expenses at the midway point of the current year. He referred to the collection of financial reports included in the agenda packet and encouraged attendees to become familiar with the budget line items as the committee would eventually develop the 2026 budget. That budget draft would be presented in November for discussion in December and would be adopted with any revisions at the annual meeting in January.

As a follow-up item from the June board meeting, Comm. Millett introduced a policy drafted by Lauren that could be considered at the August meeting for non-employee purchases. He said it was detailed and comprehensive not simply defining a process for the executive committee members or the directors on the board, but it also outlined a procedure that could be utilized for future volunteers or contractors who might be interested in helping with MCCA projects and promotions.

Comm. Cushing suggested the board might consider expanding the NACo line item in the budget to allow for a group dinner at the conference. Lauren pointed out that meals at NACo conferences were included as an approved expense for reimbursement. The group talked about the \$6,000 set aside for NACo that was approximately enough for three trips, two for the legislative conference and one for the annual conference. Other ideas were to partner with counties on the expense for additional county representatives to attend.

## 7. Association Reports - MACCAM, MARP, MRODA, MSA, others.

## 8. Adjournment

President Cushing reminded the group that a sponsored social reception had been arranged at the Root Down Market following the meeting to which he gave directions. He also thanked Franklin County for the delicious breakfast and lunch spread. He challenged other counties to consider hosting a similar meeting day in the future.

President Andre Cushing invited a motion to adjourn at approximately 3:45 p.m. Comm. Sezak made the motion, seconded by Comm. Millett, and the motion to adjourn was passed.

Respectfully submitted,