

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

MAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Poland Spring Resort

September 12th, 2023, 10:00 am

1. Call to Order

MCCA President Richard Dutremble called the meeting to order at approximately 10:20 am.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Andrew Lewis proxy for Comm. Garrett Mason
Aroostook – Comm. Norman Fournier
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden
Franklin – Admin. Amy Bernard proxy for Comm. Bob Carlton
Hancock – Admin. Mike Crooker proxy for Comm. John Wombacher
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer, proxy for Comm. William Blodgett
Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar
Oxford – Comm. Steven Merrill
Penobscot – Comm. Peter Baldacci
Piscataquis – Manager Mike Williams proxy for Comm. Paul Davis
Sagadahoc – Admin. Amber Jones proxy for Comm. Carol Grose
Somerset – Comm. Robert Sezak
York – Comm. Richard Dutremble

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Garrett Mason
Franklin – Comm. Bob Carlton
Hancock – Comm. John Wombacher
Knox – Comm. Sharyn Pohlman
Lincoln – Comm. William Blodgett
Sagadahoc – Comm. Carol Grose
Waldo – Comm. Betty Johnson
Washington – Comm. Chris Gardner

OTHERS PRESENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Roland Poirier
Aroostook – Deeds Melissa Richardson
Cumberland – Comm. Susan Witonis

Kennebec – Comm. Patsy Crockett, Comm. Joe Pietroski
MCCA Risk Pool - Manager Malcolm Ulmer
MCCA - Admin. Lauren Haven
Oxford – Admin. Donald Durrah, Deeds Cherri Crockett
Penobscot – Comm. Andre Cushing, Comm. David Marshall, Admin. Scott Adkins, Dep. Admin/HR
Michelle LaBree, Deeds Susan Bulay, and Treasurer Glenn Mower
Piscataquis – Comm. Wayne Erkkinen
Somerset – Admin. Tim Curtis
Verrill Dana – Lobbyist Jim Cohen
Waldo – Deeds Stacy Grant
York – Comm. Donna Ring, Comm. Richard Clark, Deeds Wendy Caiazza

2. Consent Agenda:

- 2.1. Approval of the Agenda
- 2.2. Approval of the Minutes
- 2.3. Finance Reports – Lauren Haven

Comm. Gorden **moved** to approve the consent agenda with the **amendment** that the Legislative items in section four would be discussed at the Legislative Workshop at 3:00 pm. The motion was **seconded** by Comm. Fournier, and the motion **passed** with no opposition.

3. Officer Reports:

- 3.1. Secretary/Treasurer, George Jabar
- 3.2. Vice President, Norm Fournier
- 3.3. President Report, Richard Dutremble

President Dutremble thanked the Convention Planning Committee for organizing the event. He said he was looking forward to many of the educational sessions and activities planned for the conference.

4. Standing Committee Reports:

- 4.1. NACo Update: Peter Baldacci & Sharyn Pohlman

Comm. Baldacci announced that following the NACo Annual meeting in Travis County Texas in July, the NACO-endorsed “Disaster Assistance Simplification Act” was passed unanimously by the U.S. Senate. NACo was working to promote the bill, which would create a uniform application for all federal disaster recovery programs. It was passed out of the Senate’s Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs late last year. Under the bill, FEMA would manage the uniform application system, but other federal agencies would work together to update application questions and would share

application data necessary to administer disaster assistance programs. Importantly, data from each program would continue to be governed by agency data sharing rules, creating the possibility that HUD could share bulk data from the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program with researchers via its data licensing system.

4.2. Convention Planning Committee (CPC) – Lauren Haven

4.2.1. Convention Planning Update

Admin. Lauren Haven reported that the Convention Planning Committee had met twice in August and then convened on Monday, September 11th to set up various things for the conference. They were on site and available to help vendors as they arrived. There were approximately 125 participants at last count with fourteen vendors and sponsors signed up to help pay the event expenses. The attendance number was lower this year than it had been in pre-pandemic conventions, but Lauren said she thought it was a good start in returning to the normal annual schedule.

4.3. Legislative Policy Committee – Steve Gorden, Chair

4.3.1. James Cohen, Verrill Dana

4.3.1.1. Legislative Update

4.3.1.2. Next Steps

The group had voted at the beginning of the meeting to discuss the items in this section at the Legislative Workshop that afternoon. Please see the notes regarding these topics below, following the meeting recess.

5. Association Reports - MACCAM, MARP, MRODA, MSA, others.

Admin. Carrie Kipfer said she did not attend the last MACCAM meeting. Someone mentioned the group may be moving to quarterly meetings instead of monthly meetings.

6. Adjournment

President Dutremble invited a **motion to recess** at approximately 10:45 a.m. Comm. Steve Gorden made the **motion, seconded** by Norm Fournier. The motion was **approved** and

attendees adjourned to engage in other conference activities until the Legislative Workshop at 3:00 pm in the Ballroom of the Poland Spring Resort.

Legislative Workshop: (Minutes Submitted by Comm. Norm Fournier)

President Dutremble reconvened the MCAA meeting at 3:00 pm in the Ballroom at Poland Spring Resort. Steve Gordon invited lobbyist Jim Cohen to update the group on legislation concerning Jail Funding and Rural Patrol.

Jail Funding: After extensive discussion and question and answer period, *it was **moved** by Comm. Fournier and **seconded** by Comm. Sezak to submit a bill in the upcoming legislative session that provides that State funding for the County Jail Operation Fund must be appropriated annually in an amount equal to 20% of the total cost of operations for County Jails and the regional jail as necessary to meet the standards for county jails as established by the Commissioner of Corrections.* The amount appropriated may not be lower than \$20,342,104. This bill would further provide that county jails and the regional jail may provide services that exceed the standards set forth in Maine law, but the cost of providing such services shall be funded by counties or other sources outside the County Jail Operations Fund. *The motion **passed** unanimously.*

Rural Patrol: After much discussion on LD 630, *it was **moved** by Comm. Fournier and **seconded** by Comm. Sezak that we prepare an amendment that permits the State Police to hire or contract with county sheriff departments to fulfill its duty of patrolling state highways and other important ways.* This amendment would further specify that such hiring or contracting by the State Police must be within amounts authorized by the Legislature for the State Police for such patrolling purposes. *The motion **passed** unanimously.*

President Dutremble invited a motion to adjourn at approximately 4:25 pm. *Comm. Gordon made the **motion seconded** by Comm. Fournier, and the motion to adjourn was **approved**.*

Respectfully submitted,



MCCA Administrator, Lauren Haven

Attested:

MCCA Secretary-Treasurer, George Jabar