

# 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

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 11th, 2023, 10:00 am via Zoom

#### 1. Call to Order

MCCA President Richard Dutremble called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 am.

##### DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Aroostook – Comm. Norman Fournier  
Cumberland – Comm. Steve Gorden  
Kennebec – Admin. Scott Ferguson proxy for Comm. George Jabar  
Knox – Comm. Sharyn Pohlman  
Lincoln – Admin. Carrie Kipfer proxy for Comm. William Blodgett  
Oxford – Admin. Donald Durrah proxy for Comm. Steven Merrill  
Penobscot – Comm. Peter Baldacci  
Piscataquis – Manager Mike Williams proxy for Comm. Paul Davis  
Sagadahoc – Comm. Carol Grose  
Somerset – Comm. Robert Sezak  
Waldo – Comm. Betty Johnson  
York – Comm. Richard Dutremble

##### DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Androscoggin – Comm. Garrett Mason  
Franklin – Comm. Bob Carlton  
Hancock – Comm. John Wombacher  
Kennebec – Comm. George Jabar  
Lincoln – Comm. William Blodgett  
Oxford – Comm. Steven Merrill  
Piscataquis – Comm. Paul Davis  
Washington – Comm. Chris Gardner

##### OTHERS PRESENT:

MCCA Risk Pool - Manager Malcolm Ulmer  
MCCA - Admin. Lauren Haven  
Penobscot – Admin Scott Adkins  
Somerset – Admin. Tim Curtis  
Verrill Dana – Lobbyists Jim Cohen

2. Consent Agenda: NF/PB
  - 2.1. Approval of the Agenda
  - 2.2. Approval of the Minutes
  - 2.3. Finance Reports – Lauren Haven

Lobbyist Jim Cohen stated he had a conflict and needed to leave the meeting early. Comm. Fournier **moved** to approve the consent agenda and advance the legislative section to the top of the agenda. The motion was **seconded** by Comm. Sezak, and the motion **passed** with no opposition.

The legislative topics were discussed at this point in the meeting. Please see the notes in section four.

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

President Dutremble requested a motion to hold the November Board of Directors' meeting in person at the MCCA offices. The Risk Pool Board had already voted to hold their November meeting in person in order to have an executive session which could be guaranteed to be private. Comm. Gorden made the **motion, seconded** by Comm. Fournier, and the motion **passed** unanimously.

4. Standing Committee Reports:
  - 4.1. NACo Update: Peter Baldacci & Sharyn Pohlman

Comm. Baldacci reported that due to the war in the Middle East, things were in chaos and there were no updates he was aware of. Comm. Gorden asked about the status of the Medicare initiative to allow prisoners to apply or re-apply for health insurance 90 days before they are released to ensure there is no loss in coverage. It was thought that California had this in place. Comm. Baldacci said states can apply for a waiver from the federal government. Maine might be able to do this as well. We would need to get the Governor on board with it.

- 4.2. Convention Planning Committee – Lauren Haven
    - 4.2.1. Convention Evaluation Compilation
    - 4.2.2. Convention Profit and Loss Update

Admin. Lauren Haven thanked everyone who participated in the 2023 Convention at Poland

Spring Resort. She said from an organizational standpoint, the event was very successful. All scheduled speakers showed up as planned. There were no major issues. The food was delicious, the musician was fantastic. If we had been able to control the weather, everything would have gone exceptionally smoothly. Overall, the evaluations submitted by participants were very good. The compiled comments were included in the agenda packet. There were 125 participants who had registered and a few more who signed up at the last minute. There were eleven vendors who set up exhibit tables. This number worked well for the space we were using. We also had a couple of sponsors who didn't have an exhibit table at the conference, but who bought ads in the convention program.

In terms of the profit and loss, the convention planning committee had kept the expenses as low as possible, because the turnout was difficult to project. The cost of inflation was a factor. And for those reasons, no nationally acclaimed speaker was hired which would have been a significant expense. Comm. Baldacci said he didn't think we needed an expensive speaker as this was a good opportunity to invite local politicians. Lauren said the net profit from the convention to date was \$8,578. She said she would update that number with the October financial reports. Lauren said this profit was largely due to the venue. Poland Spring Resort didn't charge us for the event space we utilized. Nor did they charge us for equipment we used on site. She said this was an anomaly and we could not expect that to ever happen again.

Lauren requested that the Board consider voting in November to have the Convention Planning Committee start making arrangements for the 2024 convention. She said many venues book out a year in advance and we couldn't risk waiting until the spring to make a decision. Comm. Gorden thought we should start planning for both 2024 and 2025. He said he wouldn't mind holding the convention at Poland Spring Resort again, but we could discuss venues later.

#### 4.3. Budget and Finance Committee – Norm Fournier

Committee Chair Norm Fournier announced that Budget and Finance Committee members needed to be appointed. He said the current committee included Comm. Betty Johnson, Comm. Richard Dutremble, Comm. Steve Gorden, Administrator Scott Adkins, and himself.

President Dutremble asked if anyone wanted to join the committee. Comm. Gorden said he would like to stay on. Comm. Fournier said the MCCA Treasurer, George Jabar, should be invited to be a member of the committee. President Dutremble agreed and said the same committee members were appointed with the addition of Comm. Jabar.

#### 4.4. Legislative Policy Committee – Steve Gorden, Chair

##### 4.4.1. James Cohen, Verrill Dana

###### 4.4.1.1. Legislative Update

###### 4.4.1.2. Next Steps

Lobbyist Jim Cohen reported that Jail Funding Committees are meeting. The deadline for requests had passed and the bill we had drafted wasn't submitted as expected. He said this didn't mean that all was lost. We still plan to partner with Senator Beebe-Center on the Jail funding piece.

A preliminary list of bill titles proposed for the Legislature's Second Regular Session was released. The list includes working titles of requests that were submitted by the cloture deadline for the Second Regular Session.

A Rural Patrol approach was developed during the Legislative Workshop at the convention. A bill draft has since been written. Jim thought Senator Graham was happy with the approach which was to work with Maine Municipal Association, Maine Sheriff's Association, and Commissioner Sauschuck to achieve the common objective regarding public safety as it pertains to answering rural 911 calls. The goal of the bill in this approach was to leave control of rural patrol in the hands of the Maine State Police while motivating them to either provide coverage or outsource the work.

Mr. Cohen reported that Governor Mills' Senior Policy Adviser, Mary Anne Turowski, talked about jail funding in a State finance office meeting. The group discussed jail budgets and issues surrounding state support. They also considered consecutive sentencing and rules about parole violations. Admin. Scott Ferguson said there was no sufficient funding mechanism for jail funding although there was a Legislative mandate. He said he had been asked to gather the data needed to support the need for ongoing additional funds. Comm. Fournier said all commissioners needed to get their administrators to read and respond to the email Scott sent out. If counties needed 13 million dollars, it should be a priority. Comm. Gorden said we needed the Sheriff's to be involved in the conversation. There was an October 27th deadline.

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

Admin. Carrie Kipfer reported that MACCAM met at the convention. The Knox County HR Director had agreed to perform a county salary survey. The group planned to meet again in November. She thanked Admin. Scott Ferguson for his efforts in gathering the jail funding data. Attendees agreed.

## 6. Adjournment

President Dutremble asked if there were any further comments. Admin. Don Durrah said we should start looking at a two-year legislative plan. What will be our Initiatives? What will the topics be? Should we concentrate on policy making? Comm. Gorden said we could work on the next biennium to get the bills submitted so we could get them completely through the process. It was tough to get a bill pushed through in the second session.

President Dutremble invited a **motion** to adjourn at approximately 11:50 p.m. Comm. Fournier made the **motion**, **seconded** by Comm. Gorden, 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